



HONG KONG
GEOPARK
香港地質公園

International Seminar on Hong Kong National Geopark Inauguration 2009 香港國家地質公園國際研討會 2009

04-11-2009 • 9:00 - 16:00

Lecture Hall, Hong Kong Science Museum
香港科學館 演講廳



Organizers 主辦機構



Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
漁農自然護理署



Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong
香港地貌岩石保育協會

Supporting Organizations 支持機構



International Year of Planet Earth
國際行星地球年



Environmental Protection Department
環境保護署



Leisure and Cultural Services Department
康樂及文化事務署



Department of Geography & Resource Management
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
香港中文大學地理與資源管理學系



Department of Geography
The University of Hong Kong
香港大學地理學系



Friends of the Country Parks
郊野公園之友會



This event is fully supported by The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
香港特別行政區政府全力支持本活動

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Technical Programme

OPENING

- 0900 – 0920 Registration
- 0915 – 0930 Arrival of Guest of Honour, Mr. Edward YAU, JP, Secretary for the Environment
- 0930 – 0935 Welcome speech
- 0935 – 0950 Opening speech: Mr. Edward YAU, JP
- 0950 – 0955 Souvenir Presentation: Mr. Edward YAU, JP

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- 0955 – 1015 **The development of National Geopark of China** 中國國家地質公園的發展
Ms. Xiaoning CHEN 陳小寧女士
- 1015 – 1035 **Asia Pacific Geoheritage and Geoparks Network**
Prof. Ibrahim KOMOO
- 1035 – 1055 **Geoparks: new arenas for geo-education, conservation and public recreation**
Dr. Wolfgang EDER
- 1055 – 1115 **Partnership for a better future: Japanese Geoparks and Hong Kong Geopark**
Dr. Michiko YAJIMA
- 1115 – 1135 **Geopark fosters growth of ecotourism with earth sciences** 地質公園為旅遊業騰飛插上了科學翅膀
Prof. Anze CHEN 陳安澤教授
- 1135 – 1155 **Introduction to the English Riviera Geopark**
Ms. Melanie BORDER

LUNCH BREAK

PM SESSION (Conveners: Ms. Melanie BORDER & Dr. Wolfgang EDER)

- 1330 – 1335 Welcome back / Brief introduction on afternoon session
- 1335 – 1355 **Introduction to Itoigawa Geopark: the first global geopark from Japan**
Dr. Ko TAKENOUCI
- 1355 – 1415 **Kanawinka Global Geopark: the “land of tomorrow” and the way forward for education, promotion and conservation**
Ms. Joane MCKNIGHT
- 1415 – 1435 **The future of China’s volcanoes / volcanic rocks geoparks: Yandangshan, Leiqiong and Wudalianchi global geoparks** 中國火山 / 火山岩地質公園展望: 雁蕩山、雷瓊和五大連池世界地質公園
Prof. Kuiyuan TAO 陶奎元教授
- 1435 – 1455 **Muroto Geopark: a forefront for the birth of new habitable land**
Mr. Soichiro UETA
- 1455 – 1515 **The planning and management principles of Hong Kong National Geopark**
Mr. Alan WONG
- 1515 – 1535 Closing speech
- 1535 – 1555 Departure of speakers, guests and audiences

Preface

Hong Kong's modern cityscape belies its wealth of natural green resources. Our bustling metropolis has more than 40 per cent of its land designated as protected green areas. Apart from providing habitats for our myriad wildlife, this verdant country side is also home to world-class rock formations and geological features. Most of these sites are in close proximity to the city, so the visitors can easily reach them within half an hour for a pleasurable and educational outdoor experience.



Conservation, education and sustainable development are core missions embraced by geoparks across the world. By establishing a geopark here in Hong Kong, we can pursue these objectives by effectively preserving our valuable geological assets and broadening general awareness and knowledge of our rock landscapes.

We are glad that the Ministry of Land and Resources has granted our geopark the national geopark status. The Hong Kong National Geopark was officially opened yesterday. Through the national geopark network, we can gain relevant experience, preserve our valuable geological and topographical resources more comprehensively, raise the public's awareness about geo-science, and foster the development of eco-tourism by adding new attractions. We also hope that through this network, we would be able to exchange more information with geoparks worldwide. Today's seminar organized jointly by the Government and the Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong will provide an invaluable opportunity for us to share our experience in setting up the Hong Kong National Geopark, as well as to gain insights from international experts.

Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen education, publicity and promotion for sharing Hong Kong's precious natural resources with the public and raising their awareness of the need for preserving them. No doubt the Hong Kong National Geopark will become an attraction for geologists and tourists alike from all around the world.

Edward Yau, JP

Secretary for the Environment

HKSARG

4th November, 2009

Preface

It is the honour of Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong to host the International Seminar on Hong Kong National Geopark Inauguration 2009 - one of the major celebration programmes to mark the historical moment of the inauguration and the successful approval of Hong Kong Geopark as a national geopark. This Seminar aims at bringing together the international professionals to exchange their experience and expertise for the betterment of geopark management and development.

To preserve the landforms and rocks of Hong Kong and to promote geotourism are always the missions of our association. We have initiated the movement of establishing a geopark in Hong Kong for years and we strongly believe the Hong Kong National Geopark will enhance public knowledge and appreciation of rocks and landforms, subsequently increase their awareness on geoconservation.

To make this seminar successful, we have to thank all supporting organizations including United Nation's International Year of Planet Earth, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, particularly Mr. Edward Yau, the Secretary for the Environment and his Environment Bureau, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and Environmental Protection Department. I also have to thank the supports of Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Department of Geography & Resource Management of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Geography of The University of Hong Kong and Friends of the Country Parks. Credits must go to all participating speakers and guests for their valuable sharing in the seminar. Last but not least, my gratitude must be extended to all passionate and hard-working committee members and volunteers of the Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong to make this seminar successful.



Young C.Y. Ng

Chairman

Organizing Committee, International Seminar on Hong Kong National Geopark Inauguration 2009

Congratulatory Message



Department of Geography
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Professor C.Y. Jim 詹志勇 講座教授
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21 October 2009

To: Participants of the International Seminar on Hong Kong National Geopark Inauguration 2009

Despite the popular image of Hong Kong as an exceptionally high-density metropolis, it has a surprisingly varied and high-quality hilly countryside that has fortunately escaped the direct impacts of urbanization. This natural hinterland and envelope of our city commonly conjures up a rich biotic resource base composed of a diverse assemblage of habitats, flora and fauna.

The other dimension of the countryside heritage, of no lesser value, is the outstanding geomorphology, associated scenic beauty, and the underlying geology. Earth processes have created an interesting array of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks on our land millions of years ago. They have since been sculptured by weathering and erosion to produce stunning and varied landforms.

Hong Kong is indeed fortunate to have received such a precious bequest. We are equally fortunate to have an administration and a citizenry that recognize the value of the natural heritage. The designation of our geopark has turned a new leaf in our nature conservation effort. In addition to promoting wholesome outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism, we shall make the best use of the new setup to augment our research, education and training activities.

On behalf of members of the Hong Kong Geopark Task Force, I would convey our most sincere gratitude to the Environment Bureau and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of the HKSAR Government. Special thanks are due to the China Mainland and overseas scientists and the Department of Geological Environment of the Ministry of Land and Resources for their professional advice and support of our endeavour. Let us extend our warmest congratulations to the inauguration of the first geopark in Hong Kong which is the 183rd geopark in China.

Professor C.Y. Jim
Convener, Hong Kong Geopark Task Force

Congratulatory Message



The University of Sydney

School of Geosciences
Madsen Building F09
NSW 2006 Australia

October 15, 2009

Mr. Edward T.W. Yau, JP
Secretary for the Environment,
Environment Bureau,
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region,
Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Yau,

Congratulations on the opening of the Hong Kong National Geopark on 3rd November, 2009. Unfortunately due to prior commitments I cannot attend this historic event, but I would like to express my admiration for the work that has been done to date, and wish you well for the future management of this valuable geological site. I would particularly like to congratulate you, and your team, for your vision in supporting this initiative, and Dr. K.M. Yeung (Head, Hong Kong Geopark Division of the HKSAR Government) and Mr. Young Ng for their innovative work and persistence in accomplishing this task. Without their dedication the Hong Kong National Geopark would still be a dream.

Instead, the Hong Kong National Geopark is now being formally opened. The Hong Kong National Geopark is a remarkable achievement that helps create a new image of Hong Kong – a vibrant city with valuable geological heritage. The geopark is a rich and unique resource for geoconservation, geo-education and geotourism for Hong Kong, mainland China and the world. It is an accomplishment for which the citizens of Hong Kong can justifiably be proud.

I wish you well for the future of this magnificent urban geopark.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil McManus'.

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Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

The development of National Geopark of China 中國國家地質公園的發展

Ms. Xiaoning CHEN 陳小寧女士

*Deputy Director, Department of Geological Environment,
The Ministry of Land and Resources, China*
中國國土資源部地質環境司副司長



背景

1982年畢業于原河北地質學院地質系(現石家莊經濟學院)。畢業後一直在國家發改委及國土資源部地質環境司工作。2007年開始負責國家地質公園的管理工作。現任國土資源部地質環境司副司長。

摘要

陳小寧副司長將在今次演說中與大家分享中國國家地質公園發展歷程，並陳述中國地質公園基本情況，及其龐大社會經濟效益，包括促進地質遺跡的有效保護、普及地學知識、促進地方經濟可持續發展和當地居民就業、積極開展國際交流，各方面都取得良好效果。陳副司長亦同時介紹目前最新國家地質公園建設與管理的工作重點。

Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

Asia Pacific Geoheritage and Geoparks Network

Professor Ibrahim KOMOO

*Member, International Expert Group for UNESCO Global Geoparks Network
Coordinator, Asia Pacific Geoheritage and Geoparks Network*



Biography

Professor Ibrahim Komoo is a member of the International Expert Group for UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (GGN). He is also the Coordinator of Asia Pacific Geoheritage and Geoparks Network (APGGN) as well as an advisor for Langkawi Global Geopark and Geological Heritage Group Malaysia. Professor Komoo is currently the director of Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Institute (SEADPRI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Abstract

The concept of geoheritage conservation and geopark development in the Asia Pacific region is still in its infancy. The potential for establishment of geoparks is promising, with many countries in the region designating geoheritage sites for conservation. This has led to the establishment of an Asia Pacific Geoheritage and Geoparks Network (APGGN) in 2007 that will provide a platform for networking between stakeholders of existing geoparks with stakeholders of geoheritage sites to facilitate the establishment of future geoparks and improved geoconservation governance. The main role of the APGGN is to encourage networking within members that will enable strategic promotion of geoheritage conservation and geoparks establishment. In addition it will provide support, particularly in sustainable economic development of geopark communities with emphasis on enhancing geotourism and nature tourism activities. This will be carried out through the promotion and exchange of scientific understanding, technology and expertise as well as education and awareness raising programmes. The presentation will highlight the framework of APGGN and its relationship with the Global Geoparks Network.

Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

Geoparks: new arenas for geo-education, conservation and public recreation

Dr. Wolfgang EDER

*Member, UNESCO's Honorary Committee of Global Geoparks Network
Former Director, Earth Sciences Division, UNESCO*



Biography

Dr. Wolfgang Eder is one of the pioneers of global geopark movement. He was the former Director of UNESCO's Earth Sciences Division and is currently a member of UNESCO's Honorary Committee of Global Geoparks Network, a Senior Advisor of International Union of Geological Sciences, a Goodwill Ambassador and a member of the Board of Directors of UN's International Year of Planet Earth. Dr. Eder is a geologist by profession and currently is the guest professor at Department of Earth Sciences, Geological Institute, University of Munich, Germany. He had served in the Geological Institute of University of Goettingen, the German Research Foundation in Bonn and for over 13 years at UNESCO in Paris. He is a long-time friend of China. He was accredited as the Honorary Mountainous Villager of Danxiashan of China in 2003, an Honorary Research Fellow of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing and awarded the Friendship Award of the People's Republic of China, Beijing, China in 2005.

Abstract

Under the umbrella of UNESCO, important national geological sites are gaining worldwide recognition. Since 2000, 63 geoparks from 19 countries have been set up in Australia, Austria, Brazil, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, and the United Kingdom. A geopark is a geographical area where geological and geomorphological heritage sites are part of a holistic concept involving conservation, education and sustainable development. Non-geological themes as well, are an integral part of a geopark, especially when their significance to landscape and geology can be demonstrated to visitors. For this reason, sites of ecological, archaeological, historical and/or cultural value are included. In many societies, natural, cultural and social (industrial) history is inextricably linked, and thus, cannot be separated. Since geoparks are set up under various management authorities in order to conserve significant geological and geomorphological features, this of course, can lead to collaborating, if and when appropriate, with universities, geological surveys and the relevant statutory bodies. The network provides a platform of cooperation between experts and practitioners in geological heritage.

Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

Partnership for a better future: Japanese Geoparks and Hong Kong Geopark

Dr. Michiko YAJIMA

Representative, Japan Geopark Network, Japan

Representative, NPO-GUPI (Geological Information Utilization and Promotion Initiative), Japan



Biography

Dr. Yajima is a representative of the Japan Geopark Network. She is a paleontologist and is teaching in Waseda University and Tokyo Medical and Dental University since 2003. As a member of the Japanese Society of Geology and NPO-GUPI (Geological Information Utilization and Promotion Initiative) of Japan, she is one of the pioneers and proposers of establishing geoparks in her country. She has been working closely with UNESCO and the European Geoparks Network in initiating geopark movement in Japan.

Abstract

Hong Kong is a world-renowned metropolis and is one of the most preferred cities in Asia for visitors. Most visitors to Hong Kong, however, do not notice its splendid natural scenery just lying outside the skyscrapers, in its rural areas and outlying islands. Hong Kong National Geopark will become a convenient attraction for visitors to better appreciate Hong Kong from a totally different perspective. Thanks to the proximity of Japan and Hong Kong, together with the latest accreditation of three global geoparks in Japan by UNESCO, the geological, ecological and cultural diversities of these geoparks could be brought up as focal points. There are tremendous opportunities for Japanese geoparks and Hong Kong National Geopark to work together as partners in promoting geopark development in the Pan-Pacific Geoparks Network.

Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

Geopark fosters growth of ecotourism with earth sciences

地質公園為旅遊業騰飛插上了科學翅膀

Professor Anze CHEN 陳安澤教授

Member, National Geopark Evaluation Committee, The Ministry of Land and Resources, China

Founder, China Geotourism and Geopark Research Association

中國國土資源部國家地質公園評委

中國旅遊地學與地質公園研究會創始會長



背景

陳安澤教授是中國國家地質公園評委、中國地質科學院研究員，中國旅遊地學與地質公園研究會的創始會長，中國地質公園的倡導者和推動者，著有"旅遊地學概論"等專著，是旅遊地學學科的奠基者和帶頭人之一，為中國旅遊業和地質公園事業的發展作出了重要貢獻。陳教授多次來港，協助推廣地質公園，對香港申辦國家地質公園，給了無數的寶貴意見，香港能夠成功申辦國家地質公園，陳教授貢獻極大。

摘要

地質公園是以保護地質遺產、自然環境，向公眾傳播地球科學知識，開展地質旅遊，促進地方經濟可持續發展為宗旨而建立新型自然公園。中國已建成22處世界地質公園，139處國家地質公園(含香港國家地質公園)。最近又有44處新景區獲得國家地質公園資格。在中國，一個分布面廣、地質景觀類型多樣、管理等級有序的地質公園網絡體系已初步建成。地質公園的出現是中國旅遊進入科學旅遊時代的標誌，它為中國旅遊業的騰飛插上了科學翅膀。香港國家地質公園的建立，為香港旅遊業增添了地球科學內涵，增添了持續發展的活力，香港旅遊業的前景將更光明。

Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

Introduction to the English Riviera Geopark

Ms. Melanie BORDER

*Coordinator, English Riviera Geopark, UK
Member, European Geopark Coordination Committee*



Biography

Ms. Melanie Border's passion for the natural world and the geological forces that control it drove her to return to education as a mature student after having two children. She has now worked for the conservation charity Torbay Coast and Countryside since 2000 and has experience of project management, community involvement and environmental education. With her geological background and enthusiasm Melanie became an essential part of the Geopark team in early 2006 helping to drive the English Riviera's successful application to join the European Geoparks Network in 2007. In addition to coordinating the English Riviera Geopark at the local level, Melanie is now a European Geoparks Coordination Committee member and the lead of the European Geoparks Coastal Thematic Network Group.

Abstract

In September 2007 the English Riviera in Devon, UK, became the 32nd member of the European Geoparks Network (EGN). Recognised as the world's first urban Geopark, it has a population of 134,000 in an area of 62km² and 42km² of sea. Active and dynamic in all areas of its work the English Riviera recognises its geological heritage and its wider cultural heritage in its community and educational development framework. It also uses this heritage to promote and attract tourists to the area. The Geopark is an important component in all the strategic plans for the economic regeneration of Torbay. The Geopark territory has a rich and well-exposed geological heritage, from Devonian reefs to Pleistocene bone-caves. This geology has strong links to the history of the science and culture, not least as Torbay includes sites crucial to the initial characterisation of the Devonian Period. The unique combination of a superb geological resource, a well established and mature tourism infrastructure, an innovative conservation trust and well-developed partnerships with public, private and voluntary sectors, makes the English Riviera Geopark well placed to develop in a dynamic and successful way within the Global Geoparks Network.

Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

**Introduction of Itoigawa Geopark:
the first global geopark from Japan**

Dr. Ko TAKENOUCHI

*Representative, Itoigawa Global Geopark, Japan
Chief Curator, Fossa Magna Museum, Itoigawa City Board of Education, Japan*



Biography

Dr. Takenouchi graduated from the Niigata University in 1984 and obtained his doctorate in geology from the same University in 2004. He had worked for the Metal Mining Agency of Japan in Tokyo from 1987 to 1991 and returned to his hometown Itoigawa to prepare the Fossa Magna Museum in 1991. Now, he is the chief curator of the museum, Itoigawa City, Niigata. He has been studying on formation process of Fossa Magna, which is a geological structure lying in central Japan. He is the head who also takes charge of educational activities such as geotours in the Itoigawa Geopark.

Abstract

Itoigawa Geopark joined the GGN members on Aug 22, 2009. The Geopark is in central Japan with the Japan Sea to the north and close to mountainous areas in the south. The Geopark has a variety of landforms. With its wide variation in altitude, extending from the sea to 3000 meters above sea level, the area has abundant fauna and flora. Furthermore, the Geopark has a number of geological heritage sites with rocks, minerals, fossils and geological structures ranging from the Paleozoic to Cenozoic, related to the geological process of the plate boundary. These geological heritages have fostered unique culture such as the oldest jade culture, old trade route along a major fault, coexistence with landslides producing terraced rice fields and groundwater, boundary of the eastern and western dialect in Japan, hot springs and volcanic disasters related to Yakeyama active volcano, old mine sites etc. Itoigawa Geopark provides paths for observation, explanatory boards and guide pamphlets since 1990. Various educational activities such as geotours, science laboratories and lectures are carried out. Visitors can visit the twenty-four geosites of deformation area on the earth, which are scattered over the Geopark. The geological heritages also have very close relationship with human activities.

Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

Kanawinka Global Geopark: the “land of tomorrow” and the way forward for education, promotion and conservation

Ms. Joane MCKNIGHT

*Director, Kanawinka Global Geopark Board, Australia
Coordinator, Australian National Geopark Network, Australia*



Biography

Ms. Joane McKnight has been involved in geotourism since the year 2000 when she had a lead role in the community purchase of Mount Elephant, a dormant volcano. Subsequently in 2004, using her background in project management, she was elected to the position of Chair of the Volcanoes Discovery Trail Cross Regional Committee, now the Kanawinka Global Geopark Board and is Director of the Kanawinka Global Geopark that covers some 26,910 square kilometres. In 2008 Joane won the Pride of Australia Award in the Environment Category, the Environmental Champions Award from a local Catchment Management Authority as well as the Spirit of Tasmania Award for Community Development.

Abstract

Kanawinka Geopark was announced as the 57th Member of the Global Geopark Network in June 2008. The volcanic region known as the Kanawinka Geopark covers some 26,910 square kilometres, extending as a continuous belt across the two southern states of Victoria and South Australia. The Geopark has 5 distinct Precincts namely Lakes and Craters, Coast and Caves, Lava Flows, Dundas Tablelands, and Craters and Limestone. Kanawinka Geopark has been a prime study venue for high school and university field trips in geology, geomorphology and geography for at least 70 years and provides an expanded range of opportunities for education and interpretation that are consistent with the enjoyment and protection of the natural environment, especially with an emphasis on earth sciences. The Peshurst Volcanoes Discovery Centre situated within the Kanawinka Geopark area displays geological history and the nature of volcanoes in the region; it operates with many volunteers. This centre has an extensive education program for schools. The important aspects of Kanawinka Geopark is the links between the geology and the people, their stories, culture and history that build into a sustainable source of geotourism, bring jobs to rural and indigenous people and in turn help protect sites of significance and promote geoheritage.

Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

The future of China's volcanoes / volcanic rocks geoparks: Yandangshan, Leiqiong and Wudalianchi global geoparks
中國火山 / 火山岩地質公園展望: 雁蕩山、雷瓊和五大連池世界地質公園



Professor Kuiyuan TAO 陶奎元教授

*Research Fellow, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources, China
Advisers, Yandangshan Global Geopark and Leiqiong Global Geopark, China*
中國國土資源部南京地質礦產研究所研究員
中國雁蕩山世界地質公園及雷瓊世界地質公園顧問

背景

陶奎元教授為中國國土資源部，南京地質礦產研究所研究員、東南大學教授、中國頂級的火山專家。曾任中國地質研究院火山地質礦產研究中心首席科學家，出版有《火山構造岩相學》、《中國東南大陸火山地質與礦產》等專著。近15年來致力於地質公園的申報、考察、規劃與研究，推動地質公園解說和科普教育。陶教授為最早提出香港應成立火山地質公園的專家之一，並一直積極支持及協助申辦，對香港最終能夠成立國家地質公園作出鉅大貢獻。

摘要

中國批准以火山/火山岩為主題的國家地質公園共有23座。它們為中國不同年代、不同岩石、不同火山景觀的完整代表。這些地質公園的意義在於為中國火山/火山岩的研究永久保存了一份彌足珍貴的天然檔案，將會世代得到保護和利用。中國已批准以火山/火山岩地質地貌世界公園有4座：其中代表性有雁蕩山、雷瓊、和五大連池。浙江雁蕩山世界地質公園屬於距今1億多年的白堊紀流紋質火山岩組成的大型復活型火山，為中國流紋岩岩石風景地貌景觀的傑出的代表。雷瓊世界地質公園海口園區由四十多座火山構成，是中國熱帶第四紀玄武岩火山博覽園。黑龍江五大連池由20多座火山，其中有西元1719~1721年噴發的火山。火山保存完整，熔岩流極為壯觀，因處於寒—溫過度帶，其火山生態與雷瓊熱帶火山生態形成鮮明的“兩極”。展望未來發展，倡議各公園聯合起來，加強科學研究從而提高公園的科學與文化品位，建立合作聯盟，可開展有針對性進行交流，共同提高公園的建設與管理水準。

Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

Muroto Geopark: a forefront for the birth of new habitable land

Mr. Soichiro UETA

*Acting Chairman, Muroto Geopark Promoting Office, Muroto City, Japan
Member, Kochi Prefectural Assembly, Japan*



Biography

Mr. Soichiro Ueta was born in 1956 in Muroto City, Kochi Prefecture, Japan. After graduating from Tokyo University of Agriculture, he was elected in 1983 to be a member of the municipal assembly, a post in which he served two terms. Since 1991 he has been a member of the prefectural assembly. During this tenure he has held a variety of positions including Chairman of the General Affairs Committee (1997-98), and Vice-Chairman of the Prefectural Assembly (2002-03). In 2008, he became the Acting Chairman of the Muroto Geopark Promoting Office. He also holds executive positions in several recreational sports associations.

Abstract

Muroto Geopark, which covers the entire Muroto city area, is located in the southern part of Muroto Peninsula in Shikoku Island, Japan. The peninsula is widely underlain by the Cenozoic accretionary complex formed by the subduction of the Philippine Sea plate. It is the best-documented on-land accretionary complex in the world. At the Nankai Trough, 140 km offshore of Muroto Geopark, the continuing accretion process causes inter-plate earthquakes every 100 to 150 years. Marine terraces developed on the peninsula were formed by glacial-interglacial sea-level changes in the Quaternary. Also observed are various coastal landforms uplifted to above present sea level by massive earthquakes. Muroto Geopark has 40 intriguing geosites. As they are located in the daily living area of the community, they present not only information about the dynamic process by which new land is created, but also inform us about the culture and history of the people that have their roots on this land. The local industries have been based on the natural bounty of the area. With all these assets, Muroto Geopark aims to make an important contribution to the local community and raise awareness of the importance of our planet.

Biography & Abstract of Guest Speakers

The planning and management principles of Hong Kong National Geopark

Mr. Alan C. K. WONG, JP

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, HKSARG



Biography

Mr. Alan Wong is currently the Director of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, which is the management authority of the Hong Kong National Geopark and other Protected Areas designated under the Country Parks Ordinance and Marine Parks Ordinance. Hong Kong's Protected Areas cover about 40% of Hong Kong's total land area, and are designated for the purposes of conservation, education, recreation and tourism. Within these areas, both geodiversity and biodiversity are well conserved. Mr. Wong is himself a nature lover as well as a keen hiker. He has served directorate positions in various bureaux and departments of the HKSAR Government before he takes up his current post as head of AFCD.

Abstract

The paper will highlight the planning and management principles of the Hong Kong National Geopark. Enshrined under the Country Parks Ordinance and Marine Parks Ordinance and to maintain the naturalness of the geosites, incompatible infrastructures would be avoided. Sensitive sites are designated as core protection zone for protection of geological features and for public safety. Visits to sites where carrying capacity is limited, should only be conducted by boat tours. To enhance science popularization, we have developed a series of education programmes and facilities together with different NGOs. Exchanges and liaison with other geoparks will be emphasized while upskilling training will be provided for our staff and tour guides.

International Seminar on Hong Kong National Geopark Inauguration 2009 香港國家地質公園國際研討會 2009

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Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong (AGHK) is a non-profit making charity organization which was set up by a group of volunteers in 2006 to promote the importance of geoconservation. All our members are volunteers who care and love our rocks. We aspire to share the joy of nature with every Hong Kong citizen and make Hong Kong a better city.

Our Mission

- To preserve the landforms and rocks of Hong Kong;
- To disseminate scientific information of our earth;
- To promote eco-tourism;
- To make Hong Kong a better place to live.

Our Major Tasks

- To closely monitor those development and construction projects which may destroy our valuable landforms and rocks;
- To organize lectures, seminars and promotional activities on cognition and conservation of landforms and rocks;
- To cooperate with government, related organizations and conservation bodies in promoting and popularizing geoconservation in Hong Kong.

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