



香港地貌岩石保育協會
Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

Recommended Geopark Guide (R2G)

Background

As Hong Kong Geopark gets more publicity, there is an increasing demand from both local and overseas visitors for quality guides and services when visiting the geopark. It is hard to recommend any at the moment, as Hong Kong does not have an appropriate channel through which interested visitors can find professional and experienced geotourism or geopark guides.

In view of such urgent need, Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong together with Prof. C.Y. Jim of Hong Kong University, Prof. T. Fung of Chinese University of Hong Kong and Mr. Michael Wu, Chairman of Tourism Industry Council set up the Recommended Geopark Guide (R2G) system to encourage existing guides to enhance their skills and knowledge and to be in line with international standards. The assessment principles, criteria and guidelines are based on the assessment standards of The International Ecotourism Society and Ecotourism Australia.

The assessment system is for the long term benefit of the guides and is one of the requirements for UNESCO global geopark status, for which Hong Kong Geopark is now aiming at. The Recommended Geopark Guide (R2G) system greatly contributes to the three core missions of Hong Kong Geopark: geoconservation, education and sustainable development.

Objectives

- To strengthen the protection of geological sites
- To popularise geological knowledge
- To increase safety awareness
- To enhance geo guides standards
- To be in line with Hong Kong's application as member of global geopark network

Benefits to geo guide

- Opportunity to enhance standards
- Acquisition of geopark guide information
- Assimilation of geopark and geological knowledge
- Training of guiding and appreciation knowledge and skills
- Opportunity to exchange experience and knowledge on international level



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Assessment system

Assessment Board

- Prof. C.Y. Jim, Professor, School of Geography, Hong Kong University
- Prof. T. Fung, Vice-Chairman, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Mr. Michael Wu, Chairman, Tourism Industry Council
- Mr. Young Ng, Chairman, AGHK

Advisory Committee

- Prof. P. Mc Keever, UNESCO Global Geopark Network Bureau
- Prof. R. Dowling, Advisor, UNESCO Global Network of National Geoparks and Asia Pacific Geoparks Network
- Ass. Prof. D. Newsome, Chair, Western Australian Conservation Commission and Committee Member, IUCN World Protected Areas committee
- Prof. A. Chen, China National Geopark Bureau
- Dr F. Y. Wong, Honorary Advisor, Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong
- Dr K. M. Yeung, Senior Geopark Officer, Geopark Division, AFCD

Assessment Criteria

- 1) Education: post-secondary academic qualification or equivalent and have completed recognized geotourism, geopark or equivalent courses
- 2) Experience: at least one year proven geotourism guiding experience
- 3) Conservation notion: must value and genuinely practise natural environment conservation
- 4) Knowledge: possess basic knowledge of geodiversity, biodiversity, geoconservation and geopark concepts, thorough understanding of the principles, management and geological information of Hong Kong Geopark
- 5) Language ability: can speak at least one fluent foreign language in addition to Cantonese
- 6) Professional ethics: ethically competent, no misconduct record
- 7) Risk cognition and management: clearly understand and fully aware of the potential risks and safety issue associated with geo tours with appropriate risks management techniques.
- 8) Skills: possess excellent outdoor geo interpretation and guiding skills, capable to plan, design and organise geo tours; it will be an advantage to possess other skills including first-aid, mountaineering etc.
- 9) Physical condition: physically fit
- 10) Personality: enthusiastic and passionate about nature



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Assessment method

- 1) Interview
- 2) Field assessment

Assessment Result

- After passing assessment, becomes Provisional Geopark Guides for six months
- The Geopark Guides list will be uploaded to the website of Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong Geopark and distributed to other global geoparks and tourism organisations
- After six months probation – become Recommended Geopark Guide R2G
- Revaluation –biennial

Responsibilities of geopark guides

- Promote geoconservation
- Promote Hong Kong Geopark
- Popularise earth sciences
- Provide quality geotourism services
- Ensure visitors safety
- Charge openly and fairly
- Actively partake in training
- Wear Geopark Guide uniform
- Fill out job log book

Disqualification

Failed to pass the probation period or the biennial assessment or have been determined to have acted unethically to visitors or tour participants.

Administration fee: All administrative staff, assessors and advisors are volunteers without any fees. Applicants are required to pay an assessment administration fee.

For any queries or application, please contact R2G Secretariat (email: geoparkguide@rocks.org.hk).