

## **Vietnam Geoparks Network Annual Report 2019**

The Vietnam Geoparks Network was set up in 2016 together with the National Technical Committee on UNESCO Global Geoparks of Vietnam under the Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO.

The Network currently consists of 02 UNESCO Global Geoparks i.e. Dong Van and Non Nuoc Cao Bang UGGps, and 02 Aspiring Geoparks i.e. Dak Nong and Ly Son-Sa Huynh. In addition, works are going on in several other provinces for the preparation of more geoparks.

### **1. Domestic activities**

- May 2019 - Vietnam Unesco Natcom in cooperation with national and international advisors assisted the Non Nuoc Cao Bang UGGp in organizing an international workshop entitled “UNESCO Global Geoparks – tools for sustainable tourism development”. Attending the workshop, in addition to national delegates were representatives of UNESCO, UNESCO Hanoi Office, GGN, APGN and several UGGps and AUGGps, e.g. Dr. Miguel Clusener-Godt (UNESCO), Prof. Roland Oberhansil (IUGS), Prof. Ibrahim Komoo (GGN and APGN), Prof. Jutta Weber (EGN and Germany), Artur Sa (EGN and Portugal), Alireza Amrikazemi (Iran), Joshua Mandwaake and Freddy Manongi (Ngorongoro UGGp), Alamo Feitosa (Araripe UGGp), Denise Gorfinkiel (UNESCO South America Office), Dr. Guy Martini (GGN), Pakkaporn Singhwachiraworakul (Satun UGGp) etc.;
- June 2019 - Vietnam Unesco Natcom in cooperation with national and international advisors assisted the Ly Son-Sa Huynh AUGGp in organizing an international workshop on the occasion of the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sa Huynh Archaeological Culture and on the values of the LSSH AUGGp. Among international guests were e.g. Andreas Reinecke (Germany), Mariko Yagamata (Japan), Nakada Setsuya (Japan), Ryu Choon-Kil (Korea), Than Htun (Myanmar), Pakkaporn (Thailand), Azmil Munif Bukhari (Malaysia), Soo Jae Lee (Korea), Dhiti Tulyatid (CCOP, Thailand), Guy Martini etc. The Management Board also invited some international advisors e.g. Prof. Nakada Setsuya of Japan, Dr. Ryu Chool-Kil and Dr. Jeon Yongmun of Korea for the study of the volcanic activities within the Geopark;
- July 2019 - Vietnam Unesco Natcom in cooperation with national and international advisors assisted the Dak Nong Province authority and Dak Nong AUGGp Management Board in hosting the UNESCO evaluation team, which included Dr. Maurizio Burlando (Italy) and Dr. Vesa Krokki (Finland);
- August 2019 - Vietnam Unesco Natcom in cooperation with national and international advisors visited and assessed the potential of setting up a new

- geopark in the Phu Yen Province of Central Coastal Vietnam;
- November 2019 - The LSSH AUGGp submitted its dossier to UNESCO for a possible recognition as UGGp;
- November 2019 - Vietnam Unesco Natcom in cooperation with national and international advisors, in cooperation with the Vingroup Corporation, assisted the Ha Giang authority in organizing a national workshop on tourism development in existing and potential geoparks of Northeast Vietnam. In addition, they are assisting the province in preparing an international UNESCO conference on Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Development in UNESCO Global Geoparks, scheduled for April 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event is tentatively postponed until June 2020;
- VIGMR in cooperation with several UGGps and AUGGps is conducting a State-funded research on indigenous knowledge on geoheritage. In addition, several awareness raising seminars were organized by the Vietnam Ministry of Information and Communication;
- A year-end meeting was held by UNESCO Natcom including all UNESCO designated areas e.g. WHSs, MABs and UGGps etc.

## **2. International activities**

- Representatives of UGGps and AUGGps from Ha Giang, Cao Bang, Quang Ngai and Dak Nong attended the training course on “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geotourism Development” in Lesvos, Greece (June 2019);
- Participated in the revalidation mission of the Araripe UGGp (Brasil) July 2019;
- Participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> APGN Symposium on Geoparks, held in the Rinjani-Lombok UGGp, Indonesia, Sept. 2019, entitled “Unesco Global Geoparks towards sustaining local community and reducing geohazard risk”. Total number of Vietnamese delegates was 40, including provincial leaders, managers, staffs, scientists, UNESCO Natcom etc. The Vietnamese delegates also edited 20 articles, chaired one session, delivered 9 oral presentations and 2 posters as well as contributed a booth in the Geopark Fair;
- Preparing to host the UNESCO evaluation team to the LSSH AUGGp and the Jeju UNESCO Geopark Conference, scheduled for November 2020.