



IGU-Commission on Geoheritage

January,2015---December,2015 Commission on Geoheritage

Dongying Wei, Chair

Work Report of Commission on Geoheritage

(January,2012 --- December,2015)

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 31st IGC. In 2012, new commission was set up and included new international members. In 2015, Commission was approved to change the name to Commission on Geoheritage.

1. MEMBERSHIP

The Steering Committee of Commission on Geoheritage (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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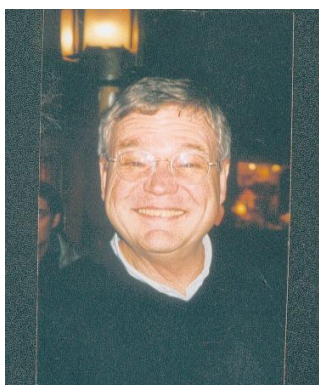
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2. MEETINGS

The Commission has had active work and organized some meetings and conferences;
the report summarizes the international meetings held from 2012 to 2015.

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



**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 3rd *International Forum on Geoparks: Interpretation and Sustainable Development*



The 3rd *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



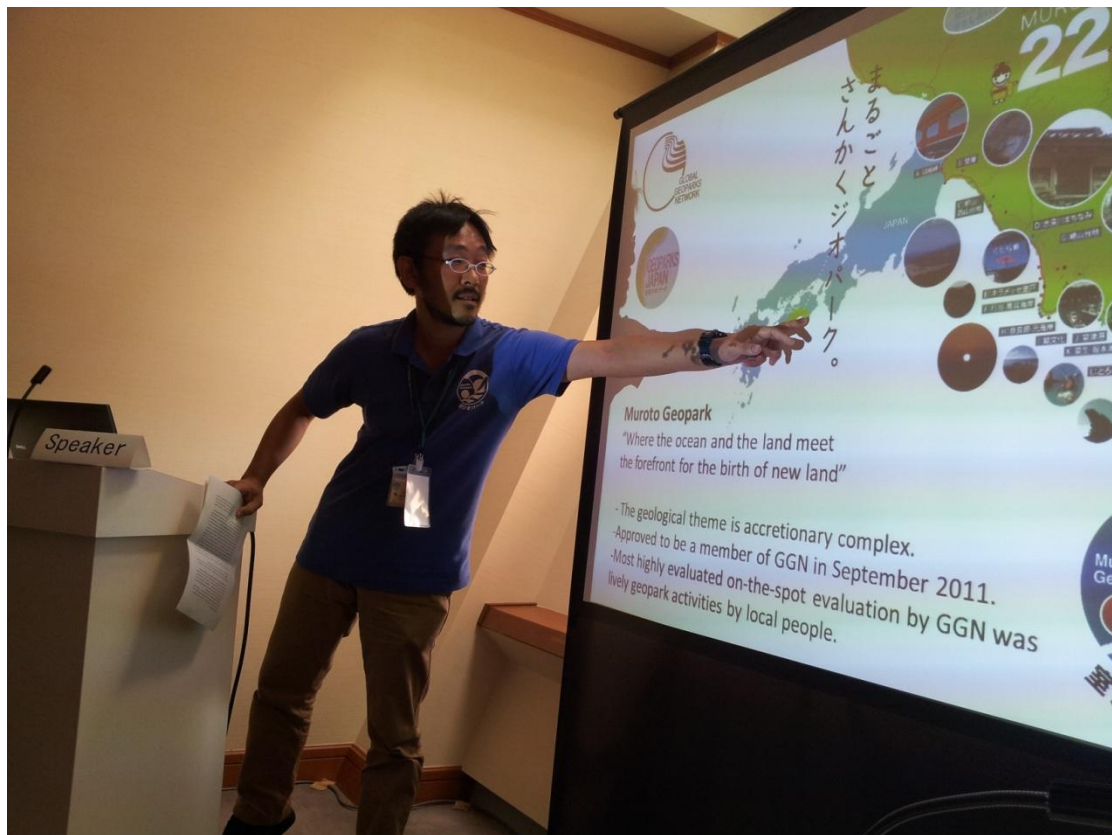
Ellis Richard gave a presentation

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 commssion.



2.7 EC member meeting

On May 22nd, 2014, the commission members, Dr.Dongying wei, Dr.Lloyd Richardson, Dr.James Wilson and Dr.Carole Murphy had EC meeting in St.louis and discussed about the publication of the International Journal of Geoheritage and the editing issues.

2.8 EC member meeting

On September 15th, 2015, the commission members, Dr.Dongying wei, and Dr.Carole Murphy and Dr. Lloyd Richardson had EC meeting in Beijing and discussed about the publication of the International Journal of Geoheritage and the editing issues.

2.9 International Geographical Union Regional Conference in 2015

IGU Regional Conference “Geography, Culture and Society for Our Future Earth” which was taken place in August 17-21, 2015 in Moscow at Lomonosov Moscow State University, and Commission on Geoheritage had Geopark Session on the conference. More than 10 abstracts were submitted and about 20 participants attended the session and 8 of them gave the presentations. The sessions were chaired by Dr.Wei,dongying.

3.NETWORKING

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.

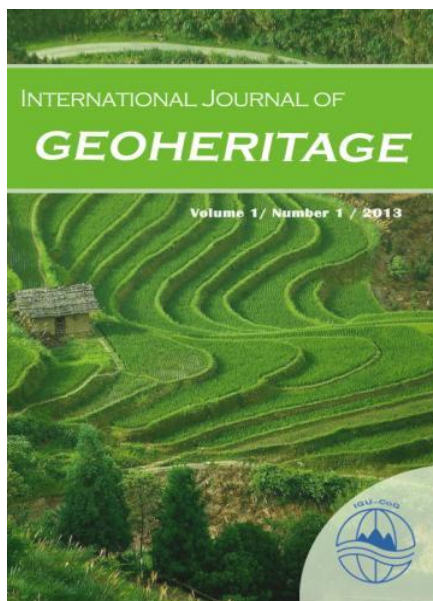
IGU-COG cooperated with Commission on Geography Education and Land Use and Coverage Commission in the past four years. IGU-CoG invited the members of Commission on Geography Education to attend the geopark meetings and conferences and discussed how to integrated Geography education in Geoparks. IGU-COG 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.

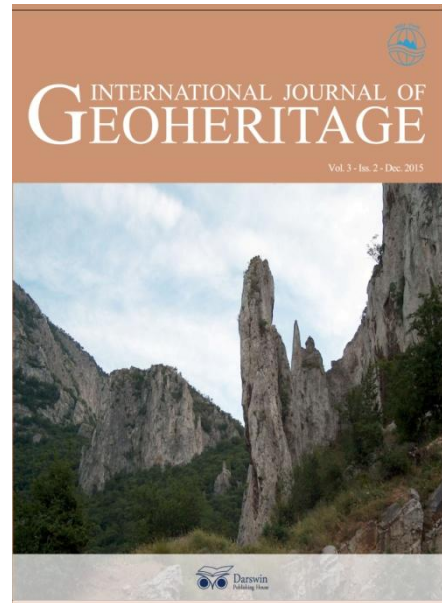
4.PUBLICATION

IGU-COG's website is 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 was published in May,2014, the third issue and the fourth issue was published in June and December,2015.





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.

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Before preparing your submission, please visit the *International Journal of Geoheritage* homepage at www.igu-cog.org for full instructions for authors.

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

5. ARCHIVAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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

6. CONTINUATION

- A. Name of the commission: Commission on Geoheritage.
- B. IGU-COG's mission: To promote the development of Geoheritage from the Geographical perspectives, and its detailed objectives are as following.

- (1) Communicate the role of Geoheritage as tools of education, recreation and nature conservation;
- (2) Further develop the concept of sustainability as applied to Geoheritage;
- (3) Communicate the importance of understanding a broad range of processes that affect the sustainable development of Geoheritage, 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 2015-2016

Commission (2015–2016) will continue to focus on the development of comparative studies on Geoheritage, 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 Beijing 2016.

Dongying Wei
Chair, 2012-2016 Commission on Geoheritage
January 15th, 2016