

**CELEBRATING *the first* UNESCO INTERNATIONAL GEODIVERSITY DAY SEMINAR**

Online Talk (English)  
**28 SEP 2022**  
**16:00-17:20**  
 HONG KONG TIME  
 UTC+8:00

**Geodiversity: Redundant Term or Influential Concept**  
**Professor Murray Gray**  
 Honorary Professor,  
 School of Geography, Queen Mary University  
 of London, UK

**Geodiversity of Hong Kong**  
**Mr. Alvin Ng**  
 Geopark Officer (Education),  
 Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark,  
 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
 Department, HKSAR

Coorganisers  
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 HONG KONG GEOPARK  
 香港世界地質公園  
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 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
 Conservation Department  
 香港世界地質公園協會  
 Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

Supporting Organisations (By alphabetical order)  
 HKBU  
 COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
 CUHK  
 香港中文大學  
 The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
 GRMC  
 地質及地質遺產諮詢委員會  
 Geopark Management Committee  
 香港教育大學  
 The Education University  
 of Hong Kong  
 Department of Social Sciences  
 社會科學系  
 聯合地理學會  
 JOINT SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION

## Celebrating the first UNESCO International Geodiversity Day seminar 28.09.2022

“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 Geoh heritage 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 our Association (Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong) 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 first UNESCO International Geodiversity Day, it is our honour to have invited Professor Murray Gray, one of the drivers who persuaded UNESCO, and Mr. Alvin Ng to present about the importance of geodiversity.

**Date:** 28 September 2022 (Wednesday)

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

15:45 - 16:00 Registration

16:00 - 17:20 Presentation, Q & A

### Topics and speakers:

1. Geodiversity: redundant term or influential concept by Professor Murray Gray, Honorary Professor, School of Geography, Queen Mary University of London, UK
2. Geodiversity of Hong Kong by Mr. Alvin Ng, Geopark Officer (Education), Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, HKSAR

**Language:** English

**Fee:** Free

**Registration deadline and link :** 25 Sep 2022, <https://forms.gle/VmJePA2bysBreLLa8>

**Software:** Zoom (Login details in google registration form)

**Enquiries:** [aghk@rocks.org.hk](mailto:aghk@rocks.org.hk)

**Organisers:**

Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong (AGHK)

Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department,  
HKSAR

**Supporting Organisations (in alphabetical order) :**

Hong Kong Baptist University College of International Education

Hong Kong Metropolitan University School of Arts and Social Sciences

Joint School Geography Association

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Department of Geography & Resource Management

The Education University of Hong Kong Department of Social Sciences

**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. He was part of the team that persuaded UNESCO to designate 6 October as International Geodiversity Day.

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.