Geodiversity Workshop 7 Celebrating the International Geodiversity Day

Geodiversity of Oceania

Oceania is a geographical region that includes Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia which spans the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. It is the smallest continent in terms of land area (8,525,989 km^2) and is the second least populated continent (around 44.5 million as of 2021) after Antarctica. Apart from its beautiful isolated islands, white beaches, coconut and palm trees, its geodiversity is little known to people of other continents. The Pacific Plate which lies beneath the Pacific Ocean and makes up most of the Oceania, has a gigantic size of 103 million km^2 and is the largest tectonic plate on Earth. The plate contains an interior hot spot forming the high volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean where volcanic activities are still very active. On the contrary, Australia is relatively stable with no active volcanism due to its location in the middle of the tectonic plate. It is the lowest, flattest and oldest landmass on Earth. Such diversified geology of Oceania leads us to hold a special workshop to explore the geodiversity of the region. We have therefore invited four distinguished speakers from the region to share their knowledge and experience with us.

Workshop details:
Date: 26 November 2022 (Sat)
Time: Hong Kong Time (UTC+8:00)
15:45 – 16:00 Registration
16:00 – 18:30 Presentations, Q & A
Tasmania, Australia time 19:00 – 21:30 (UTC+11:00)
Fiji time 20:00 – 22:30 (UTC+12:00)
New Zealand time 21:00 – 23:30 (UTC+13:00)

Language: English
Fee: Free
Software: Zoom (Login details will be sent by email later)

Topics and speakers:

1. ***Geoparks: An emergent opportunity for the Pacific*** by Mr. Gary Lee, Fiji
2. ***Geodiversity of New Zealand*** by Prof. Károly Németh, New Zealand
3. ***Geodiversity of Australia with specific reference to Tasmania*** by Mr. Jason Bradbury, Tasmania, Australia
4. ***From the oldest minerals to largest monoliths – Australia's geodiversity story*** by Dr. Melinda McHenry,Tasmania, Australia

Registration:

1. Enter google form: https://forms.gle/8DuWTHWitxL7mEiL7

OR

2. Email talk@rocks.org.hk to register indicating the following:

- Full Name (same as Identity Document)
- Email Address
- Affiliation

Registration deadline: **20 November 2022.** Successful registrants will be notified by email later.
Enquiries: talk@rocks.org.hk

Brief biography of speakers

Mr. Gary Lee is a Geotechnical Adviser at Pacific Community (SPC) based in Fiji. The Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) are currently supporting multiple member countries to explore the potential of establishing the first Geopark in the Pacific region.This initiative is particularly timely and important given the current context of COVID-19 recovery. The team looks forward to sharing findings at the Geodiversity Workshop and calls on partners to support establishment of the first Geopark in the region.

Prof. Károly Németh is an Adjunct Professor in Geology at Massey University, New Zealand. He is a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Earth Physics and Space Science, Hungary. He is a visiting research scientist at the Saudi Geological Survey in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from October 2022. He is also the Chairperson of the Geoconservation Trust Aotearoa New Zealand. His expertise includes sedimentology, volcanology and geoheritage. In the last decade he contributed significantly to develop new methods to measure geodiversity values with particular interest on the volcanic and sedimentary environments. He was working on characterisation of the geoheritage elements of the Arabian Peninsula, SW Pacific and the Coromandel Peninsula and the Auckland Volcanic Field in the North Island of New Zealand. He was contributing to geoheritage research in Northern Chile's volcanic geoheritage as well as revisiting the geoheritage elements of the Arxan UNESCO Global Geopark.
Mr. Jason Bradbury began his geoscience career working for mining companies across

several Australian states, before moving to Tasmania at the end of the 1980s to take up a mapping role with the Geological Survey. In 1992 he joined the Parks and Wildlife Service and since then has concentrated on geoconservation, with a focus on reserved land including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. He is employed by Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania as a geoscientist and Geodiversity Program Coordinator.

Dr. Melinda McHenry is a physical geographer with fifteen years experience working in the natural resource sector at all levels of government and in industry. She joined University of Tasmania in 2016 as a physical geographer working primarily on the integration of native vegetation into production systems, soil management and restoration, riparian zone restoration, geoheritage conservation and environmental education. Melinda held various positions including project officer (Environmental Weeds) with the New England Weeds Authority, contributing to invasive native species research in association with the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, and managing the NSW node of the National Soil Carbon programme with CSIRO. She has spent the majority of her academic career to date in teaching-focussed or managerial positions and has come to University of Tasmania to combine her skills in the aforementioned areas with her research interests.