

The Two “First” in October 2009: First World Y.E.S. Congress and First Joint Anti Rock Graffiti Activity in China

Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong (“AGHK”) was invited to give an oral and poster presentation in the **First World Young Earth-Scientists for Society (Y.E.S.) Congress, Beijing** from 25-28 October 2009. Under the patronage of UNESCO’s International Year of Planet Earth (“IYPE”), the Congress was hosted by China University of Geosciences (Beijing) attended by over 600 participants from 31 countries. The theme is “Young Earth Scientists for the Society” with the aim of enhancing international collaboration of young earth scientists in better planning and management of our earth resources, popularizing earth sciences and promoting proper education.

Mr. Young Ng, our Chairman, expounded on “*NGO’s role in the establishment of geopark and promotion of geoconservation: the Hong Kong example*”. Being flexible, efficient and professional, the NGO in Hong Kong proactively drove the establishment of the geopark. It played an active role in various aspects: from initial presentation to final submission of nomination; on advice of overall design, planning and management and on networking of national and UNESCO geopark bureaus. The NGO in Hong Kong helps to popularize earth sciences, geoconservation and sustainable development through talks, seminars, trainings, campaigns and rock cleaning activities. At the same time, it also continuously monitors the Government’s projects to ensure that they will not destruct the geological heritage and also to ensure the geopark’s design, planning and management will not deviate from the Global Geopark principles.

First anti rock graffiti activity in Beijing - On 26 October, 2009 AGHK, the Youth Division of the Committee of Earth Science Philosophy and the Geoparks Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) jointly organised the first geoconservation activity in Beijing. This was an outreach program of the “Geoheritage Conservation Day” designated by the YES Committee. It started with the geo-appreciation walk near Zhoukoudian to study the characteristics of the beddings, structures and composition of the 600 million to 1600 million years old sedimentary rocks (Neoproterozoic to Mesoproterozoic). Mr. Ng illustrated how to make the interpretation lively and understandable to arouse the public’s interests. He then, using sand paper and steel wire brush, demonstrated the rock cleaning process. After nearly an hour’s hard works, to everybody’s amazement and satisfaction, the graffiti were all removed. Even though the graffiti were more easily cleaned than those in Hong Kong, the young earth scientists came to the same conclusion as our AGHK rock cleaning angels – Rocks must not be destructed as they are the base of all ecosystem. It is encouraging to learn that they also plan, starting from Beijing, to promote geoconservation in China. NOW TV of Hong Kong had filmed the whole activity and the programme would soon be broadcasted in Hong Kong.



Opening ceremony 開幕典禮



Young Ng' s explanation on NGO's role 吳主席解釋非政府組織的角色



First cooperation on geoconservation 第一次地質保育合作



To make the geo-appreciation more lively & interesting 如何令導賞生動有趣



Why anti-rock graffiti 為何反塗鴉



Young's rock cleaning demonstration 吳主席洗石示範