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GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

39 | March 6, 2020

NEWS FEED

Dear colleagues and friends of the Global Geoparks Network,

The **GGN News Feed No 39 - March 2020**, has the latest news on Geopark activities worldwide which have been seriously affected by the Corona Virus (COVID-19) epidemic.

The GGN express solidarity to the Italian UNESCO Global Geoparks as Italy is facing a serious fight against Corona Virus (COVID-19) as we do to our colleagues in UNESCO Global Geoparks in the Republic of Korea.

China the most affected country shows encouraging signs that the fight against Corona Virus (COVID-19) will be successful. Encouraging signs there are also from the Republic of Korea. The number of newly-reported cases appears to be declining, and the cases that are being reported are being identified primarily from known clusters.

Corona Virus (COVID-19) is affecting day by day more and more countries creating severe problems to the society and economy.

According to the World Health Organization there is now (5th of March) a total of 95,265 reported cases of COVID-19 globally in 34 countries.

We understand that UNESCO Global Geoparks and their activities in geotourism and education are and will be strongly affected during the next weeks.

Important Geopark activities and International events have been canceled or postponed worldwide.

Among them some with direct relation with UNESCO Global Geoparks:

- the postponement of the 36th International Geological Congress decided to reschedule the Congress which rescheduled to 9 to 14 November 2020,
- the cancelation of International Tourism Fair - ITB Berlin 2020
- the cancelation of the International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme IGGP Council and Open Session in which should take place the announcement of the 2020 applications of the aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks
- the postponement of the European Geoparks Network Spring Meeting in Croatia which has been rescheduled to 12-15 May 2020.
- the postponement of the 209th UNESCO Executive Board Meeting in which should take place the endorsement of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council decision for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks!

The GGN community collectively will find the proper ways to support each one of our members to overpass the consequences of the epidemic.

We support the statement of the World Health Organization **“This epidemic can be pushed back, but only with a collective, coordinated and comprehensive approach.”**

Geoparks will continue as always working together and expressing solidarity, through networking, acting in a smart, inclusive and innovative way to promote Geoparks for the benefit of our local communities!

Stay safe and keep working and networking through internet!

The GGN Executive Board

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

MENTORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Dear colleagues we would like to inform you that UNESCO's International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) has just issued the call for aspiring and established geopark representatives to participate to the 2020 session of the Mentorships and Knowledge Exchange Programme with the financial and operational

support of UNESCO's two partner organizations, the Jeju Province Development Corporation (JPDC) of the Republic of Korea and the Global Geoparks Network association (GGN).

CALL FOR MENTORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME APPLICATIONS

In 2019, UNESCO Secretariat launched the first pilot phase of the **Mentorship and Knowledge Exchange Programme**, which was successfully completed with the participation of 11 Mentors (established UNESCO Global Geoparks) and 13 Aspiring geopark representatives.

We are pleased to launch a new call for aspiring and established geopark representatives to participate to the 2020 session of the Mentorships and Knowledge Exchange Programme with the financial and operational support of UNESCO's two partner organizations, the **Jeju Province Development Corporation (JPDC)** of the Republic of Korea and the **Global Geoparks Network** association (GGN).

The objective of this programme is to further exchange knowledge and build capacity (SDG 4), with a view to developing new UNESCO Global Geoparks and creating new partnerships (SDG 17) between Member States by:

- supporting and training representatives of sites aspiring to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks by enhancing their knowledge of the design, development and management of UNESCO Global Geoparks (SDG 4);
- supporting the development of new UNESCO Global Geoparks and broadening their geographical distribution among Member States (SDG 8).

The current call is addressed to both qualified representatives of sites aspiring to join the UNESCO Global Geopark network ('Trainees') as well as experienced managers of UNESCO Global Geoparks ('Mentors') who will provide Mentorship and Knowledge Exchange opportunity to the Trainees.

The role of Mentors:

As Mentors, you will be an experienced UNESCO Global Geopark, willing to host Trainees from aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks around the world, for an average period between one and two weeks.

During that period, you will immerse them in the day-to-day running of an existing UNESCO Global Geopark, share techniques and methods of Geopark development and management with them, including geological, educational, socio-economic and cultural aspects.

Please submit your expression of interest to the IGGP Secretariat by 23 March 2020 by indicating your preferred dates for hosting trainees in 2020.

Once the UNESCO Secretariat receives your interest, we will contact you for further modalities for the financial support that UNESCO will provide to the Host Geopark.

Application Process for Trainees:

If you are a representative of a site aspiring to join the UNESCO Global Geopark network and wish to benefit from the trainee programme with

financial support of UNESCO, please visit www.unesco.org/geoparks and send the following documents to the IGGP Secretariat before **23 March 2020**:

- A brief geological description of your Geopark project (max. 1500 words);
- A brief evaluation of the state of your Geopark project and its objectives, challenges and other relevant aspects (max. 1500 words);
- A cover letter explaining your expectations of the exchange programme and how it might help you set up and manage your own UNESCO Global Geopark (max. 1500 words);
- Your availability to visit an established UNESCO Global Geopark as a trainee (indicating your preferred dates for visiting the site in 2020 for a maximum of two weeks);
- Your CV.

The present call will prioritize Trainees from developing countries and UNESCO Member States that have no more than one designated UNESCO Global Geopark. Women and early career participants are especially encouraged to apply.

The IGGP secretariat of UNESCO will select Trainees eligible for this exchange programme, arrange convenient dates up to 10 days exchange and cover all travel and accommodation costs.

Should you have any further inquiries, please write to:

Ms Marie-Laure FABER and Dr Ozlem ADIYAMAN LOPES
Earth Sciences and Geo-hazards Risk Reduction Section
Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences
UNESCO 7 place de Fontenoy 75352 Paris 07 SP France
Tel.: +33 (0) 145 68 14 33
ml.faber@unesco.org and o.adiyaman@unesco.org

[Call for members to join the Council of the International Geoscience Programme \[link\]](#)

[CALL FOR MENTORSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME APPLICATIONS \[pdf\]](#)

2020 Call for applications Councils of the International Geoscience

and Geopark Programme

UNESCO Global Geoparks Council

Dear colleagues we would like to inform you that UNESCO External Relations Sector has just issued the call for the IGCP and UGGp Councils.

There are 6 places to renew in the UGGp Council and three in the IGCP.

[LINK for the 2020 Call for applications - Councils of the International Geoscience and Geopark Programme \[link\]](#)

[LINK For the UNESCO Geoparks Council \[link\]](#)

GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

FIGHT AGAINST CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)

GGN EXPRESS SOLIDARITY TO THE ITALIAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

Dear colleagues from all the Italian UNESCO Global Geoparks

We follow the news on the very difficult situation in Italy regarding the outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19), which affects the Italian society and economy.

We do understand that the increasing number of cases day by day is generating serious concerns to the Italian society and forced the Italian government to ordered the closure of all schools and universities nationwide as well as all major public events at least until 15 March.

We support the statement of the World Health Organization **"This epidemic can be pushed back, with a collective, coordinated and comprehensive approach."**

We do understand that the Italian UNESCO Global Geoparks and their activities in geotourism and education are and will be strongly affected during the next weeks.

Our hearts and thoughts are with all of you! Our precious partners and colleagues of the Italian UNESCO Global Geoparks!

You are not alone!

The GGN community collectively will find the proper ways to support each one of our Italian UNESCO Global Geoparks to overpass the consequences of the epidemic.

Geoparks will continue as always working together and expressing solidarity to all our colleagues and members.

Geoparks through networking, acting in a smart, inclusive and innovative way will continue to promote Geoparks for the benefit of our local communities!

GGN EXPRESS SOLIDARITY TO THE KOREAN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

Dear colleagues from all the Korean UNESCO Global Geoparks

We follow the news on the difficult situation in the Republic of Korea regarding the outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19), which affects the Korean society and economy.

We are optimistic with the encouraging signs from your country according to the World Health Organization that the number of newly-reported cases appears to be declining, and the cases that are being reported are being identified primarily from known clusters. We support the statement of the World Health Organization **"This epidemic can be pushed back, with a collective, coordinated and comprehensive approach."**

We do understand that the Korean UNESCO Global Geoparks and their activities in geotourism and education are and will be strongly affected during the next weeks.

Our hearts and thoughts are with all of our colleagues of the Korean UNESCO Global Geoparks!

You are not alone!

The GGN community collectively will find the proper ways to support our Korean UNESCO Global Geoparks to overpass the consequences of the epidemic and **we will do anything possible to celebrate all together next September in Jeju island the 9th International Conference of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.**

Geoparks will continue as always working together and expressing solidarity to all our colleagues and members.

Geoparks through networking, acting in a smart, inclusive and innovative way will continue to promote Geoparks for the benefit of our local communities!

A reply from the Chinese Authorities to the GGN letter expressing solidarity to China and the Chinese UNESCO Global Geoparks

A thank-you letter from the Chinese National Forest and Grassland Administration received by GGN as reply to its letter expressing solidarity to Chinese UNESCO Global Geoparks for the fight against COVID-19.

[The letter from the Chinese National Forest and Grassland Administration to the GGN \[link\]](#)

The GGN will continue its efforts to support the Chinese UNESCO Global Geoparks during their fight against the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

36th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Rescheduled to 9-14 November 2020

The Government of India reviewed the situation of emerging out of the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and considering the health and safety of the esteemed delegates of the 36th International Geological Congress decided to reschedule the Congress.

The 36th International Geological Congress will be organised in Delhi from 9 to 14 November 2020.

For more information please visit the website of the 36th International Geological Congress www.36igc.org

CANCELLATION OF THE ITB BERLIN 2020

Just a few days before its opening the ITB Berlin 2020 was canceled due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

For more information please read the ITB Berlin 2020 announcement:

“ITB Berlin 2020 will not take place.

Due to the increasing spread of the novel corona virus COVID-19, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of Economics have implied a cancellation of ITB Berlin 2020.

The responsible health authority of Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf of Berlin has increased the requirements for the event to take place early this evening (18:27). Among other things, the authority orders Every trade fair participant must prove to Messe Berlin that they do not come from the defined risk areas or have had contact with a person from the risk areas. Messe Berlin is unable to implement all these requirements.

Messe Berlin has been pointing out for weeks that the decision to hold or cancel major events can only be made on the basis of the recommendation or instruction of the relevant authorities. Only these authorities have all the necessary information and expertise to draw the right conclusions”.

CANCELLATION OF THE IGGP OPEN SESSION IN PARIS

Including the public presentation of Geopark new applications

Putting safety first is the UNESCO’s priority, especially in this uncertain and rapidly evolving situation.

This latest information is rather worrying. The risks and uncertainties associated with corona virus spread calls for precautionary measures, especially with people travelling across the world.

In light of this challenging un-predictable health situation, after several consultations with relevant services, it is with deep regret that the UNESCO Science Sector have taken the decision for the cancelation of all Science related meetings during March

Thus the **IGGP Open Session** and the presentation of the New Applications for UNESCO Global Geoparks is cancelled.

**GGN - Communication and Promotional
Tools**

GGN Newsletter

Call for submission of articles for the GGN Newsletter 2020 - ISSUE1

Global Geoparks Network (GGN) office in Beijing encourages all the Geoparks in the world to send their geopark’s latest news for the next

publication of the GGN Newsletter 2020 (ISSUE 1).

Please find the submission guideline at the following link:

The past issues of the GGN Newsletter can be download on the following webpage:

<http://www.globalgeopark.org/News/Newsletter/index.htm>

Please submit your articles to Global Geoparks Network (GGN) office in Beijing (ggnnewsletter@163.com).

Deadline for submission: 15th March 2020.

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

REGIONAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

European Geoparks Network

45th European Geoparks Meeting - Papuk UGGp

The scheduled March EGN CC Meeting in Papuk need to be postponed due to the ongoing spreading of the Covid-19 disease. New dates for the Meeting will be 12th -15th of May.

GEOPARKS EVENTS

9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

Jeju island, Rep of Korea,

17-20 September 2020

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

GGN Executive Board is encouraging all UNESCO Global Geoparks colleagues to register to the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

We would like to encourage them also to prepare and submit abstracts on their Geoparks activities for the conference sessions.

Please visit the Conference website <https://www.jejuggn2020.org/> and register NOW with the low registrations fees.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

16/9/2020	08.00-10.00	UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Meeting
16/9/2020	10.00-12.00	APGN – EGN – GEOLAG Regional Meetings AC Meetings North America – African Geopark Meetings
16/9/2020	13.00-16.00	APGN – EGN – GEOLAG CC Meetings CC Meetings
16/9/2020	16.00-18.00	GGN Executive Board Meeting Presentations of 2022 Hosts applications
16/9/2020	18.00-20.00	Conference Ice Break Dinner
17/9/2020	08.00-12.00	Opening of the Conference Key Note Lectures
17/9/2020	13.00-15.00	Conference Sessions
17/9/2020	15.00-18.00	Conference Sessions GGN AC Meeting
17/9/2020	18.00-20.00	Conference Welcome Dinner
18/9/2020	08.00-12.00	Conference Sessions GGN YOUTH FORUM
18/9/2020	13.00-18.00	Geotrail Field Trip (For Participants)
18/9/2020	13.00-18.00	GGN General Assembly
19/9/2020	08.00-18.00	Mid-Conference Field Trip
19/9/2020	18.00-20.00	Gala Dinner – Award & Certificates Ceremony
20/9/2020	08.00-17.00	Sessions Geoparks Evaluator’s Seminar
20/9/2020	17.00-18.30	Closing Ceremony
20/9/2020	18.30-20.00	Work Dinner of the Elected GGN Executive Board
21-22/9/2020		Post Congress Field Trips



9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

September 17-20 2020

Jeju Island Global Geopark Republic of Korea

EGN CC Meeting: September 16th

Welcome Message

Jeju Island UGGp has organized a preparatory committee for the successful implementation of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. As co-chairman of this committee, I would like to welcome you to Jeju Island Geopark.

The theme of the 9th Conference is 'Fun'.

The committee is dedicated to providing the participants with great opportunities to share and exchange their good practices and lessons learned while they have a fun and meaningful time on Jeju Island.

By diversifying the sessions and field trips, participants are also expected to enjoy the nature and scenery of Jeju Island Geopark.

Therefore, we look forward to welcoming you to the 9th International Conference on Jeju Island.

You will have a valuable hands-on learning experience accompanied by local residents on the beautiful island, Jeju

Chairman of the Organizing Committee

INFORMATION: <https://www.jejuggn2020.org/>

REGISTRATION

The official registration for the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will start in February 2020. Please register for participation through the registration webpage.

The regular fee (\$300) applies to those who register by May 1st, 2020, and the registration fee will gradually increase afterwards.

GGN 2020 Secretariat

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1st UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM

Jeju island UGGp, Rep. Of Korea - 18 September 2020

The GGN Executive Board in collaboration with the UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat decided the establishment of a new activity the UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM.

The main purpose of the UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM is to offer young people an opportunity to engage more concretely in the preparation of the philosophy mandate and activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, elaborate their contribution to the debates of the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and foster their commitment to the realization of the future they want, being actors of change in their territories. They will elaborate their proposal for actions contributing to the UNESCO Global Geoparks strategic framework for action 2020-2024, to address heritage protection, natural hazards mitigation, climate change and sustainable development in general.

Each Country hosting UNESCO Global Geoparks will be represented in the YOUTH FORUM with youth delegates engaged with UNESCO Global Geoparks that believe in their power of making changes and aim to become influential within their communities.

The 1st Assembly of the YOUTH FORUM will take place in parallel with the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks which will take place in Jeju island, Republic of Korea in September 2020.

Participants need to be aged from 18 to 24 years (according to UN/UNESCO Youth designation), showing their engagement with UNESCO Global Geoparks:

- in their respective living/working contexts - territories and communities already included in the UNESCO Global Geoparks
- on issues related to Geological Heritage conservation, climate change adaptation, natural disaster mitigation, geo-tourism and sustainable territorial development.

Participants can be Geopark staff, Geopark partners, University researchers, phd candidates, university students or school students with clear engagement through their research or educational activity. Observers may include Youths from Countries hosting aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks.

GGN - National Geopark Fora or Committees are responsible to nominate the representative of each country in the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM and shall cover the expenses for their participation in the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM meetings.

If a country wishes to nominate more representatives for the UNESCO Global Geopark YOUTH FORUM then the youth representatives of a country consist a country team with one vote at the UNESCO Global Geopark YOUTH FORUM meetings.

In case that a country (especially those with one Geopark) has difficulty to cover the expenses of the youth participation in the GGN YOUTH FORUM, can use the grant policy of the Conference or ask for support from GGN.

The Operational Guidelines of the 1st YOUTH FORUM have been agreed at the 64th GGN ExB meeting on December 10th, 2019.

[YOUTH FORUM OPERATION GUIDELINES \[pdf\]](#)

We are looking forward to receive your youth participations.

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

Celebration of the International Earth Day 2020

22 April 2020

"Mother Earth: Education and Climate Change"

The Global Geoparks Network, the international organization of the **147 UNESCO Global Geoparks** celebrate the International **Mother Earth Day 2020** and asks all Geopark management bodies, partners and stakeholders to join the campaign and promote the role of **Earth** for our planet and our communities.

Mother Earth Day will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2020 and it has relevance to all Geoparks.

According to the United Nations "Mother Earth is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit. The Earth and its ecosystems are our home. In order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social, and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth. International Mother Earth Day is celebrated to remind each of us that the Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and sustenance. This Day also recognizes a collective responsibility, as called for in the 1992 Rio Declaration, to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity." (<https://www.un.org/en/events/motherearthday/>)

The Global Geoparks Network encourages everyone and especially Youth to Join the conversation on social media Celebrating Earth Heritage.

The Global Geoparks Network, the international organization of the **147 UNESCO Global Geoparks** is joining the global campaign, through a social

media communication and events around the world, to celebrating Earth and its geological heritage, ecological and cultural value for our planet and the generations to come!

Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark, as a member of the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group, will be collating a schedule of events for International Mother Earth Day.

We request that you send your events/projects and the SDGs they support to Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark **Rory Tallack**, E-mail: Rory.Tallack@shetlandamenity.org.

YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED

GGN OPEN CALLS

CALL FOR HOSTS OF THE 10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS – 2022

[Please Download the call](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL INTENSIVE COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS

Lesvos 1-10 June 2020

[Please download the 1st Circular](#)

M'GOUN UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

A one-day seminar on environmental education for college and high school students was held on 28 February 2020 at the Azilal province in Morocco.



The seminar was organised by the Association du Géoparc du M'Goun (AGM), the responsible Association for the management of the M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark. The Seminar was held as part of the AGM Association 2020 action plan. During the seminar the AGM executives and members of the committee responsible for the education presented the concept of the Geopark, the beneficiaries, its management plan and its social and economic impacts throughout the territory.

GGN Calendar of Meetings and Events

(updated February 2020)

2020

22 April 2019: International Earth Day, Geopark Activities

22-28 April 2019: 1st APGN Geoparks Week 2020

26-29 April 2020: Geoparks Conference – Viet Nam

12-15 May 2020: 45th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Papuk UNESCO Global Geopark, Croatia

17-22 May 2020: 1st Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Africa - Tanzania

24 May - 7 June 2020: European Geoparks Week

1-10 June 2020: International Intensive Course on Geoparks "UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability" - Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

24-26 June 2020: 3rd Geoparks Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Greece and Cyprus "Geoparks-Protected areas Biodiversity and Geodiversity Conservation and Management" - Vikos Aaos UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

14-22 September 2020: 9th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOPARKS, Jeju island, Republic of Korea

5-10 October 2020: Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark 2020 - Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Malaysia

13 October 2020: International Day for Disaster Reduction, Geopark Activities

25-30 October 2020: 6th International Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks - China University of Geosciences Beijing, China

9-15 November 2020: 36th International Geological Congress, Delhi, India

11 December 2020: International Mountain Day, Geopark Activities

2021

March 2021: 47th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Katla UNESCO Global Geopark, Iceland

September 2021: Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Coordination Committee Meeting - Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand

September 2021: 7th Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium - Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Thailand

September 2021: 48th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Sesia - Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

September 2021: 16th European Geoparks Conference - Sesia - Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

2022

March 2022: 49th European Geoparks Network Meeting - Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands in collaboration with TerraVita UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

September 2022: 10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOPARKS

2023

March 2023: 51st European Geoparks Network Meeting, Hateg UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania

September 2023: 8th Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium

September 2023: 17th European Geoparks Conference



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