

Progress report of Taiwan Geoparks Network

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Following the guideline of Global Geopark Networks, the Taiwan Geoparks Network was launched in 2011. The purpose of setting Taiwan Geopark Network is trying to (1) establish a national network for promoting the concept of geopark; (2) exchange the experience of management of the sites; (3) educate visitors to protect the landscape for the purpose of sustainable development during using or visiting the geological/ geomorphological/ ecological and cultural heritage and (4) promote local involvement as well as geotourism.

This presentation is trying to explain the progress of geopark network in Taiwan.

There are eight geoparks in Taiwan on 2015. The concepts of landscape conservation, geotourism, local involvement and environmental education become core value in Taiwan.

Through landscape resource inventory, education program will also involve local community, government, school and other stake holders. The geoparks network involved national scenic area, nature reserve, and national protected area and national park authorities. Seven network meetings were held in the last four years. Supporting from the Forestry Bureau and Tourism Bureau, geoparks network program is a supporting system to all the geoparks in Taiwan. It is hoped that through time, these geoparks can play an important role for environmental education, local ecotourism, and sustainable development.

From this study, some progress of Taiwan Geoparks Network should be stressed as below:

1. Eight geoparks has been designed.
2. Local involvement and local industry will be an important work for geopark activities.
3. Geo-products from each Geopark raised awareness for local people and visitors which is also important for local economics.
4. Supporting from government is very important at the beginning stage of Geopark industry.