

APGN NEWS BRIEFING



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NEWS at a Glance:

- Joint Workshop on Capacity Development of Geoparks in Thailand and Surrounding Countries
- Announcement of the First APGN Geoparks Week
- Season's greeting

1. Joint Workshop on Capacity Development of Geoparks in Thailand and Surrounding Countries

The Joint Workshop on Capacity Development of Geoparks in Thailand and Surrounding Countries, co-organised by JGN (Japanese Geoparks Network) and DMR (Thailand Department of Mineral Resources), was held from the 4th to the 8th of December in Khorat aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark and Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand. JGN delegates shared experiences and knowledge on Geopark activities with over 130 participants from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.



Group photo of participants after the opening session

The participants also gave presentations and showed the situation and the potential for Geoparks in their countries. In Myanmar the preparation for establishing the national

committee for Geoparks has already been undertaken. However, one of the delegates from Myanmar mentioned that they didn't have enough information before – especially about the holistic approach – but, through the Joint Workshop in Thailand, he found that many elements are important for Geopark, especially the engagement of local communities. The participants from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam were very much fascinated by the local people and what they have done both in Khorat aUGGp and Satun UGGp.



Final meeting of the workshop at Satun UGGp



Welcomed by students with dance and song



Visiting Geosite in Satun UGGp

Since 2016, the JGN has been engaging in the project of capacity development for countries with no Geoparks, or only a limited number of Geoparks, in the Asia-Pacific region. At the beginning of this project, the JGN invited participants from several countries in Asia-Pacific to observe the activities of geoparks in Japan and provided opportunities for participants to communicate with people involved in geoparks.

In 2017 the JGN began to dispatch delegates to Thailand to co-organise the Joint Workshop with the DMR Thailand. In 2017 and 2018, participants were only from Thailand, but already they had plans to invite participants from the surrounding countries of Thailand. This year, participants from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam joined the workshop.

2. Announcement of the First APGN Geoparks Week

Date: 22-28 April 2020 (a few days after the 28th as well)

Slogan: Strengthening UNESCO Global Geoparks Common Activities in Asia Pacific region

The idea is

- to increase the visibility of Global Geoparks
- to demonstrate the synergy of celebrating geological, cultural, historical and intangible heritage of Global Geoparks
- to make local people more proud of their hometown
- to increase the momentum of sustainable development of local communities

Activities: all members of APGN take part in various coordinated activities, which include but are not limited to:

- Earth Day celebration
- Promotion of Geoparks and the UGGp philosophy
- Interaction among sister Geoparks
- Interaction among Geoparks with similar/same kinds of geoheritage
- Geoparks go into school/community
- Geohazards mitigation education/demonstration
- Geoheritage interpretation; E-classroom
- Cultural and intangible heritage demonstration/performance
- SDGs and Asia Pacific UGGps
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The Global Geoparks Workshop in the Qeshm UGGp, Iran and the Geoparks Conference in Vietnam are planned to take place within the APGN Geoparks Week, which have already been listed in the APGN Calendar. Several thematic workshops/meetings are under consideration. They will be listed in the APGN Calendar once they are confirmed.

APGN Members are encouraged and asked to share the information of their possible activities during the APGN Geoparks Week. Those who are ready to share please kindly fill in the following form and send it to apgn.office@vip.163.com. These data will be sorted and circulated to all members.

Geopark Names	Planned Activities
xxx UGGp, yyy UGGp, ...	

3. Season's Greeting

