



## **C12-16 IGU-Commission on Geoparks**

**January,2012---December,2013 Commission on Geoparks**

**Dongying Wei, Chair**

### **Work Report of Commission on Geoparks**

**(January,2012 --- December,2013)**

Since 2000, geographers and geologists have met on several occasions to discuss the pertinence of an interdisciplinary perspective on Geoparks, linking geo-conservation with endogenous local development. The latter has been one of the topics seriously undertaken by geographers during the last decades. The geographical perspective on Geoparks includes integrating landscape as its main concept; requires a holistic approach and trans-disciplinary research to promote multicultural participatory bridges, and links local knowledge and practice into the research-development agenda. It encourages solid scientific inter-union linkages and focuses on establishing Geoparks in the world. It also promotes the research relations in the world and the exchanges in developing countries and developed countries.

At the year of 2004, the IGU Executive Committee decided to launch the Geoparks task force on 30th IGC, an initiative that could bring a geographical perspective to a developed UNESCO program for the management and protection of the natural and cultural heritage. In 2008, the IGU Executive Committee decided to change the Geopark Task Force into Commission on Geoparks on 31<sup>st</sup> IGC.

#### **1. MEMBERSHIP**

The Steering Committee of Commission on Geoparks(2012-2016) is different with the committee of IGU-COG(2008-2012), and now it insists of 13 members from 10 countries, 2012 -2016 and they are as following.

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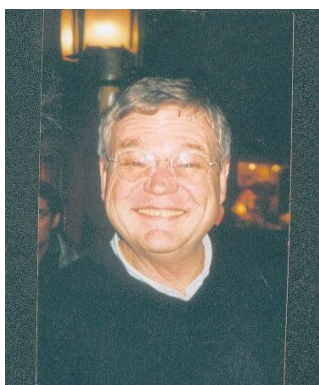
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## 2. MEETINGS

The Commission has had active work and organized some meetings and conferences; the report summarizes the international meetings held from 2012 to 2013.

**2.1 The workshop on Geoparks** was held in Rome, Italy on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 and the schedule is as following.





DIPARTIMENTO  
 DI SCIENZE DELLA TERRA  
**SAPIENZA**  
 UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

# Parchi e Geoparchi: Risorse ambientali

## Workshop

Aula I di Mineralogia

Martedì 31 Gennaio 2012 ore 10

- 10,00 Saluto del Direttore del Dipartimento, Prof. Gabriele Scarascia Mugnozza
- 10,05 Prof. Giuliano Bellezza: presentazione del Workshop
- 10,15 Prof. Raniero Massoli Novelli: I Geositi nei Geoparchi
- 10,30 Dr.ssa Cristina Giovagnoli: La rete europea dei Geoparchi
- 10,45 Prof. Carmelo Petronio: Gargano e Scontrone, un antico arcipelago
- 11,00 Prof. Adriana Maras: Aree vulcaniche del Lazio
- 11,15 Dr. Maurizio Chirri: Geodiversità e tutela ambientale nel Lazio
- 11,30 Prof. Dongying Wei: Towards Sustainable Development
- 11,45 Prof. Giuliano Bellezza: Interpretare il prefisso Geo

**2.2 Meeting on Universities, Colleges And Research Institutions as conservation catalyst** was held in Boulder, CO, USA April 11 and 12, 2012. It was organized by Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and Dr. Wei, Dongying was invited to give a presentation to introduce the Geopark conservation and its development in China.

**2.3 Geopark Session on the 32nd International Geographical Congress (IGC) in Cologne in August 2012.** 4 speakers gave 5 presentations and they were as following:

Wei, Dongying	Commission on Geoparks and The development of Geoparks
Alessio Valente	The geodiversity in the Cilento and Vallo di Diano Geopark (Italy) as support in the enhancement of sustainable development
tahereh sabouri	geotourism industry & geoparks in Iran (Case Study: Qeshm geopark in environmental landscape)
Semkina Olga	The structure of the cluster landscape "Podzaploty" of the State natural reserve "Khakass"
tahereh sabouri	The role of geomorphology studies in site selection for geoparks and sustainable geotourism-Proposed geopark: Dorfak and Deylaman (Gilan Province)

## 2.4 The 3<sup>rd</sup> *International Forum on Geoparks: Interpretation and Sustainable Development*



The 3<sup>rd</sup> *International Forum on Geoparks: Interpretation and Sustainable Development* was held successfully in Beijing from 22nd to 23rd June 2013 and the theme is interpretation and sustainable development. The forum was co-organized by Commission on Geoparks of International Geographical Union (IGU-COG), the Geographical Society of China, School of Geography, Beijing Normal University and Fangshan World Geopark. The two-day forum focused on promoting the interpretation and sustainable development in the management of Geoparks. 50 participants from 3 countries attended the forum. Dr. Wei, Dongying, the chair of Commission on Geoparks, International Geographical Union hosted the opening ceremony.



The themes of the forum is to promote the research about interpretation and sustainable development in Geoparks , to share information and experiences on Interpretation system and sustainable development of Geoparks , to identify major challenges about interpretation and sustainable development that Geoparks are facing and ways to overcome such challenges; to facilitate communication and networking among geographers and educators about Geoparks; to raise public awareness on interpretation and sustainable development in Geoparks.

Participants discussed themes as 'Interpretive Planning in National Parks in USA', 'Comparison Between Grand Canyon National Park and Yuntaishan World Geopark', 'Interpretation Planning and its Role in Sustainable Tourism and Visitor Management at Geoheritage Sites', 'How to Develop a Master Plan for a GeoPark/ National Park', 'Developing Interpretation and Education System for Shouyun Mining Park', 'Enlightenment from the application for membership of Global Geoparks Network for Yanqing National Geopark', 'Towards Sustainable Development: Fangshan World Geopark', 'Visitor Center and Living Museum----- How to connect nature and history through interpretation?' 'Ecotourism in China: policies and development', 'Geopark World Tourism, Build a Geo-touristic Park for Publics', 'How to get excited about rocks: Designing environmental interpretation that inspires and motivates visitors and enhances the visitor experience'.



Dr. Wei, Dongying gave a keynote speech





Ellis Richard gave a presentation

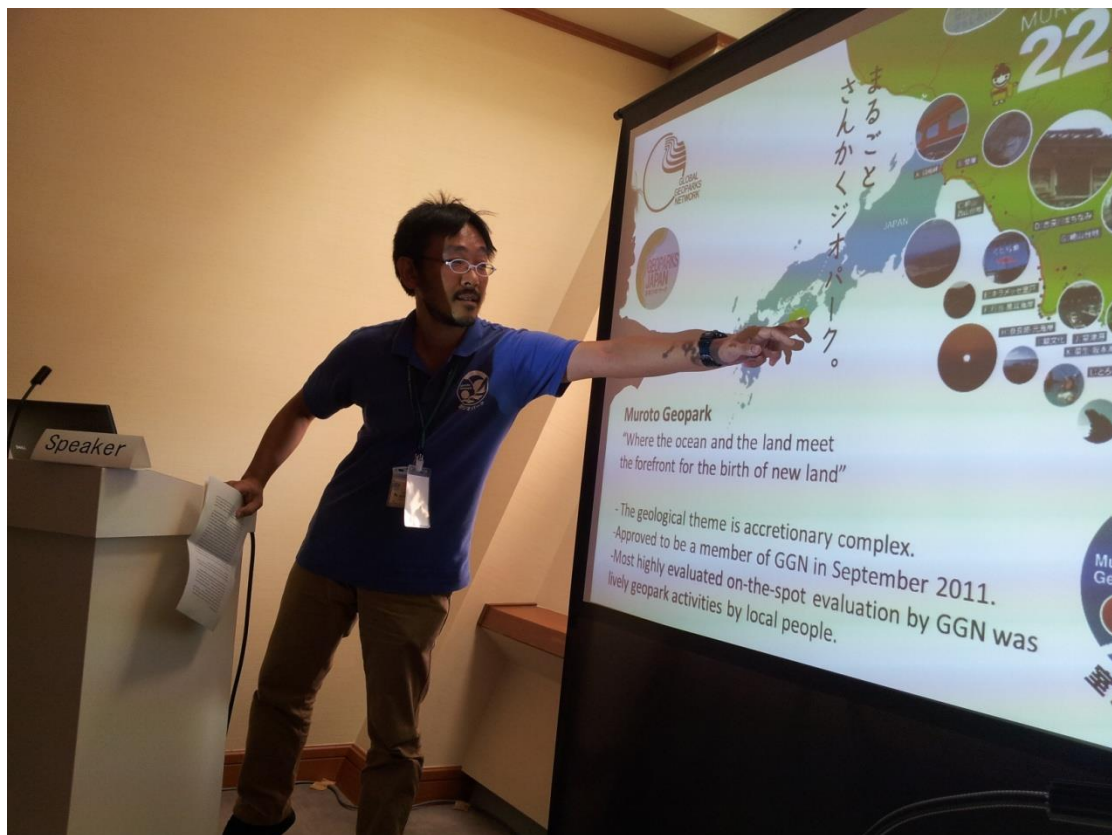
On June 23rd, 2013 the participants visited Fangshan World Geopark. They appreciated the beautiful landscape and its good administration. And also they put forward some comments and suggestions about the interpretation system of Fangshan World Geopark and the managers of Fangshan Geoparks said it was quite good suggestions and will be use in the future management and would benefit the sustainable development of Fangshan World Geopark.



## 2.5 Geopark Session on 2013 Kyoto Regional Conference



Geopark Session was quite popular on the conference and totally 8 speakers gave the presentations and the participants had more than 30 and the discussion was quite hot, too.



## 2.6. Plenary Meeting of Geopark Commission. (St.Louis, August , 2013).

On August 25, 2013, the Commission held the executive members' meeting and discussed the work plan and upcoming conferences.

Time: 9:00am-13:00pm, August 25, 2013

Place: Forest Park in St.louis

Topics: Journal and future conferences of IGU Commission on Geoparks

Participants: Wei, Dongying, James Wilson, Lloyd Richardson, Carole Murphy,

### 1. International Journal of Geoheritage

The first issue has been published in June,2013 and indentified its mission and scope and next step it needs to be better known by the scholars in the field of geoheritage and try to attract quality articles. The publishing house in st.louis was recommend to help to disseminate the journal.

### 2.The conferences that will be held in Krawkov, Moscow and Beijng were discussed.

3. About the new EC members, Dr. Ales Smrekar from Slovenia, Dr. Subhash Anand from India and Daichi Kohmoto from Japan were introduced and current EC members agreed the new members join the commission.



### **3 NETWORKING**

IGU-COG cooperated with Commission on Geography Education and Land Use and Coverage Commission in the past four years. IGU-CoG invited the members of Commission on Geography Education to attend the geopark meetings and conferences and discussed how to integrated Geography education in Geoparks. IGU-COG also has cooperated with LUCC on Environmental Map contest since 2004. IGU-COG encourages the middle school and high school students in China to participate in the environmental map contest organized by LUCC and gave some teachers training on it.

IGU-COG cooperated with UNESCO, IUCN etc. international organizations about geopark programs and also with some national government, like China Ministry of Land and Resources and Ministry of Housing and Rural and Urban Development, China Ministry of Environment Protection etc. to promote the education and protection of the geoparks. IGU-COG also cooperated with many local governments to promote the development of geoparks, like Xiuwu county in Henan Province, Shangrao City in Jiangxi Province, Taining county in Fujian province etc.

Prof. Giuliano and Prof. Lex Chalmers suggested that International Geography Olympiad in 2016 can be held in Geoparks in China and IGU-COG and IGU Olympiad task force can cooperate with it. Dr. Wei, Dongying and other EC members like the idea and invited Prof. Lex Chalmers to attend the China National Geography Olympiad that was held in November 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Keqiao, China. Prof. Lex Chalmers went as observer and later he visited

Fangshan World Geopark in Beijing with Dr.Wei,Dongying on November 14<sup>th</sup>,2013 and discussed the details with local managers about accommodation and the route etc.

#### **4.PUBLICATION**

IGU-COG's book, **Interpretation Evaluation for Geoparks: Theory into Practice** was published by Society of Italian Geography as the volume X of the Home of Geography Series in January,2012.

*Interpretation Evaluation for Geoparks: Theory into Practice* illustrates the logic model of environmental interpretation and the evaluation indicator framework of environmental interpretation for a Geopark is built. In order to identify who to evaluate, the tripartite evaluation model of environmental interpretation is developed. The study takes Yuntaishan World Geopark as a case to evaluate the status quo of environmental interpretation from three aspects: self-evaluation, visitor evaluation and peer and expert evaluation, and make recommendation for improving the quality of the service. This book provide the guide for the Geoparks to evaluation its interpretation quality.

IGU-COG's website is [www.igu-cog.org](http://www.igu-cog.org).

#### **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GEOHERITAGE**

The first issue of International Journal of Geoheritage was published in June,2013 and the second issue will be published in February,2013.

The International Journal of Geoheritage is a, referred, multidisciplinary, international journal concerned with the management, policies, education, tourism, interpretation, economics, protection and sustainable development of global geoheritage. Here, geoheritage includes geoparks, national parks, protected areas, World Heritage sites, and other globally significant sites recognized for their geologic and geographical value. Covering methods and practice of geoheritage studies, the journal explores the ways of conservation and sustainable development of geoheritage. The journal seeks to promote divergent and pluralistic visions, ideas and opinions about geoheritage.

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**AIMS & SCOPE**

*International Journal of Geoheritage* publishes original geoheritage-oriented papers addressing a broad range of fields including management, planning, policies, education, tourism, interpretation, economics, protection and sustainable development of global geoheritage. The papers, ideally, will be based on both conceptual and empirical studies and will be primarily

geoheritage-focused. Our goal is to explore the ways of the conservation and sustainable development of geoheritage and promote divergent and pluralistic visions, ideas and opinions about the geoheritage.

This is a largely social-sciences-focused journal. The methods and practice of geoheritage, including geoparks, national parks, protected areas, World Heritage sites, and other globally significant sites recognized for their geologic and geographical values, will be included. Natural and physical scientists writing for a social science audience are also welcome contributors. To the extent possible, we will try to make the journal cross-disciplinary and transnational in scope.

We are inviting original papers in management, planning, policies, education, tourism, interpretation, economics, protection and sustainable development of global geoheritage, both conceptual/theoretical papers and case studies.

All articles that will be published in this journal will be taken rigorous peer view, based on initial editor screening and anonymous refereeing by independent expert referees.

## **PREPARING AND SUBMITTING YOUR MANUSCRIPT**

Before preparing your submission, please visit the *International Journal of Geoheritage* homepage at [www.igu-cog.org](http://www.igu-cog.org) for full instructions for authors.

Papers for consideration should be submitted to the Editor. Authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts electronically. Electronic submissions should be sent as email attachments using a standard program such as MSWORD. If email submission is not possible, please send an electronic version on disc or CD-ROM along with three paper copies, together with one set of high quality figures for reproduction, to the address below.

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Submitted manuscripts are subject to peer view at the discretion of the Editor Office. In order to maintain anonymity during any refereeing process, authors are requested to refrain from, or keep to a minimum, self-referencing.

There are no page charges in *International Journal of Geoheritage*.

## **5. ARCHIVAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

On the website of home of Geography, on the News column, click the Interpretation and Evaluation for Geoparks: volume X of the Home of Geography Series, it will

shows the introduction of the book, Interpretation Evaluation for Geoparks: Theory into Practice.

International Journal of Geoheritage is available on <http://igu-cog.org/journal.html>.

## **6.CONTINUATION**

A. Name of the commission: Commission on Geoparks.

B. IGU-COG's mission: To promote the development of Geoparks from the Geographical perspectives, and its detailed objectives are as following.

(1) Communicate the role of Geoparks as tools of education, recreation and nature conservation;

(2) Further develop the concept of sustainability as applied to Geoparks;

(3) Communicate the importance of understanding a broad range of processes that affect the sustainable development of Geoparks, including the natural environment, political, and socio-economic processes;

(4) Communicate the results of the research by members of the Commission to various academic, industry and policy arenas in order to influence policy in an effective and appropriate manner.

## **C. WORK PLAN FOR 2014-2016**

Commission (2014–2016) will focus on the development of comparative studies on Geoparks, tourism and corresponding social, economic, environmental and political change and will concentrate on the communication and transfer of research results in policy relevant terms to policy makers and industry as well as continuing the scientific publishing programme of the Commission. The Commission therefore seeks to continue its activities for the next four years as outlined in relation to its existing objectives. The planned activities are as the following.

All executive members are encouraged to participate in IGC in Krawkov, Moscow and Beijing.

The planned activities include the following.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Publish the International Journal of Geoheritage	Editors and ALL EC members	To publish the journal both paper and electronically with the cooperation with the publishing house.
Updating the website of Commission on Geoparks		In order to meet the objectives of the COG, namely, to educate others about Geoparks, the site will have more details for the major sub Areas
SubArea 1: Research on Geoparks		



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage submission of research by interested researchers Researchers (both from the Commission and others) (place complimentary request for submissions in journal, newsletters, etc of IGU and other organizations)</li> </ul>	<p>Commission members &amp; advisors</p> <p>Target: 6 months</p>	<p>* Articles submitted and reviewed by the Commission.</p> <p>* Quarterly update with articles listed by quarter.</p> <p>*Manuscript specifications and directions on the site.</p>
SubArea 2: Geopark Highlights	<p>Webmaster</p> <p>Target: 3 months</p>	<p>Geoparks will be encouraged to develop a short (15-20 minute) video highlighting their park including where it is and how to get there.</p> <p>Directions for contacting the park</p> <p>Contact info for Tour directors also available</p> <p>An annual fee may be charged for putting their video on site</p>
Development of corporate Sponsors for COG		
Corporate sponsors such as BP, Texaco, Exxon, Toyota, Mercedes, GM, Sanyo, Gucci, etc		<p>* A corporation can be a sponsor of the site with their logo on all main and subarea pages with links to their website with the proviso that the site must have a description of how they are addressing environmental issues and sustainable development activities</p> <p>* Highlight list of corporate sponsors</p>
Brochure	Commission	<p>Develop brochure outlining</p> <p>* Info on the website of IGU-COG</p> <p>* Identify benefits of being a sponsor (number of members, etc)</p> <p>* Identify the cost, who to contact, what is required, etc</p>

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December 27th , 2013