

# Communicating Geoparks:

How local involvement makes a better tomorrow possible?

Inaugural conference of Taiwan International Geopark

**Symposium**

September 29- Oct. 3, 2017

Taipei, Taiwan

(First Circular)

**Organized and Hosted**

**By**

Taiwan Geoparks Network

## Background

The purpose of this inaugural Taiwan International Geopark Symposium (TIGS) is to promote geoparks through a wide range of bottom-up mechanism and processes. The UN is a group of international institutes that initiate and promote issues orienting towards protecting the global environment and benefiting all human societies as a whole. However, the implementation of important programmes cannot be effectively sustained solely by the UN and its subsidiaries. Both regional and national endeavours are required to ensure good results. Furthermore, local endeavours are the authentic drive for a good practice of geopark. This is particularly true and significant in a world of diversity and in an era of uncertainty today.

For UNESCO Global Geoparks, networking and sharing good geopark practices are critical elements for success. Taiwan as an island state has 9 geoparks, all with unique characteristics. The concept of geopark is a multi-disciplinary and bottom-up civilian model. Geoparks are a dynamic response to a wide range of issues and policies and each geopark's response is related to its local cultural, economic, geological and geographical setting as well as the modes of governance. Therefore, local involvement and a locally devised management plan is critical in ensuring an effective response to local issues. Focusing on the experience of Taiwan's geoparks, we observe the following questions needed to be critically considered and assessed for a better geoparks tomorrow:

- How can geo-conservation be enhanced?
- How can geo-heritage be cherished?
- How can geo-hazards be mitigated?
- How can geo-diversity be recognized and protected?
- How can geo-interpretors be trained and supported?
- How can geo-tourism successfully present the mutually constituted culture and

the nature?

- How can local geo-products be endorsed and encouraged?
- How can local geo-ambassadors be trained and respected?
- How can community engagement and involvement be sustainable?

In today's environmentally and politically intertwined global world, the success of a geopark practice will not only benefit itself. Through networking and sharing, the significance of geopark's good practice will be magnified tremendously. We are therefore inviting you to join us for the first TIGS conference to share your research results, share your experiences that can shed lights for our common future.

We invite researchers, academics, communities, government authorities and other interest groups to participate in this conference. This event will offer not only an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from one another, but also a chance to visit various geoparks of Taiwan to gain insights from their practices. A post-conference field trip will visit geoparks' natural settings, their cultural activities and handicrafts, and get to taste geo-products.

## **Abstracts and Papers**

For each submitted paper abstract, one submission form needs to be filled out. Please include all authors' names in the form. The submission form, including the paper abstract with no more than 250 words, should be submitted by February 17, 2017.

A peer review process will take place between February 25 - March 10, 2017. The final report for accepted paper abstracts will be announced and posted by March 11, 2017. Full papers for each individual abstract submission are due by July 31, 2017. For authors who contribute full paper(s) timely and being accepted for publishing a geopark book, a waiver of registration fee and field trip cost will be awarded.

The abstract must contain the title of the paper, name and contact of the author(s), affiliation, and abstract text. It is suggested to be typed with single spaced Times New Roman (Font Size 12).

Abstracts should be submitted as an email attachment to Professor Wen-Cheng Wang (wwang@ntnu.edu.tw).

## **Sub-themes**

1. Geo-conservation and conservation techniques
2. Geo-Hazards and hazard mitigation
3. Geo-education and interpretation programs
4. Geo-tourism, bringing policy in to practice
5. Geo-Communal endeavors and societal changes

## Preliminary Programme

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Day 1, 28 Sept. 2017 | Arrival & Registration (17:00 ~ 18:30)  |
| Day 2, 29 Sept. 2017 | Opening at International Conference Hall, NTU   |
| Day 3, 30 Sept. 2017 | Conference at Department of Geography, NTU  |
| Day 4, 1 Oct. 2017   | Field trip to North coast Scenic Area: Yehliu Geopark and Yanminshan National Park                          |
| Day 5, 2 Oct. 2017   | Field trip to North-East Coast Scenic Area: visiting Bitou Longdon Geopark and a boat trip to Turtle Island |
| Day 6, 3 Oct 2017    | End of the Conference   |

## Registration

1. Registration: USD 150 (for early bird payment), which includes fees for the followings:
  - Meals, refreshments, banquets and social events on 29-30 September
  - Conference volume
  - Early bird payments should be made before 30 June 2017 by credit card. After the date, please add USD100.
2. Field trip on 1-2 October: USD 200, which includes fees for the followings:
  - Transportation and meals and one night accommodation on 2 Oct. at Jiao-hsi Hot Spring hotel.

## Accommodation

All participants who book accommodation in Taipei through the local organizer will stay at the Howard International House. For more information about the hotel, please visit the web site: <http://intl-house.howard-hotels.com>

The rate for a single room is USD65 and twin room is USD110 per night, including breakfast.

## Travel

Participants are urged to arrange their travel plan ahead of time. Please check whether there is a requirement for visas to visit Taiwan from your country. The major international airport of Taiwan is Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (TPE). For those of you from Japan (Tokyo International Airport – Haneda), Korea (Gimpo International Airport) and some cities of China, Taipei International Airport (TSA) may be your port of arrival.

## Online Registration Form

<http://140.112.64.54/TGN/app/news.php?Sn=1122>

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Name:	Male/Female:	E-mail:
Title of talk/ poster:		
Address:		
Telephone No.		Mobile No.
(A) Registration fee: USD150 (early Bird rate; before 30 June 2017) USD250 (regular rate)	Accommodation required: (please choose) Room type: single, twin, double Accompanying person: Date: 28, 29, 30 Sept., 1, 3 Oct. (The night of 2 Oct. is including in the field trip fee.)	
(B) Field trip fee: USD200		
(C) Accommodation: single room: USD65X__days = USD____ twin/double room: USD110X__day =USD____		
Total: (A)+(B)+(C)=_____		

Registration fees can be paid by credit card:

Acceptable cards are VISA/MASTER/JCB credit card.

Please pay online with the following information

I authorize to charge the above amount to the following credit card:	
Type of credit card: VISA/MASTER/JCB	Cardholder's name:
Card number:	Expired date:
Signature:	

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