

Lesvos and Sanin Kaigan Global Geoparks collaboration

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Lesvos Global Geopark and San'in Kaigan Global Geopark are two Geoparks that share many common features like spectacular volcanic and coastal landscapes, geothermal fields, protected areas, rich biodiversity and endemic species, rich cultural heritage, common approach in geotouristic and educational activities as well as innovative local development initiatives on food and handcrafts. On the 12th of February 2011 they have signed a sistering agreement, aiming to the close collaboration of the two territories in various fields of mutual interest like geotourism, educational programmes and networking. The geographical distance between them was not an obstacle for fruitful collaboration, Concrete results during the last years shown that there is great potential and opportunities for common activities among Global Geoparks. As a result of the collaboration between Lesvos Global Geopark and San'in Kaigan Global Geopark several visits from both sides have led to the exchange of knowhow and experiences, to a comparative study, collaboration in conferences, capacity building activities and courses, research and educational activities, presentation of Geopark collaboration and preparation for exchange of exhibitions. Highlight was the visit in 2014 of the Toyooka High School in Lesvos where the students participated in educational programmes, collaborated with the 4th gymnasium of Mytilini, which is a local high school, partner of Lesvos Geopark, both schools presented their home geopark and had the opportunity to get to know each other. The programme was so successful that it will be repeated in 2015.