



AISA PACIFIC GEOPARKS NETWORK (APGN)

Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting

Senaru Restaurant, Hotel Lombok Raya

06 September 2019

11:00—12:30

APGN AC Members:

JIN Xioachi, Coordinator
Ibrahim KOMOO, Vice-Coordinator
Setsuya NAKADA, Vice-Coordinator
Alireza Amrikazemi
Azmil Munif Bin Mohd Bukhari
HE Qingcheng
JING Zhixing
Kana FURUSAWA
Soojae LEE
SUN Li
Yunus Kusumahbrata
Sommai Techawan
Tran Tan Van
Mahito WATANABE
Nickolas Zouros, GGN
Kristof Vandenberghe, UNESCO

Agenda

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda
2. Quorum and Majority, following the GGN Statutes
3. Proposal of APGN Geoparks Week, starting from the 22nd April, the Earth Day, and lasting 7 days.
4. Other regional networking, capacity-building and promotion activities
5. Possible Skype meeting in the future

6. Other possibilities of face to face meeting

7. Any other issues

AC members present at the meeting

| Name (abbreviation) | Present | Absent |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| JIN Xioachi (JX) | √ | |
| Ibrahim KOMOO (IK) | √ | |
| Setsuya NAKADA (SN) | √ | |
| Alireza Amrikazemi (AA) | √ | |
| Azmil Munif Bin Mohd Bukhari (AB) | √ | |
| Kana FURUSAWA (KF) | √ | |
| HE Qingcheng (HQ) | √ | |
| JING Zhixing (JZ) | | √ |
| Yunus Kusumahbrata (YK) | √ | |
| Soojae LEE (SJL) | | √ |
| SUN Li (SL) | | √ |
| Somma Techawan (ST) | | √ |
| TRAN Tan Van (TT) | √ | |
| Mahito WATANABE (MW) | √ | |
| Nickolas ZOUROS (NZ) | √ | |
| Kristof VANDENBERGHE (KV) | | √ |

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The meeting started at 11:07, JX greeted all the members and asked if there are any different opinions about the agenda. No different opinion was expressed. The proposed agenda was adopted.

2. Quorum and Majority, following the GGN Statutes

JX stated that since APGN is a regional branch of GGN and there is no special definition of Quorum and Majority in APGN Rules of Operation, the definition of Quorum and Majority in the GGN Statutes should be followed. All members at the meeting agreed.

In the GGN Statutes, it is defined that the quorum of a meeting of the Executive Board is a simple majority of the members; the Executive Board takes its decisions by simple majority; in case of tie the chair of the meeting has a decisive vote.

The APGN AC members comprise members voted by the APGN CC, the national representatives, and two de facto members, namely the representatives of GGN ExB and UNESCO Global Geoparks. The present AC has 14 ordinary members and 2 de facto members. After a short discussion, it

was decided that the quorum of the present AC is 8 (ordinary members), and AC takes decision by simple majority of the members at a meeting.

3. Proposal of APGN Geoparks Week, starting from the 22nd April, the Earth Day, and lasting 7 days.

JX: There have been growing voices from Global Geoparks in the Asia Pacific region asking for coordinated activities of APGN. Lacking of such activities resulted in the dimming of APGN's visibility and the complaints from members. To comply with the wishes of APGN members we propose the initiative of APGN Geoparks Week, which will start on 22nd of April, the Earth Day, and end on 28th April. Since all APGN members celebrate the Earth Day, why not to continue the celebration several days longer and with more varied activities. This will give Geoparks more time, flexibility and choices to fully demonstrate their ability in networking, capacity-building and Geopark brands promotion. This will also make full use of the data, materials, installations prepared for the Earth Day.

The proposal of APGN Geoparks Week was unanimously approved. As to the details of how the Geoparks Week will be celebrated and what activities will be appropriate for the week, there were good discussion.

HQ reminded that activities for one or two days are easy; government officials may participate in one day or two days activities, but it is difficult for them to take part in 7 days; also there needs a lot activities for 7 days. JX explained that the Geoparks Week is a week for Geoparks to take active part in the week; it would be good if government officials joint the Geoparks on the first day (the Earth Day) or in any other day at their convenience; activities are also not necessarily fully compacted for 7 days; we will let the Geoparks have more freedom to design their celebrating activities; we are intending to create a situation that every day has some Geoparks with their own most favored activities. Several members suggested that a Geoparks Week Calendar be prepared, then every Geopark may put its activities in the calendar, all these activities will be coordinated by the coordinators in conjunction with the AC. SN and KF reminded that in Japan starts on 28th of April the holiday, this might have some influences on the Geopark Week. YK also mentioned that Indonesian Geoparks have always joins the activities on Earth Day.

YK left the meeting after the discussion on the 3rd item of the agenda was completed

4. Other regional networking, capacity-building and promotion activities

TT and several members suggest to compile an APGN calendar of activities. This suggestion was readily accepted by all the members.

AA considered that it would be more beneficial for APGN to invite western Asian countries to participate in the activities. He said, he and colleagues plan

to hold "The Second International Meeting and Workshop on UNESCO Global Geoparks Development" in Qeshm Island in the Geoparks Week; they will invite all the AC Members and it can be an opportunity for AC to have another meeting before the September meeting.

IK reminded that smaller regional activities within the APGN are also important components of APGN activities.

JX concluded that we would ask members from different countries to forward their anticipated activities which will be integrated in the calendar

5. Possible Skype meeting in the future

This idea was accepted unanimously by members at the meeting. Frequency of Skype meeting could be one or two months a meeting. It was also emphasized that e-mail be the usual communication tool.

6. Other possibilities of face to face meeting

Besides yearly face to face meeting (APGN symposium and GGN Congress), face to face meeting should be tried to take place at smaller regional meetings, when it is possible. It was decided that if some decisions should be made and there is no opportunity to have a face to face meeting, email voting will be executed.

7. Any other issues

It is suggested that the AC should consider giving advice to the Thai colleagues for organizing the 7th symposium.

HQ suggested to make some time for the Rule of Operation (RO); some amendments and clarification are needed; term of coordinator, starting point and ending point should be clarified; the GGN rules can be a reference.

IK stated that the opening ceremony of APGN should be started by the outgoing coordinator, who will announce the new coordinator at the ceremony, then the new coordinator takes over the work.

TT reminded that working groups, e.g. the karst group, of APGN should be supported by countries with member UGGps, and that active participation of member UGGps are essential. He, therefore, asked respective AC members to remind member Geoparks when they go back to their own countries. Other AC members also reminded that the existing working groups of GGN should be considered when constituting new APGN working groups.

The meeting ended at 12:38.