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GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

43 | April 22, 2020

NEWS FEED

Dear members of the Global Geoparks Network,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board met on 21st April 2020 together with the Kristof Vandenberghe and Margarete Patzak of the UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section as well as the Members of the Organizing Committee of the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Jeju Dr. Yongmun Jeon, Dr. Jung Goon Koh, and Dr. Soo-Jae Lee, discussed the latest data regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the scheduled activities of the Global Geoparks Network during the next months.

The GGN with the video message to all the UNESCO Global Geoparks on April 22, 2020 – the International DAY of the EARTH, launches the new GGN initiative:

"UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of Resilience"



"UNESCO Global Geoparks - Territories of Resilience"

Resilience is fully embedded in the institutional, social, economic and environmental dimensions of any sustainable development.

Resilience is a fundamental concept already enclosed inside the whole Geopark concept and is related to any kind of environmental and humanitarian crisis: Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Floods, Landslides, Volcanic eruptions, Droughts, Economic crisis, Epidemics, Terrorism, War, Refugges and of course the COVID-19 pandemic.

This initiative encourages all our Geopark territories to develop new actions or to highlight actions already realized to support their territory's resilience:

a) the different ways in which UNESCO Global Geoparks keep on engaging with their communities, providing services despite the difficult conditions in COVID 19 times, how they reach out to the young people, offering on line courses, or how they promote local production.

b) examples of any other resilience activities, in which UNESCO Global Geoparks are involved realized during the last four years.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are warmly encouraged to be more and more involved in activities to support of their communities and their partners.

They are also encouraged to share and highlight their actions and experiences through a short article with good quality photos and, if possible, with HQ short video.

GGN in collaboration with UNESCO's Section on Earth Sciences and Geohazards Risk Reduction, will provide the tools for promoting these activities and transmitting the information to the broader audience through all their communication channels.

We will soon announce the new DIGITAL tools we will use for this.

In this new RESILIENCE INITIATIVE you will find a wealth of examples, full of commitment and creativity, practices that may serve as inspiration for now and later.

The best 5 examples of these activities supporting the concept **UNESCO Global Geoparks, territories of resilience** will be awarded by the GGN.

5 nominees will be designated and will receive a financial apportionment which will modestly contribute to the effort done by these territories to support local population resilience.

The GGN ExB consider unanimously agreed to the following actions:

a) Establishment of the new initiative **UNESCO Global Geoparks, territories of resilience** and the development of the adapted strategy

b) Create a new video with the institutional personalities of Geoparks family to boost the new initiative (President of GGN, Secretary of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Chair of the UNESCO Global geoparks Council and the Coordinators of the Regional Geoparks Networks: the Asian and Pacific Geoparks Network, the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network and the European Geoparks Network).

c) Use DIGITAL tools for the dissemination of the activities (Digital magazine, GGN websites, GGN social media).

d) Establish the award of **UNESCO Global Geoparks, territories of resilience!**

All colleagues are warmly encouraged to participate in the initiative providing articles, photos and videos of their activities to support their communities.

The GGN Executive Board

UNESCO

International Mother Earth Day 50th anniversary

The International "Earth Day" is celebrated every year on 22nd of April to encourage each of us to recall how the Earth provides life and sustenance.

As the COVID-19 pandemic forces people into lockdown around the world, shutting down the global economy, the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day is an urgent reminder that humans need to rethink their relationship with nature.

While UNESCO's immediate priority remains the management of the pandemic, we have not lost sight of our underlying goal: to help Member States establish a harmonious relationship between people and their environment. Temporary improvements in greenhouse gas emissions and air quality, due to the abrupt shutdown of economic activity around the world, have shown us how harmful these emissions can be.

The **Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay**, is calling on everyone to use this time to reflect on the future.

Let us therefore use this lockdown period to imagine a better relationship between humans and nature, built on harmony rather than opposition.

For many years, UNESCO has worked to develop this harmony in its Natural World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks, in line with our collective commitment under the 1992 Rio Declaration. These areas are places of unique biological and geological diversity, where people seek to find a balance that reconciles natural wealth with viable economic perspectives.

These experiences and solutions deserve recognition. This is why UNESCO's section for Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazard Risk Reduction will highlight, in the coming weeks, the different ways in which UNESCO Global Geoparks are engaging with their communities. Despite difficult conditions, they are continuing to provide services, offer online courses for young people, promote local production, and much more. It is our hope that this wealth of examples will be shared as widely as possible, and serve as an inspiration for others.

If you want to help us imagine a brighter future, follow us from Wednesday, 22 April onwards. Tomorrow is in your hands.

UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section Campaign

Promotion of the UNESCO Global Geoparks activities through UNESCO social media

UNESCO Earth Science and Geo-hazard Risk Reduction Section set up a **social media campaign to highlight how UNESCO Global Geoparks remain connected with their communities**, how they re-configure their activities, set up on line learning tools for confined kids and promote local production. This is often not related to geo-sciences, just one of the many other aspects that UGGp are good at.

The campaign:

- a. A **web article** on the COVID 19 and UNESCO Global Geoparks will be published today in the website of UNESCO Earth Sciences and Geo Hazard Risk Reduction website.
- b. The article kicks off the actual social media campaign, whereby we will post one of such good practices every 3 days – at a rate of 3/week.

We hope this campaign helps and serves as inspiration.

VISIT : <https://www.facebook.com/unescoEARTH/>

EARTH DAY

The Global Geoparks Network created and distributed a series of banners to promote digital Geopark activities or Earth Day 2020.



EARTH DAY IS EVERY DAY, AND ANYWHERE YOU ARE

The Global Geoparks Network participates in the celebration of the EARTH DAY 2020 to raise sensitization for OUR planet!

If we don't demand change to transform our planet and meet our climate crisis, our current state will become the new normal — a world where pandemics and extreme weather events span the globe, leaving already marginalized and vulnerable communities even more at risk.

Human health and planetary health are inextricably linked.

Human health and planetary health are inextricably linked

EARTH DAY
WEDNESDAY 22 April 2020
globalgeoparksnetwork.org

50 YEARS EARTH DAY 2020

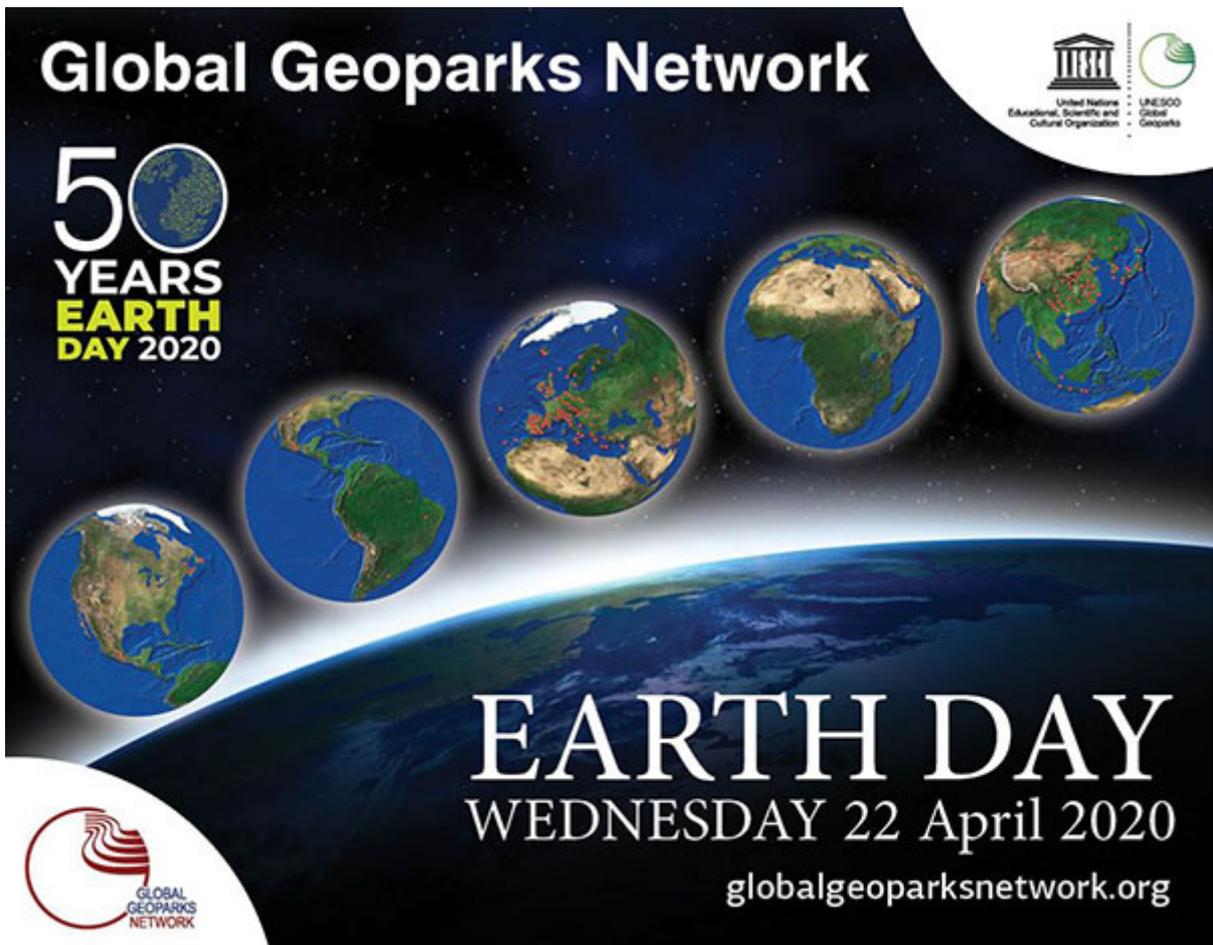
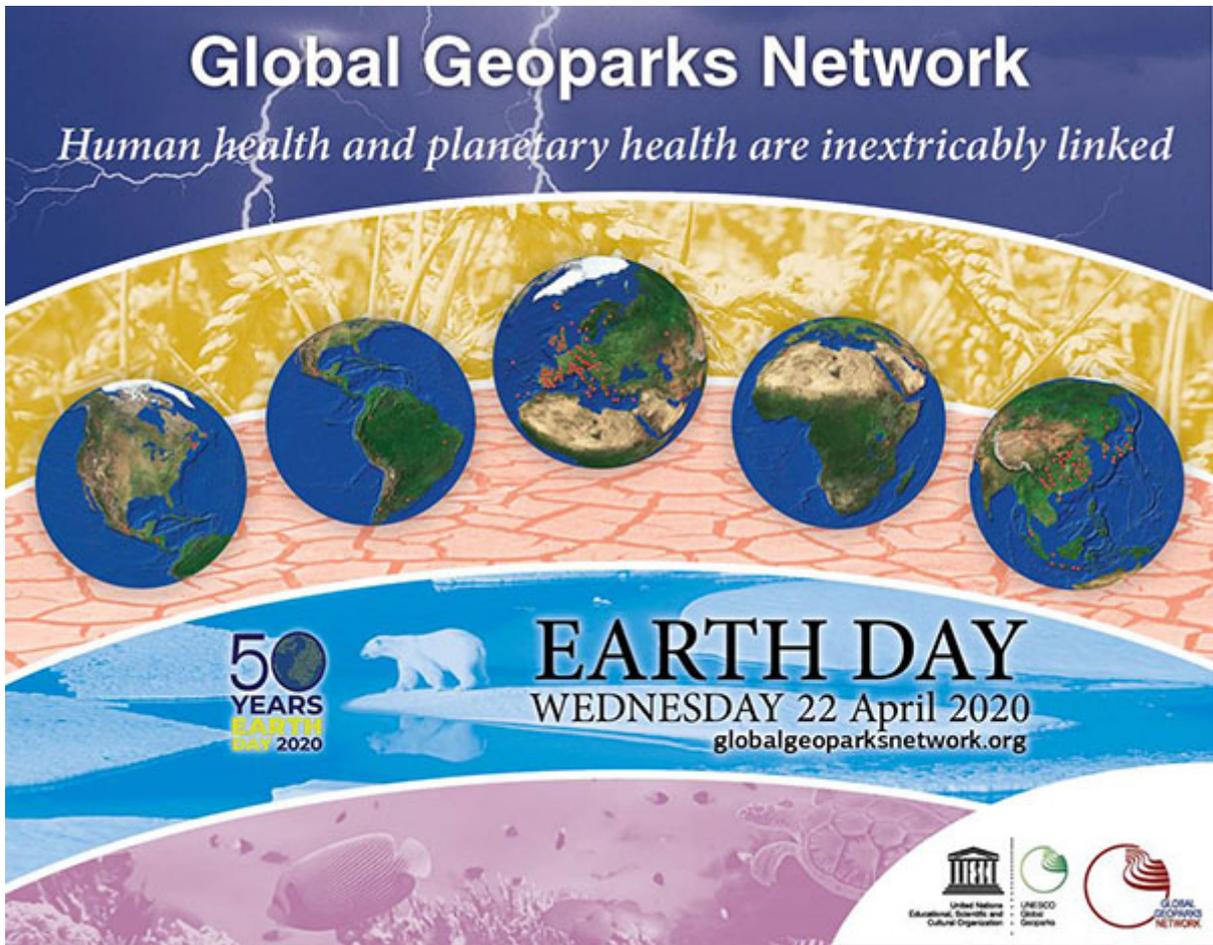
Global Geoparks Network

Protection of our planet and the wellbeing of the people who live upon it are the top priorities

Global Geoparks Network

EARTH DAY
WEDNESDAY 22 April 2020
globalgeoparksnetwork.org

50 YEARS EARTH DAY 2020



Spanish Geoparks banner for the EARTH DAY activities



Fight against COVID-19 Pandemic

UNESCO Global Geoparks in Latin America and Caribbean are contributing and building resilience to their communities

INFO from UNESCO - Montevideo webpage:

UNESCO Montevideo campaign #NuestraCienciaResponde

<https://es.unesco.org/news/iniciativas-geoparques-mundiales-unesco-frente-covid-19>

Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark – China

As the epidemic situation is getting better in China, Huangshan UGGp has been opened since Feb.21. But we are still holding some controls:

Visitor number control. At the very beginning of our reopen, the max number for daily visit is 10 thousand, then 2 thousand since Mar.18. Some hotels, cable ways and bus transfer centers still remain closed. The number of passengers in each cable car and bus is also limited.

Online reserve and QR code are available for ticketing to reduce human contact. All the visitors are required to wear masks and to show

their Health Code, a certificate for people's covid-19 condition launched on Feb 11. Moreover, we've set infrared thermometer at the ticket checkpoint to take visitors' temperature, before allowing entrance.

Daily sanitization is ensured every day for infrastructure and areas such as tourist buses, trash bins, restaurants and ticket checkpoints, etc.

Strengthen market supervision. Hotels are regularly inspected. They are required to operate according to the relevant requirements of geopark epidemic prevention. Individual visitors should not share room with others.

For our staff, health code and temperature should be checked every day before they enter our office building. Masks and sanitizers are distributed. If there's any suspicious case, it'll be reported to the city municipal government.

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark – Malaysia

COVID-19 was first identified in early December 2019, and the first confirmed case in Malaysia was detected in late January 2020. To date, this pandemic outbreak already infected more than 2 millions people worldwide, and Malaysia recorded 5,182 (as of 17 April 2020) positive cases. Government of Malaysia has taken preventive measures drastically by imposing Movement Control Order (MCO) started on 18 March 2020 in order to break the pandemic chain. Langkawi was in the center page of media coverage since the outbreak COVID - 19, due to the arrivals of chartered flights and transit of luxury cruise passengers from the affected countries. Since January 2020, authorities have installed body thermal scanner at both entrances via air and sea. Sultanah Maliha Hospital; the only center with complete medical equipment that are ready to treat COVID - 19 patients in Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. To date, Langkawi recorded 4 positive cases from 110,000 population, nevertheless all the 4 cases were recovered and discharged from hospital. When this article is written, there is no new positive case identified.

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