

**INAUGURAL
GEODIVERSITY
WORKSHOP** *celebrating*
THE INTERNATIONAL GEODIVERSITY DAY

Online Talk (English)
26 JAN 2022
19:30-21:50
HONG KONG TIME
UTC+8:00

Prof. Murray Gray
Honorary Professor
School of Geography,
Queen Mary University of
London, UK

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School of Economics and
Management,
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China

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AGHK
INTERNATIONAL
GEODIVERSITY
DAY
香港地球遗产协会
Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

Inaugural Geodiversity Workshop - celebrating the International Geodiversity Day

“Nature” does not only cover biodiversity, but equally, also Geodiversity. Geodiversity is the natural abiotic portion of the planet that is all around us, including the Earth's minerals, rocks, fossils, soils, sediments, landforms and topography, hydrological features and the processes that make and modify these features. However, most people are unaware of the critical linkages between geodiversity and all life forms.

In May 2020, at the Oxford Geoheritage Virtual Conference that had over 600 participants from more than 60 countries, Prof José Brilha, Prof Murray Gray, Dr Jack Matthews and Prof Zbigniew Zwoliński called for the establishment of an International Geodiversity Day (IGD). After concerted efforts by the team, the International Union of Geological Sciences and 108 other organisations including AGHK requested UNESCO to proclaim an IGD to raise awareness of the many benefits geodiversity provides for people, society, and the environment.

On 22 November 2021, UNESCO approved the International Geodiversity Day on 6 October. To celebrate the establishment of IGD, AGHK is honoured to invite Professor Murray Gray, one of the drivers who persuaded UNESCO, and three other geoconservationists to present about the importance of geodiversity.

Details:

Date: 26 January, 2022 (Wednesday)

Time: Hong Kong Time (UTC+8:00)

7:15pm – 7:30pm Registration

7:30pm – 9:50pm Presentations, Q&A

Topics and speakers:

1. **Geodiversity, Society and the International Geodiversity Day** by Professor Murray Gray, Honorary Professor, School of Geography, Queen Mary University of London, UK
2. **Geodiversity in China** by Dr. Kejian Xu, Associate Professor, School of Economics and Management, China University of Geosciences, Beijing, China

3. **Geodiversity of Khorat Geopark and Application for Geoproduct** by Dr Jaroon Duangkrayom, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Science and Technology, Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University, Thailand
4. **Geodiversity of Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark** by Mr Alvin Ng, Geopark Officer (Education), Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, HKSAR

Language: English

Fee: Free

Software: Zoom (Login details will be sent by email later)

Registration form and deadline: <https://forms.gle/PSD3B4dqc23X7Tyf7> 22 January, 2022

Enquiries: talk@rocks.org.hk

Organiser: Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

Successful registrants will be notified by email. In case of any disputes, the decision of AGHK shall be final and conclusive.

Brief Biography of speakers

Professor Murray Gray is originally a glacial geomorphologist, he has developed expertise in geodiversity and its applications including geoheritage, geoconservation and geotourism. He is author of two editions of the book *Geodiversity: valuing and conserving abiotic nature* (Wiley-Blackwell, Chichester, 2004 and 2013). He is a member of the IUCN-WCPA's Geoheritage Specialist Group and of the editorial board of *Geoheritage* journal. He has given invited lectures on geodiversity in USA, Canada, Brazil, China (including Hong Kong), Japan, Malaysia, South Africa and throughout Europe.

Dr. Kejian Xu has been teaching and conducting research in geotourism, geoparks and in particular, developing practical applications of geotourism as well as interpretation and education for geoparks. She has cooperated with more than 40 geoparks in China, Myanmar, South Korea, Spain, Canada, UK and Mexico. Her books about the geoparks were awarded "Excellent Science Popularisation Books" by the Ministry of Land and Resources of the People's Republic of China in 2016, 2017 and by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China in 2018.

Dr. Jaroon Duangkrayom's expertise and research is about ancient elephants and paleogeography. He is also the researcher of Northeastern Research Institute of Petrified Wood and Mineral Resources (Khorat Fossil Museum) and the Deputy Director of Education and Information of Khorat Geopark. He drove the establishment of the Khorat Geopark Local Course as fundamental education for elementary to high school students of the geopark schools in Khorat Geopark area.

Mr. Alvin Ng's academic background is in Applied Geo-Science and Environmental Life Science. He has been working in the Hong Kong Geopark team for over 10 years. His major duties include managing scientific research projects, producing tourist information system, organising education programme, promotion campaigns and public events.