INTRODUCTION

This report reviews the major activities conducted by the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG) in 2016.

During the year, HKUGG, in collaboration with relevant geopark stakeholders, has continued to support, promote and in some cases operate geo-education, geo-conservation, socio-economic and cultural development initiatives, including Geopark School Exchange Programme, the Recommended Geopark Guide Programme and the enhanced geopark services, ferry service to Lai Chi Wo and the shuttle bus half-day tour to East Dam, High Island.

HKUGG recognises the important roles and functions of networking and partnership in the geopark networks. To facilitate knowledge exchange and experience sharing, we co-organised and participated in a series of networking exchange and promotional activities, including (1) the 2nd Geoscience Capacity Building Workshop co-organised with the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR) of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in HKUGG; (2) the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Exchange Week co-organised with the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN); and (3) assisted to provide simultaneous interpretation for the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks held in the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark during the reporting period.
The **MAJOR ACTIVITIES** conducted by HKUGG during the reporting period are summarised below:

(I) **Administration and Conservation**

Located in the eastern part of Hong Kong and extended from the northeast New Territories to the Sai Kung area, HKUGG is a single entity where sites and landscapes of international significance are holistically managed with the support of local communities and other geopark stakeholders.

- The HKUGG Annual report 2015, which summarised our major activities in 2015, was released on 3 February 2016.

- In February 2016, upon completion of the 2015 GGN revalidation, HKUGG reported all geopark activities and planned actions in 2016/17 in response to the GGN recommendations to the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB). Board members gave valuable advice on the planned actions.

- With a view to strengthening the existing planning controls and conserving the outstanding ecological, landscape and geological features of HKUGG, statutory plans covering over 270 hectares of HKUGG were gazetted or approved during the reporting period. Areas of geological and conservation significance worthy of conservation are designated as conservation-related zones, namely Conservation Area, Coastal Protection Area or Green Belt zones.

- To clearly indicate that HKUGG is a UGG and a member of GGN, APGN and the Chinese Geoparks Network (CGN), a new branding system, which was required after the UNESCO formalisation, was adopted for all the signs, panels, publications, websites, and educational and publicity materials of HKUGG. It is expected that all necessary changes will be completed by mid-2017. This will enhance HKUGG’s visibility and provide useful visitor information/signage.
at public transport and tourist hubs.

- In November 2016, the management authority of HKUGG, representatives of CMPB, and the Steering Committee of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan\(^1\) visited HKUGG and met the local villagers. The participants gave valuable advice and commended the breadth and depth of the management and local engagement work of HKUGG.

Visit to Lai Chi Wo. Back Row, from left to right: Mr. C.Y. Lam (Chairman of the Hong Kong Countryside Foundation), Mr. W.C. Wong (Villager), Mr. S.M. Tsang (Villager), Mr. A.T. Tsang (Village Head), Mr. K.S. Wong, JP (Secretary for the Environment), Mr. W.K. Tsang (Villager), Mr. H.M. Tsang (Villager), Mr. K.L. Tsang (Villager), Dr. S.F. Leung (Director of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation), Mr. K.H. Tsang (Villager), Prof. L.H. Chiu, JP (Member of the Country and Marine Parks Board), Mr. W.Y. Tsang (Village Head), Prof. C.Y. Jim, JP (Member of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) Steering Committee), Dr. K.M. Yeung (Senior Geopark Officer). Front row, from left to right: Dr. C.H. Hau (Member of the Country and Marine Parks Board, Dr. P.M. So (Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation), Prof. K.C. Lam, SBS, JP (Chairman of the BSAP Steering Committee), Prof. M.Y. Leung (Member of Country and Marine Parks Board), Mr. C.K. Tong, JP (Permanent Secretary for the Environment), Prof. F.Y. Tam, BBS, JP (Member of the BSAP Committee), Mrs. Vicki Kwok (Deputy Director of Environmental Protection), Mr. C.C. Lai (Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation), Ms. Estrella Cheung (Administrative Assistant to the Secretary for the Environment).

\(^1\) The Steering Committee included biodiversity experts and academics, as well as representatives from non-governmental organisations, professional bodies, universities, rural communities, private and public sections and relevant government bureaux and departments, was formed to advise on the formulation of a city-level Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong.
We reviewed and updated our guidelines on partnership arrangements with local stakeholders, taking into account the requirements and recommendations of GGN, the natural and cultural environment of HKUGG and the socio-economic needs of local communities. The guidelines on partnership arrangements were circulated to relevant officers and details were publicised on the HKUGG website.

(II) Capacity Building

In recognising the importance of local engagement in the sustainable development of HKUGG, training was provided to the geopark communities before engaging them in geopark initiatives.

- At the invitation of HKUGG, Dr Marie L Frey, the Managing Director of Messel Pit World Heritage Site (one of our ten international partners), visited Hong Kong to help conduct an in-house capacity-building workshop for the HKUGG team from 20 to 23 January 2016. The programme included guided visits to geo-sites and geo-heritage centres, meetings with local communities in HKUGG, and training sessions with the HKUGG team on science popularisation and local engagement.

The seminar “Prospects of the Global Geoparks Network and Hong Kong Global Geopark”, delivered by Dr Frey, attracted a large number of Recommended Geopark Guides (R2Gs) and our partners. The above capacity-building programme provided effective on-the-job training for the geopark staff and helped R2Gs and our partners develop a deeper understanding of the branding and identity of HKUGG, as well as our involvement in the latest developments of GGN.
• In April 2016, with the support of MLR, HKUGG and the General Office of the Science-Popularisation Department, MLR co-organised the 2nd Geoscience Capacity-Building Programme. This annual programme aims at encouraging innovative ideas for science dissemination and providing an experience-sharing platform targeting managers of around 20 global geoparks, academic institutes and other science-popularisation bases in the Mainland China. The 3rd workshop is tentatively scheduled for March 2017.

• In April 2016, Professor Nakada Setsuya, a renowned volcanologist from the University of Tokyo of Japan, was invited to visit Hong Kong so as to conduct field surveys in HKUGG and provide training on volcanology and associated field survey skills to the staff and student volunteers of HKUGG.

• Partnering with the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark and with the support of CGN, GGN, our local partners including Lions Nature Education Foundation (LNEF) and Fung Ying Seen Koon, HKUGG recruited and trained five volunteers to...
provide simultaneous interpretation services for representatives of the Chinese geoparks and other conference participants at the 7th International Conference on UGGs.

- From 7 to 12 November 2016, a geopark officer attended the International Training Course on UGG Geopark Management and Geo-conservation in Beijing to acquire knowledge on UGG programmes.

(III) Science Popularisation

Education at all levels is at the core of the UGG concept. Therefore, HKUGG is committed to encouraging awareness of the story of our planet from schools to local community groups. To help achieve this objective, we collaborated with local communities in taking forward the following initiatives in 2016:

- HKUGG has been facilitating local restaurants to create dishes with the geological theme for visitors, with a view to arousing interest in the geopark, enriching the visitor experience, and boosting the local economy. In addition to traditional Hakka dishes in the northeast district, there are a variety of popular dishes available in other parts of HKUGG.

- On 17 April 2016, HKUGG co-organised the first science-popularisation sea voyage of “Global Geopark Sea Excursion” with the Scout Association of Hong Kong, and provided geotour guide training for members and leaders of the Scout Association. Apart from enjoying the lovely Plover Cove seascape while touring HKUGG in canoes and dragon boats, the participants also conducted field
studies at the geopark’s Ma Shi Chau Nature Trail and took part in other activities to broaden their knowledge of geology.

- A guidebook titled *Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark – Food Map* was published in July 2016 to promote community ownership and local products made in HKUGG communities and to tell the stories of local communities and their culture through the food they serve.

- From June to August 2016, the Hong Kong Museum of History, with the support of HKUGG, held a special exhibition titled “Mare Nostrum: Roman Navy and Pompeii”. The exhibition, which included a great variety of multimedia programmes and 3D animations, introduced the Roman maritime navigation and enabled visitors to experience for themselves the formidable power of the volcano that destroyed Pompeii.

- In July and August 2016, we organised a series of public seminars, including one titled “Getting to know Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark”. The seminars attracted a diverse audience. Apart from promoting HKUGG, they facilitated valuable mutual exchange between the public and the geopark team.
• On 24 August 2016, we, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Museum of History, successfully organised a Volcano Model Making Workshop for the “Mare Nostrum: Roman Navy and Pompeii” exhibition. The event received an overwhelming response and provided a memorable experience for the participating students and parents.

• In September 2016, we published the first UNESCO Global Geopark-inspired colouring book, titled *A Colouring Adventure into Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark*. The intricately-designed colouring book, which depicts over 30 geological, ecological and cultural heritage features in HKUGG, aims at popularising earth science and improving the visibility of both HKUGG and GGN. Alongside the drawings are simple and easy-to-understand captions that illustrate the natural and cultural heritage features.
HKUGG continued to host new and innovative science-popularisation activities in order to promote earth science and enhance public awareness of the importance of nature conservation.

- On 6 January 2016, HKUGG kicked off its 5th science popularisation event, an annual education programme since 2011. Jointly organised by HKUGG and the Education Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, the programme, titled “Design Field Trip Activity for Life-wide Learning Experiences”, attracted teachers from around 40 local primary and secondary schools. Activities included a visit to the geopark visitor centre, a geopark field study, a classroom lecture and a group forum.

- In April 2016, 33 pupils from Lions Clubs International Ho Tak Sum Primary School, a local geopark school visited the Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark of China and participated in school activities with the Zigong Shuguang Lusheng Experimental School. The event was commended by the Ministry of Culture, PRC as one of the 15 top exchange projects among the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau. During those few days, the Zigong students helped the Hong Kong students experience their campus life and they made dinosaur curettes together. Led by local geopark staff, the students went on tours to geosites

Students from Hong Kong applied their knowledge acquired from the Zigong Dinosaur Museum and made dinosaur curettes.
and historical and cultural attractions as well as coming into a close contact with the dinosaur fossils. They were very curious about China’s ancient “well-salt” industry and tried hard to learn everything about the geopark.

• On 29 July and 19 August 2016, HKUGG and JGN jointly organised the 6th Student Exchange Programme at HKUGG. Some 80 students and teachers from the Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark, the Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark and HKUGG took part in the event. These mutual school visits and exchanges play an important role in our geopark sistership arrangement. Cultural exchanges among students of different regions help broaden their horizons, which is of great help towards the continuous sustainable development of geoparks and the promotion of earth science.

• HKUGG also made good progress in furthering collaboration with local universities this year. With the support of the LNEF and other geopark partners, HKUGG offered internships to full-time undergraduate students of the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Hong Kong. 14 students were selected for the first batch of HKUGG interns in 2016. During the summer holiday, the interns were offered training and work opportunities at HKUGG’s visitor centres and two geoheritage centres. They underwent training in the process, learning about the geopark concept, the geological aspects of the geopark and tour guide skills, visitor services, as well as

Students of the Department of Earth Sciences from the University of Hong Kong visited Hong Kong Geopark during the internship programme.
administration and management, while carrying out practical duties, including handling visitor enquiries, providing guide services and managing the daily operations of the centres. The participating students indicated that they benefited a great deal from the programme, including acquiring and applying professional knowledge, and learning about Hong Kong’s ecology, heritage and cultural customs, which enriched their general understanding.

(V) Geotourism

According to our records, HKUGG received 1.4 to 1.5 million local and overseas visitors each year in the past five years, and the numbers are expected to increase further. Although HKUGG is located in close proximity to the urban areas and visitors can easily reach the geological features for an enjoyable and educational outdoor experience, we are determined to improve our visitor services and the accessibility to the geopark, taking into account the capacity of specific geological sites and the need for sustainable socio-economic development in the geopark.

- Currently, HKUGG has 48 geopark guides, including 43 R2Gs, one provisional R2G and four Accredited Geopark Guides (A2Gs). Routine training and capacity-building sessions were organised for the geopark guides during the reporting period.

*Dr. Li Fey, a dinosaur expert from Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark delivered a lecture to the R2Gs during his visit to Hong Kong.*
• In collaboration with the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (TIC), HKUGG continued to work closely with the tourism industry and co-organised on-going training and seminars with members of TIC for tour guides. To tie in with local and overseas promotion of green tourism by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), a brand-new *Great Outdoors Hong Kong* guidebook for 2016/17 was published and made available to geopark visitors in November 2016, among other promotional events during the reporting period.

• We co-operated with two geopark hotels to create a series of dishes, with the major geological attractions in HKUGG as their themes, providing geopark visitors with not only a unique travel experience, but also tasty and innovative cuisine. A brand new “Geopark Gourmet Photo Matching Game” was launched on Facebook. Social media is a powerful tool for amplifying promotional events, and wise use of this tool may facilitate the promotion of geo-tourism. HKUGG will continue to popularise geo-tourism in collaboration with different stakeholders.

• In April 2016, we arranged a familiarisation visit for managers and frontline staff of the two geopark hotels to strengthen our partnership agreement and to reinforce their understanding of HKUGG and the GGN concept.

• In July 2016, HKTB arranged a meeting between an HKUGG representative and Japanese travel agents in Tokyo to strengthen the existing links between HKUGG and the Japanese Geoparks, and to promote the diversified visitors’ attractions available in HKUGG.
In its 27th meeting on 6 November 2016, the GGN Executive Board decided to become a partner in the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (IYST 2017). HKUGG is ready to participate in a series of promotional activities under the IYST 2017 along with other UGGs.

(VI) Visitor Facilities

We have worked with different geopark stakeholders and partners to improve the visitor facilities and accessibility of HKUGG.

- In May 2016, we extended and enhanced the High Island Geo-trail with visitor facilities, including a wooden boardwalk and interpretation panels at the end of the trail, with a view to providing a safe environment for visitors to view a sea cave up close. Visitors can sign up for one of the guided tours operated by the local Sai Kung community at the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre (VDC), or download or pick up a self-guided tour map at the VDC, and explore the High Island Geo-trail themselves.

Painting the geopark-themed shuttle bus. Wooden boardwalk at High Island Geo-trail.
• Our active co-ordination with the local Lai Chi Wo community and the relevant government departments resulted in the approval of the ferry service between Ma Liu Shui and Lai Chi Wo, which was launched in January 2016, enhancing accessibility to HKUGG significantly.

• To address the local community’s need and the huge demand for geo-tourism in the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region, the Sharp Island Pier will be reconstructed under the Signature Project Scheme of the Sai Kung District. The reconstruction works are expected to complete before August 2018. We have consulted the local communities in Sai Kung about the project and received a positive response.

• Under the close co-operation with local communities and non-government organisations (NGOs), three local geo-heritage centres in Tai Po, Lai Chi Wo and Kat O provide guided tours and visitor information in HKUGG.

• To benefit local communities and to ensure continuing quality service at the Kat O Geo-heritage Centre and the Lai Chi Wo Geo-heritage Centre, operators of the Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong and the Cultural Development Society of Lai Chi Wo submitted annual reports and funding proposals to their partner, Fung Ying Seen Koon, with a view to soliciting its support in 2017/18. The funding proposals will be approved by Fung Ying Seen Koon in early 2017.

• HKUGG joined hands with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the HKSAR Government to establish a Paleontology Gallery and an Earth Science Gallery in the Hong Kong Science Museum. Both of which are expected to be completed by mid-2020. The Natural History Museum in London and its partners were engaged in the conceptual design of the galleries during the reporting period. The permanent exhibitions will showcase the natural resources of HKUGG and the abundant biodiversity of the ancient world, explain the underlying mechanisms that drive our dynamic planet, and promote awareness of climate change and geological
hazards. They aim at cultivating a wider audience base for HKUGG and promoting science popularisation through our public museums.

Conceptual design of the Earth Science Gallery

(VII) Local Engagement

UGGs are fundamentally about people and about exploring and celebrating the links among our communities, our daily life and the Earth. To this end, HKUGG actively engaged local communities in preserving and celebrating their unique cultural heritage. Through the adoption of a bottom-up and participatory approach, HKUGG aims to bring people together, give them a sense of pride, and make real improvements for local communities in the geopark through a series of capacity building and partnership projects.

- To heighten the sense of “community ownership” in HKUGG and preserve the valuable social cultural heritage, we have launched a project titled “Same Roots - Same Origin” to conserve the intangible cultural heritage of the geopark.
• Many rural villages in Hong Kong held celebration ceremonies to usher in the Year of the Monkey in 2016, the seven Hing Chuen Yeuk villages in HKUGG were no exception. We were invited to the Lunar New Year celebration held by the seven villages. It was a joyful day, with the villagers and partners treated to a traditional Hakka Feast of Nine Dishes. There was also an auspicious kirin dance to welcome the Year of the Monkey.

• The year under review was marked by several joint initiatives to bring NGOs and the local communities of HKUGG together for the mutual benefit of the geopark, the local communities and the NGOs. Guidelines on partnership arrangements and a list of existing geopark partners have been prepared.

• HKUGG arranged guided visits to the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region in September 2016 for members of Yau Tsim Mong District Council, in order to deepen their understanding of the management, geo-tourism and local participation strategy of HKUGG, thereby soliciting the support of District Councils.

• On 22 January 2016, HKUGG hosted the “Hong Kong Global Geopark of China Gourmet Competition”. This was a new initiative co-organised by HKUGG, the Sai Kung Food and Beverages Association and Sai Kung Chamber of Commerce, with the aim of promoting geo-tourism and regional sustainable socio-economic development. A total of 11 restaurants joined the gourmet competition. The
competing dishes varied from Western to Chinese styles, and from main dishes to desserts. Throughout the course of the competition, HKUGG staff offered advice to the contestants to help them create and design geopark-themed cuisine. This local engagement initiative was well received with strong support from local communities and other stakeholders.

• Local people and other geopark communities have been engaged in designing and establishing the “Double Haven Story Room” in Double Haven and a new Geo-heritage Centre on Ap Chau, in order to showcase the harmonious relationship between local communities and the ambient environment in HKUGG, and to promote public awareness of the importance of conserving the natural environment and cultural heritage.

• According to the direction to “proactively work with NGOs to adopt a flexible approach to supporting and promoting the protection of our rural areas through harnessing the effort of the community” in the 2015 Policy Address made by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR Government, HKUGG has continued to actively assist NGOs in promoting nature conservation and managing rural areas with an innovative mindset. The “Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Project”, the Signature Project Scheme (North District) and the Chief Executive’s Community Project at Lai Chi Wo are some successful examples.

• In late 2013, the Kadoorie Institute of the University of Hong Kong collaborated with the Hong Kong Countryside Foundation Ltd (HKCF), Produce Green Foundation, Conservancy Association and the local community of Lai Chi Wo to launch the “Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Project”, an agriculture-led local engagement programme.
supported by HKUGG, carrying out agricultural land rehabilitation and habitat management on about 5.6 hectares of land in Lai Chi Wo, and providing a wide range of training and education opportunities at the same time.

- With promotion by and support from HKUGG, HKCF collaborated with the Hong Kong Heritage Society and a village-based social enterprise to roll out a community-led project entitled “Hakka Life Experience Village @Lai Chi Wo”. Around 20 to 25 historical buildings in Lai Chi Wo Village would be restored and rebuilt in order to develop a base for conserving and promoting Hakka village culture. Funding for the project was approved in August 2016. It is anticipated that this local engagement project in Lai Chi Wo will facilitate the development of HKUGG and serve as valuable reference for further implementation of the sustainable socio-economic development model in future.

- In response to the needs and concerns expressed by the local communities and to address one of the GGN requirements on local engagement, HKUGG lined up and actively engaged with key stakeholders on Tung Ping Chau, including village representatives, the Sai Kung North Rural Committee, the Heung Yee Kuk, and the relevant NGOs, with a view to deepening mutual understanding between HKUGG and the local communities.

Visitors were enjoying a cooking class taught by villagers.
• In December 2016, HKUGG participated in the Sai Kung District art fair, called “Sai Kung Art And About”, for the first time. Local artists were invited to beautify the gateways to HKUGG at VDC and at the Sai Kung waterfront promenade in the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region. Visitors and students from different communities participated in the creation of a geopark-themed mural, and promoted UNESCO Global Geoparks through art painting. The event not only enhanced HKUGG’s visibility, but also strengthened the close connection between local communities and HKUGG, and nurtured a sense of community pride among the participants.

• LNEF, an active partner of HKUGG, has been engaged in a number of geopark initiatives in 2016, including direct exchange with other geoparks including Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark, Tateyama Kurobe and Namki Kumano Geoparks.

(VIII) Networking

UGGs are not only about co-operation with local communities, they are also about co-operating with other UGGs through GGN and other regional geopark networks for knowledge exchange and peace-building in order to promote the development of UGGs and GGN as a whole. HKUGG has actively exchanged ideas, information and experience with members and professionals in other UGGs through participating in and organising networking activities for the sake of making the most effective contribution to GGN.
• To establish close co-operation with other GGN members and promote joint initiatives among various geoparks, HKUGG continues to build networks with other UGGs and promote geopark initiatives through sister/partnership arrangements with over ten UGGs or World Heritage Sites. These networking activities have been proved effective in benefiting the participants and making continuous contribution to GGN.

• On 17 March 2016, Ms Monica Yeung, a renowned paleontologist and experienced geo-tourism practitioner from Australia, paid a visit to HKUGG. She visited VDC, the Geopark at the Lions Nature Education Centre and the High Island Geo-trail. The HKUGG staff exchanged views with Ms Yeung about the story of Devonian fish fossil for science popularisation.

• From 22 to 25 March 2016, more than 20 experts from the Northeastern Research Institute of Petrified Wood and Mineral Resources of Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University in Thailand visited HKUGG. Escorted by R2Gs, the group toured several geological sites in HKUGG and met the local communities.

• On 23 March 2016, delegates from Thailand and the Nanki Kumano Geopark of Japan gathered in Hong Kong and joined a talk on the development and management of UGGs, which was organised by HKUGG. Some geopark representatives from Japan and a number of local geopark stakeholders also attended the event. At the talk,
the representatives of HKUGG explained how HKUGG had been working with local groups and communities and discussed the outcome of those efforts with the participants.

- From 2 to 9 April 2016, a representative of HKUGG was invited to visit four geoparks in Japan – the Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark, the Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark, the Aso UNESCO Global Geopark and the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark. In addition, the representative also attended the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Forum 2016. During the visit, the HKUGG representative shared some insights about UGGs’ local engagement, regional networking, development and promotion of sustainable geotourism, science popularisation and other topics with local communities and geopark managers from Japan. Geopark managers from China and Japan are going to attend similar sharing sessions in April 2017.

- From 27 July to 5 August 2016, a representative of HKUGG visited three geoparks in Japan, namely, the Choshi Geopark, the Izu Peninsula Geopark and the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark. During the visit, there were exchanges and interviews, through which insights about geopark management and promotion of geo-tourism were shared.

- In September 2016, the Secretary for the Environment and the representatives of HKUGG visited one of our sister geoparks, the Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark. The programme comprised guided tours to the geo-sites and visitor centres, knowledge exchange and cultural sharing sessions with the Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark team.

- On 20 September 2016, a delegation comprising managerial staff of the Urban Management Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality and the Dapeng Peninsula National Geopark visited HKUGG. The delegates visited the HKUGG Visitor Centre, VDC and the Sai Kung town to see how HKUGG had established a win-win partnership with the local communities to promote sustainable development in the district. Led by the HKUGG staff, the delegates went on a study tour along the High Island Geo Trail on High Island in Sai Kung, where they were given a detailed presentation on HKUGG’s interpretation system, planning and management. The participants also
From left to right are Dr. P.M. So (Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation), Prof. Patrick McKeever (Head of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme and five volunteers of the Hong Kong Geopark).

shared their experience of organising science-popularisation educational activities with each other.

- From 27 to 30 September 2016, HKUGG representatives attended the 7th International Conference and the 1st General Assembly on UGGs at the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark in the United Kingdom, where they met most of the newly elected UGG Council members and the GGN Executive Board members. The HKUGG representatives made three oral and one poster presentations, one of which was titled “Revitalising Indigenous Villages with Local Communities”.

- From 29 to 30 October 2016, representatives from the Izu Peninsula Geopark of Japan visited HKUGG. The group toured HKUGG and met the local communities.

- From 14 to 20 December 2016, representatives from 11 geopark networks in China and Japan participated in the “APGN Exchange Week” at HKUGG. The participants were from the Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark, the Arxan Geopark, the Aso UNESCO Global Geopark, the Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark, the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark, the
San’in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, the Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark, the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark, the Nanki Kumano Geopark, the Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark and the Tateyama Kurobe Geopark. The seven-day exchange programme focused on sharing experience and facilitating mutual learning through the APGN platform. The geopark representatives commented that the programme was conducive to knowledge exchange in APGN.

Participants of the APGN Exchange Week, front row from left to right: Ryoichi Onishi & Shinsuke Nakamura (Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark), Jagoda Woloszyn (Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark), Kyoko Fukutsuji (Nanki Kumano Geopark), Hiroko Torigoe (Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark), Yamamoto Rie (San’in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark); Back row from left to right: Kazuhiro Nobe (Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark), Kishimoto Hideo (San’in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark), Satoshi Kotani (Tateyama Kurobe Geopark), Hikari Shibata (Sakurajima-Kinkowan Geopark)

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedicated work and participation of our local partners, and the continuous support of MLR, our sister geoparks and our co-operation partners in GGN, APGN and CGN. We would like to extend our gratitude to all of our HKUGG stakeholders and partners for their substantial assistance and ongoing support for the HKUGG team in 2016.

To view the electronic format of this annual report, please visit:

http://www.geopark.gov.hk/en_s5d.htm

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