

The Jeju Island Declaration

The 3rd Asian-Pacific Geoparks Network Jeju Symposium was held from September 7 to 13, 2013 in the Jeju island Global Geopark, Korea, and attended by 560 delegates from 25 countries.

After deliberation, the delegates hereby affirm that:

1. The significance of Earth Sciences has played a critical role to promote geoheritage conservation, geotourism and geopark global initiative.

2. Intimate cooperations among local people, scientists, tourism industries, municipalities, central governments and other stakeholders are indispensable for geoheritage conservation, education, tourism and proper management in geoparks. Therefore, effective sustainable development of our geoparks as well as of our local communities will be remained as a goal.

3. To enhance networking activities within the Global Geopark families in the Asia-Pacific region, it is encouraged to strengthen the capacity of human resources within the APGN to develop and support various advisory roles, networking programs, research projects of common interest and interrelated human activities within the APGN.

4. The Asia-Pacific Geopark community congratulate the highly successful and rapidly evolving the GGN, that was initiated in 2004 with the support of the Earth Sciences Division of UNESCO, and reached 100 members during the 3rd APGN Jeju Symposium. Global Geoparks are territories with geological heritages of international significance and implement a strategy aiming a holistic territorial heritage management, promotion and sustainable development that are innovative, integrated, and respectful of local traditions and desires.

5. Asia-Pacific Geopark community fully endorse current efforts made after the decision of the 36th General Conference of UNESCO to improve cooperation between UNESCO and Global Geoparks through the establishment of a UNESCO Geoparks programme or initiative.

We very much welcome the increasing levels of support for Global Geoparks within UNESCO, we acknowledge the results of the consultations made by the Working Group on Geoparks formed following the decision of the 191ExB meeting and hope that the present strong relationship between the Global Geoparks and UNESCO would be strengthened even further during the 37th General Conference.

In particular, we advocated that Global Geoparks should be totally and exclusively under the umbrella of UNESCO, with the Global Geoparks and UNESCO working together in tandem to continue the development of Global Geoparks around the World. This is specifically important in those areas of the world with the highest poverty level Africa, Latin America and South and South-East Asia.

Done in Jeju island 11-09-2013