



Kerajaan
Negeri Kedah

The Regional Conference on Asia-Pacific Geoparks and Business Dialogues 2007

“Networking within National Geoparks”

FINAL CIRCULAR (Call for Participation)

13-15 November 2007

Mahsuri International Exhibition and Convention Centre (MIEC), Langkawi, Malaysia



Langkawi Development
Authority (LADA)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization (UNESCO)



UNIVERSITI
KEBANGSAAN
MALAYSIA
National University of Malaysia

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

In collaboration with



KeKKWa
Ministry of Art,
Culture and
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Kementerian
Pelancongan
Ministry
of
Tourism



Forestry
Department
Peninsular
Malaysia



Mineral and
Geoscience
Department



Langkawi
Municipal
Council



Malaysia Airlines



Malaysian Association
on Tour and Travel
Agent



The Regional Conference on Asia Pacific Geoparks and Business Dialogues 2007



1. Theme

“Networking between National Geoparks”

2. Background

A Geopark is a nationally protected area containing a number of geological heritage sites of particular importance, rarity or aesthetic appeal. It is part of an integrated concept of protection, education and sustainable development. The concept of linking sustainable development with geoheritage, conservation, education and tourism is rather new to the Asia Pacific region. In order to promote the development of National Geoparks among countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the first regional Conference on Asia-Pacific Network of National Geoparks is organized to take place in November 2007. This provides platform for scholars and various stakeholders to discuss and exchange ideas on pressing issues of the sustainable use and management of geoheritage in each country. In the region, only China is vigorous in this pursuit, totaling more than 138 National Geoparks, 18 of which are currently members of the Global Network of National Geoparks assisted by UNESCO. Thus, it is in the interest of the knowledge of the natural and cultural resources and the links with landscape, that wider awareness and involvement in this region are crucial.

3. Venue

The Conference will be held in Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC), Langkawi. Langkawi Island was announced as the first National Geopark in May 2006. Langkawi is one of the rare island geoparks in the world comprising 99 islands, possesses the region's oldest rocks and the most complete Palaeozoic geological history. Several Langkawi geoheritage sites are of regional importance and are preserved for the future generations. As such, Langkawi Geopark was endorsed by UNESCO Global Geoparks Network on 1st June 2007 and the first geopark in Southeast Asia.

4. Objectives

- To discuss the progress of geoheritage conservation in the Asia-Pacific region
- To discuss among various stakeholders on the issues of conservation and sustainable use of geoheritage
- To promote Asia-Pacific countries to develop their own National Geoparks
- To establish Asia-Pacific Network of National Geopark

5. Tentative Programme

12 November 2007	
0930 – 2200	REGISTRATION
13 November 2007	
0745 – 0830	REGISTRATION
0830 – 0915	<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION 1: NETWORKING BETWEEN GEOPARKS</p> <p>Keynote Paper: Networking between Asia Pacific National Geoparks Prof. Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo - UNESCO GGN Committee Member (Malaysia)</p>
0915 – 0935	<p>TECHNICAL PAPERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geotourism Resources and Geopark Development Program in Iran Dr. Alireza Amrikazemi – Geological Survey of Iran • Activities to Promote National and Global Geopark in Japan Dr. Mahito Watanabe – Geological Survey of Japan • Australian Experience in Developing National Geopark Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmund Bernard Joyce – University of Melbourne, Australia
0935 – 0955	
0955 – 1015	
1015 – 1045	REFRESHMENT
1105 – 1125	<p>TECHNICAL PAPERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China/Thailand Experience in Developing National Geopark To be named • Indonesian Experience in Developing National Geopark Dr. Yunus Kusumahbrata – Geological Agency of Indonesia • The Progress of Geopark Program in Korea Dr. You Bong Kim – Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources • A Vision Document for Setting Up of A National Geopark Network in India Mr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar - Gauhati University, India
1125 – 1145	
1145 – 1205	
1205 – 1220	
1225 – 1400	LUNCH

1400 – 1445	<p align="center">SESSION 2: GEOPARK AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Keynote paper: Promoting National Geopark and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Dr. Margaret Patzak – UNESCO GGN Committee Chairperson</p>
1445 – 1505 1505 – 1525 1525 – 1545	<p>TECHNICAL PAPERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount Kinabalu Geopark – Concept and Implementation Approach Assoc. Prof. Dr. Felix Tongkul – University Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia • Geopark Activities Promoted by Itoigawa City, Japan from 1991 to Future Dr. Ko Tachenouchi – Itoigawa Municipal Board of Education • Using the National Heritage and Tourism Thematic Interpretation Framework (NHTTIF) As An Interpretive Planning Tool to Develop The Concept of An Island Geopark on Kangaroo Island, Australia Prof. Dr. Patrick James University of South Australia, Australia & Prof. Dr. Jane James – Flinders University, Australia
1545 – 1600	<p>REFRESHMENT</p>
1600 – 1620 1620 – 1640 1640 – 1700 1700 – 1720	<p>TECHNICAL PAPERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential National Geopark in the Philippines Dr. Yolanda Maac Aguilar – Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Philippines • Geology and Landform of The Ol’Khon Region Dr. Skovitina T.M. – Institute of the Earth Crust of SB RAS, Irkutsk, Russia • Aspiring National Geopark in Indonesia/Thailand to be named • Halong Geoheritage Site – Development Potential Dr. La The Phuc – Geological Museum of Vietnam
2000 – 2230	<p>OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY AND LAUNCHING OF LANGKAWI GLOBAL GEOPARK</p>

14 November 2007

**A FIELD VISIT TO THE THREE GEOFOREST PARK IN LANGKAWI
(0830-1730)**

0830 – 1730

1. **Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park**, which boasts the oldest rock formation in the country.
2. **Kilim Karst Geoforest Park**, which showcases the unique formation of limestone pinnacles.
3. **Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park**, which marvels at the tradition of fishing villages.

**B DIALOGUES ON PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN GEOPARK (0830-1630)**

0830 – 0900

- **Langkawi Geopark – Issues and Challenges**
Dato' Kamarulzaman Abdul Ghani – Langkawi Development Authority

0900 – 0930

- **Product Development: Business Opportunities for Local and International Tourism – Case Study**
Mr. Anthony Wong – Asian Overland Services

0930 – 1000

- **Marketing strategies: Best Practices and Responsible Tourism – Case Study**
Dr. Thomas G. Bauer – Pacific Asia Travel Association

1000 – 1030

- **Sustainable Development and Local Empowerment – Case Study**
Dr. Marie-Louise Frey - UNESCO GGN Committee Member (Germany)

1030 – 1100

REFRESHMENT

1100 – 1230

DISCUSSION

1230 – 1400

LUNCH

1400 – 1630

WORKSHOP

- Session 1. **Role of Stakeholders in Enhancing Global Geopark**
- Session 2. **Identifying Weaknesses in Island Tourism and Ways to Overcome Them**

15 November 2007	
0830 – 0915	<p>SESSION 3: GEOPARK AND CONSERVATION</p> <p>Keynote Paper: Geopark as a tool in a holistic nature conservation</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Nickolas Zouros – UNESCO GGN Committee Member (Greece) & Dr. Patrick McKeever – UNESCO GGN Committee Member (Ireland)</p>
0915 – 0935	<p>TECHNICAL PAPERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve Geologique Haute Provence Geopark: experiences of geoconservation, management and actions Ms. Sylvie Giraud – UNESCO GGN Committee Member (France) • Holistic Nature Conservation Approach in Malaysian Forest Dato' Dahlan Taha – Department of Peninsular Malaysia • Geopark Conservation in China (to be named)
0935 – 0955	
0955 – 1015	
1015 – 1045	REFRESHMENT
1045 – 1130	<p>SESSION 4: GEOPARK AND GEOTOURISM</p> <p>Keynote paper: Geotourism – Added Value for Nature Tourism</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Zhao Xun - Unesco GGN Committee Member (China)</p>
1130 – 1150	<p>TECHNICAL PAPERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geotourism Activities in Europe Mr. Guy Martini – UNESCO GGN Committee Member (Spain) • The Emergence of Geotourism in Australia/Oceania Prof. Dr. Ross Dowling – Ecotourism, Australia • Geotourism Initiatives in Malaysia Prof. Dr. Mohd. Shafeea Leman - Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia • Practising Ecotourism in Geopark – A Case Study of Leuqiong-Haikou Volcanic Cluster Global Geopark of China Mr. Young N.G. – University of Sydney, Australia
1150 – 1210	
1210 – 1230	
1230 – 1250	
1245 – 1400	LUNCH

1400 –1600	FORUM ON ESTABLISHMENT OF ASIA-PASIFIC GEOPARK NETWORK Chairman: Prof. Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo Panels : Dr. Margaret Patzak Dr. Patrick McKeever Prof. Dr. Nickolas Zouros Prof. Dr. Zhao Xun Prof. Dr. Ross Dowling
1400 – 1500 1500 – 1540 1540 – 1600	Panel Presentation Discussion Formulation and Presentation of Conference Resolution
1600 – 1700	CLOSING CEREMONY, MOU SIGNING AND PRESS CONFERENCE

6. Presentation Guidelines

Oral

Kindly prepare oral presentations in the format of PowerPoint for Windows 2000 or XP, or PowerPoint for Macintosh OSX. PowerPoint presentation files can be submitted when registering on the day of the Conference. Please submit PowerPoint presentation files to the secretariat upon registration.

Posters

Kindly prepare posters in A1 size (23 x 33 inches). Posters should be set up after registration from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. Each poster presentation should include the following TITLE, AUTHORS NAMES, AFFILIATIONS, and ADDRESSES. A simple format should be used, with letters large enough to be easily read from a distance of 2 meters.

7. Important Dates:

Abstract deadline: 15 October 2007

Full paper submission deadline: 30 October 2007

8. Registration:

8.1 Kindly emailed, faxed or posted your registration form to the Secretariat and send it before 15 October 2007.

8.2 Conference fee rates:

	Registration	Late registration (After 15 October 2007)
Ordinary	USD 250 (RM 875)	USD 350 (RM 1255)
Accompanying person	USD 150 (RM 525)	USD 250 (RM 875)
*Student	USD 100 (RM 350)	USD 200 (RM 700)

*Note: Proof of student status is required upon registration. This can be an email/post/fax from your advisor or photocopy of student identification.



8.3 Method of payment

The registration fees should be paid in full when submitting the registration form with penalty.

The payment should be made in USD, Ringgit Malaysian or in the equivalent of foreign currencies with bank draft, Telegraphic Transfer (TT) payable to the LANGKAWI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LADA).

The account number for TT is:

Swift Code: **RHBBMYKL** followed by account number **20211700014450** (RHB Berhad Langkawi)

The bank draft should be mailed or faxed to:

Secretariat
The Regional Conference on Asia Pacific Geopark
Langkawi Development Authority (LADA)
Persiaran Putra
07000 Langkawi
KEDAH DARUL AMAN
Malaysia
Tel: 604-9667186
Fax: 604-9667233
Email: apgc2007@langkawigeopark.com.my

Once payments have been made please produce proof of payment by fax or email the details to the Secretariat of the Conference.

The conference fees cover access to all sessions, registration, documentation, conference materials, tea breaks and lunches, welcome dinner, and field trips. Accompanying person fee includes registration, documentation, welcome dinner and field trips.

Registration fees exclude accommodation, travel and airport transfers, personal and optional social events.

The registration desk will be set from 0900 to 2200 on **12th November 2007** in the lobby of the MIEC. Participants arriving early are encouraged to register at the desk early to pick up conference kit.

9. Travel and visa

Please refer to your consulate for visa requirement. Participant who not entitled to visa exemption by agreement between Malaysia and the country concerned should hold valid passports and contact their travel agent or the Malaysia Embassy, Consulate or other representative agency in your country or region regarding the need for visa to enter MALAYSIA.

a. Visa application (if applicable)

The secretariat of the conference will send an invitation letter to participant from oversea who need to apply for visa.

b. Travel insurance

The Secretariat cannot be held responsible for any accident or injury that may happen to the participants during the conference and other activities. Therefore participants are strongly encouraged to buy personal insurance before leaving home.

10. Confirmation letter

A Confirmation Letter will be sent to participants to confirm their early registration.

11. Accommodation

These accommodations have good access to the airport as well to Kuah, the biggest town in Langkawi. Participants may choose to stay nearby resorts listed below (refer to the map attach). Bookings can be made online direct to the respective hotel.

Sheraton Langkawi (5*)

www.sheraton.com/langkawi

Tel: (604) 9551901 Fax: (604) 9551931

Email: langkawireservation.00281@sheraton.com

Rates: USD 145-172 (RM 500-RM600)

The Westin Langkawi Resort and Spa (5*)

www.westin.com/langkawi

Tel: (604) 9608888 Fax (604) 9666414

Email: westin.langkawi@westin.com

Rates: USD 158 (RM 550)



Berjaya Beach Resort and Spa (5*)

www.berjayaresorts.com/beachresorts_langkawi.htm

Tel : (604) 9591888 Fax (604) 9591886

Email: resvn@b-langkawi.com.my

Rates : USD 130-386 (RM 450-RM1350)

Meritus Pelangi Beach Resort and Spa (5*)

www.pelangibeachresort.com

Email : resv.pbl@meritus-hotels.com

Tel : (604) 9528888 Fax : (604) 9552170

Rates : USD 158 (RM 550)

Holidayvilla Beach Resort and Spa Langkawi (4*)

www.holidayvillahotellangkawi.com

Email : reservation@lqkhvl.com

Tel : (604) 9551701 Fax : (604) 955 2211

Rates : USD 80 (RM 280)

The Frangipani Langkawi Resort and Spa (4*)

www.frangipanilangkawi.com

Tel: (604) 952 0000 ; Faks : (604) 952 0001

Email: rsvn@frangipanilangkawi.com

Rates: USD 72 (RM 250)

Helang Hotel (4*)

www.hotelhelang.com.my

Tel: (604) 9553030 Fax: (604) 9622021

Email: hotelhelang@po.jaring.my

Rates: RM 160 (USD 46)

Langkasuka Beach Resort (4*)

www.langkasukabeach.com.my

Tel: (604) 9556888; Faks: (604) 95555888

Email: salelangkawi@myjaring.net

Rates: USD 68 (RM 235)

Awana Porto Malai (4*)

www.awana.com.my/en.apm/default.asp

Email: azizah.aziz@genting.com

Tell : (604) 9555111 Fax : (604) 9552600

Rates : USD 68 (RM 235)

Mutiara Buraubay Resort (3*)

www.mutiarahotels.com/mutiara_buraubay

Tel: (604) 9591061; Faks: (604) 9591172/ (604) 9591897

Email: cro@mutiarahotel.com

Rates: USD 60-106 (RM 210-370)



Geopark Hotel (3*)

www.geoparkhotel.com

Tel: (604) 9592300; Faks: (604) 9594200

Email: info@geoparkhotel.com

Rates: USD 49 (RM 170)

Notes: For further information about Malaysia and tourism in Malaysia, please visit the official website of Malaysia Tourism Development Board at www.tourism.gov.my. Participants are encouraged to make early reservation directly with the hotel. Arrangements are being made with the participating hotels to obtain special rates for the participants. This rate is valid for those reservations **before 30 October 2007**. Please visit also www.langkawigeopark.com.my for further information on Langkawi.

12. Flight Information

For flight information and booking, please visit the official website of Malaysia Airlines (www.malaysianairlines.com.my). Malaysia Airlines provides connections to major destinations within the country.

13. Climate information

Malaysia enjoys an equatorial climate ranging from 22° C to 32° C, with cooler temperatures in highland areas. Annual rainfall averages 200cm to 400cm with regional variation and a distinct rainy season.

14. Time Information

The standard Malaysian time is eight (8) hours ahead of GMT.

15. Field trips

14 November 2007 (0800 – 1800): Full-day excursion.

There are two trips included in the package, the Machinchang excursion (A), which is compulsory plus either trip B or C. Registration of the trips can be made at the registration desk.

A. The Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park Excursion (Compulsory)

A cable car ride to the peak of Machinchang offers a scenic view of the majestic mountain. The nearly vertical lift from the Terminal to the Middle Station is quite daunting but you will enjoy breathtaking views of the Telaga Tujuh Waterfall, Pulau Anak Burau (remnant island) and hundreds of meter sequence of Machinchang sandstone exposures. You could enjoy a short trail through the Machinchang forest between the Middle Station and Top Station, and come face to face with rare and endemic species of plants, such as the Climbing Bamboo (*Dinochloa malayana*). Excellent sequence of

Cambrian (500 million years old) rocks, the Machinchang sandstone with its well-preserved sedimentary structures can be seen just below the Top Station. Once at the top, one could enjoy cool breeze and beautiful scenery of Langkawi from 360° angle and learned the rock types from their different type of landscapes.

B. The Kilim Karst Geoforest Park Excursion (Optional)

Your journey begins at the Kilim Jetty, where you board a boat to embark on an amazing journey through mangrove forests along hidden canyons of limestone rock formation, caves, and rugged coastlines. The often blue skyline is set on top of gray limestone crowned with pinnacles, the variety of which is beyond description. Much of Kilim's rock is made up of the Setul Formation, the oldest carbonate rock in the region, formed 490-370 million years ago. Fossils are abundant in Kilim's rock, especially at Pulau Anak Tikus and Pulau Langgun. Mysterious sites of ancient seashells deposition (aged between 4000 and 7000 years), placed between 5 m and 23 m above present sea level, awaits you. The mangrove forests here are unique as they thrived on a limestone surface. Wildlife is bountiful, with the likes of long-tailed macaques, silver leaf monkeys, monitor lizards, kingfishers, and eagles soaring high in the sky. Areas of interests are the Gua Kelawar (Bat Cave), Pulau Anak Tikus, Telok China Mati, Pulau Tanjung Dendang and Teluk Mempelam.

C. The Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park (Optional)

Dayang Bunting Geoforest Park covers Pulau Dayang Bunting, Pulau Tuba and islands located around them. Several rock formations describe these areas including Kuah Granite (Triassic), Setul Limestone (Ordovician-Middle Devonian) and Chuping Limestone (Permian). From certain angle, the undulating hills of Pulau Dayang Bunting resemble a pregnant woman laid on her back hence the island was named as Pregnant Maiden Island. This Geoforest Park showcases excellent karst island morphology such as sea notch, sea cave, sea tunnel and sea arch of various sizes and shapes. Several geosites of interest in this park include Pulau Tepur Dropstone, which implies that the Langkawi Islands were once part of the Gondwana super continent during late Carboniferous to early Permian. Pulau Ular (Snake Island) Geological Monument is another interesting site to visit. It is a small island formed by erosion by ancient wave thousands of years ago. Several undulating hills separated by abrasion platforms above the present tide level have rendered the island its snake-like shape. Pulau Tuba, traditional fishing village island is another interesting island to visit.



16. Side event

In conjunction with the conference, the committee also organizing side event take place at MIEC. The side event includes cultural show, handicraft stall, and others.

17. Golf Tournament

In conjunction with the conference, there will be a golf tournament on 16 November 2007. The tournament fee is USD 100 (RM 350) and is limited to 40 participants only. The fee for the tournament is to be paid separately (i.e. not included in the conference fee). The registration desk for the tournament registration will be set from 12.00 to 18.00 on **15th November 2007** in the lobby of the MIEC.

18. Others

Participants are advice to spend more time in Malaysia in this special Visit Malaysia Year 2007, which also coincides with the Malaysian special 50th Merdeka (Independence) Celebrations. In conjunction with this very special year of Malaysian achievements, there are numerous events organized by various parties. For further information about Malaysia's events, please visit the official website of Malaysian Tourism Development Board at www.tourism.gov.my



The Regional Conference on Asia-Pacific Geoparks Organizing Committee

International Advisors

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Member Australian UNESCO

Prof. Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo
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Dr. Norhayati Ahmad
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Finance

Mr. Ahmad Zaki Mahmood

Promotion

Mr. Megat Shahrul Azman Abas

Logistics

Mr. Ismail Abdul Manaf

Field Excursion

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamal Roslan Mohamad

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Prof. Dr. Mohd. Shafeea Leman

Social

Ms. Sharina Halim

Technical

Ms. Tanot Unjah

Business Dialogues

Mr Anthony Wong