

Langkawi UNESCO Global

2021

# GEO PARK

The First in Malaysia & Southeast Asia

## GAZETTE

### LUCKY NO.13

Langkawi's 13 UNESCO Global  
Geopark Programmes of 2021

### EAST & WEST WORKING HAND IN HAND

Canada & Malaysia Working  
Towards Better International  
Geopark Networking  
& Management

### DON'T BURST THE TRAVEL BUBBLE

Langkawi's Domestic  
& International Travel  
Bubble Initiative

KILIM GEOFOREST PARK



Naturally  
**LANGKAWI**

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Geopark Programmes of 2021
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# PREFACE

*Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari*  
MANAGER LANGKAWI  
UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK



Greetings from Langkawi UGGp Office

Warmest welcome to all of our distinguished readers.

Although Langkawi and the world has been quiet for the past year or so, never the less our geopark, the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (Langkawi UGGp) and its management team have proven to not only be resilient but to have been elevated even further.

Due to the unforeseen devastation of the pandemic we at Langkawi UGGp have taken all necessary precaution to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all those involved in preserving and protecting Langkawi UGGp. Where once we could meet physically, we have now turned our sights to the benefit of technology and connect daily via the ample virtual platforms available.

It might be hard for the people who work to preserve Langkawi UGGp but the geopark itself is thriving. This pandemic, as devastating as it has been to Langkawi, Malaysia and the world at large has given the chance to nature to recuperate. Geopark's amazing wildlife has prospered abundantly without human interference. With time on our hands, it has given us the chance to analyse and improve ourselves further.

Communication for one, has improved greatly and we now maximise the use of technology that is so readily available on the island as digital initiatives over the years have boosted our internet coverage, making digital connectivity with the team a breeze.

With the borders soon opening up, we are looking forward to 2022 as we anticipate returning travellers and new ones as well. Though many challenges lay ahead our aim will forever be to work even harder to further protect and preserve the geopark's natural ecosystem, enhance our local community and educate tourists from Malaysia and around the globe.

We hope that the year ahead will be a bouncing year to achieve all that we set out to do but was hindered from when the pandemic hit us all in 2020. We look forward to welcoming all of you once again to our shores and sharing the first geopark in Malaysia and Southeast Asia with all of you come 2022.





**YBrs. Tuan Nasaruddin  
Bin Abdul Muttalib**

*Chief Executive Officer*

*Langkawi Development  
Authority (LADA)*

# FOR EWO RD

Greetings to all our treasured readers.

Langkawi has long been one of Southeast Asia's and the world's premier tropical island destinations. Its stature was further enhanced in 2007 when the archipelago was awarded UNESCO Global Geopark status—the first of its kind in Southeast Asia.

For over a decade, Langkawi UGGp has meticulously established a sustainable development strategy to ensure economic and environmental goals are fulfilled. The rapid development of the geopark has brought an abundance of local community investments, business, and socio-economic development opportunities.

The Geopark's ongoing success is the collective result of communities, industries and organisations, especially all those involved directly or indirectly in the island's tourism industry. With the many successes, especially the highest numbers of domestic and international tourists to Langkawi in 2019, the sudden spread of the COVID-19 pandemic catapulted Langkawi, Malaysia and the globe into a very challenging era. With the increasingly plummeting number of domestic and international tourists visiting.

As of 2019, Langkawi had received 3.9 million tourists, following its strongest year, arrivals in 2020 took a sharp hit as the pandemic began to unfold. Although it took a strong hit, Langkawi is back, better than ever, to further boost the economy and serving tourists while fervently adhering to the Standard Operating Procedures with its recent reopening.

In its first 27 days of the domestic travel bubble programme, Langkawi received 90, 000 visitors. Most economic activities, including domestic travel, has been allowed and tourism-related businesses have resumed operations while adhering to the new normal, with strict hygiene practices and standard operating procedures. Langkawi is now set to reopen its gates to international tourists under the Langkawi Island Pilot Project and hopes to get back on track in the second quarter of 2022.

In conclusion, despite the many setbacks, Langkawi UGGp will continue to fulfil its primary duty, which is to protect the rich geological and biological diversity of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, and ensure the preservation of this unique habitat and ecosystem.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to personally extend a warm invitation to visit Langkawi and its precious gem the UNESCO Global Geopark.

We look forward to welcoming you to our shores!





**Tunku Temenggong Kedah  
Royal Patron**

**Her Highness Dato' Seri DiRaja Tan Sri  
Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz binti Almarhum  
Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah**

*DKH., DKYR., SHMS., SSDK., PSM., PAT., JP.Hon.PhD.  
(UUM), Hon.PhD. (KUIIN), Hon.PhD. (UPNM).*

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp) has long been a jewel that I have cared for dearly over the years. Ever since it was first awarded the title of UNESCO Global Geopark status, I have pledged my time to be present when needed and to support LADA in its mission to promote and preserve Langkawi UGGp.

Langkawi UGGp is a tool for sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region. As mentioned in the past, I am extremely supportive of the efforts, activities and the commitment shown by the managers and stakeholders who have taken the initiative to accelerate the geoparks development in this region and its best practices in managing natural and cultural heritage.

The sharing of knowledge on geopark governance and management has empowered the local communities of Kilim and Kubang Badak in managing their geo-heritage resources as part of the geo-tourism initiatives that underlie how geoparks help the local community in reaping economic benefits from geopark development thus uplifting their quality of life and strengthening their sense of belonging.

Langkawi UGGp, now a reference centre in the Asia Pacific Region and has been appointed as advisor to the Asia Pacific Global Geopark Network. This makes me so very proud of the all the efforts undertaken by the Langkawi UGGp team. As the only geopark in the world to have a royal patron, I am committed to overlooking the development and sustainability of Langkawi UGGp for many year years to come.



FOR  
EWORD





# LUCKY NUMBER

## Langkawi's 13 UNESCO Global Geopark Programmes of 2021

It's been yet another fruitful year with a myriad of activities here at Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. In this chapter we discuss the activities cherished and experienced in the year 2021 and the upcoming projects that are bound to grace us in 2022 that will further enrich the lives of all those affiliated with Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp), the community and tourism of Langkawi as well as the country of Malaysia as a whole.



### Launching of Langkawi International Travel Bubble Tour Packages

Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC), YB Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy binti Shukri had launched the Malaysia Packages in collaboration with tourism agency Al Rais Dubai on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Among the packages launched include Langkawi International Travel Bubble Tour Packages sold to international tourists. Also present during this ceremony were YBrs. Tuan Nasaruddin bin Abdul Muttalib, Chief Executive Officer of LADA and Encik Azmil Munif bin Mohd Bukhari representing the LADA Tourism Division.





## 2. Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Sustainability Forum (LUGGp) 2021

The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) in collaboration with the Langkawi Research Centre (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia) and Friends of Langkawi Geopark (FLAG) organised the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Sustainability Forum (LUGGp) 2021 for two days on 1st and 2nd of December 2021 at Hotel Aloft, Langkawi. Themed “Community Empowerment Towards Shared Prosperity”, this forum acts as a medium to foster the commitment and involvement of local communities in LUGGp to realise positive change within LUGGp.

Six themes were selected for the implementation of this forum, namely Heritage Conservation, Public Education, Geotourism Products, Community Involvement, Geopark Business (Geopark Products) and Sustainable Development. The organisation of this forum and the strategic cooperation of all three parties will ensure Langkawi continues to be relevant as the main point of reference for UNESCO Global Geoparks, further inspiring other countries in the Asia Pacific region.

## 3. Coral Voluntarism Programme

The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) has organised a “Coral Voluntourism Programme” involving government agencies in Langkawi. The Malaysian Correctional Academy was invited to participate in this programme and was represented by SJN Syaiful Hazni Bin Abdullah, Mr. Basri Bin Johari, Ms. Azizah Binti Baharom, Mrs. Aminah Binti Ali and Mrs. Siti Fatimah Binti Muhammad Zuki. The programme was attended by a total of 60 participants and 35 divers including instructors from various agencies were divided into several groups. All participants boarded a boat from Kubang Badak Jetty and left for the coral planting area on Jemuruk Island.



The activities carried out around the beach included coral cultivation in racks which were coral racks brought and unloaded in designated areas. This programme is one of the many government efforts in ensuring the sustainability of nature and that they are in good condition and are consciously preserved so as to increase the number of coral reefs around Langkawi.





## 4.

### Cuci-Cuci Langkawi Public Cleaning Programme in Conjunction with The Reopening of Langkawi Tourism

As Langkawi was a pilot destination reopened to local tourists after the pandemic, in support of the Prime Minister's agenda, Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) pushed on ahead by following all SOPs meticulously and organised a Public Cleaning Programme called Cuci-Cuci Langkawi in celebration and the anticipation of reopening Langkawi tourism. The programme was held around Pantai Chenang and Pantai Tuba. This was just one of the many clean-up efforts conducted by the Langkawi District and Land Office, Langkawi Municipal Council Tourism City (MPLBP), and LADA's series of 36 cleanups conducted primarily at its many geosites. This effort does not only ensure the protection of Langkawi's beaches and natural geosites but also fosters a spirit of camaraderie's in Langkawi's tourism community. Other cooperative agents of change and cleanliness include the Solid Waste Management and Public Hygiene Corporation (SWCorp), Langkawi District Information Department, Langkawi District Health Office, PDRM, Headquarters Wilayah Laut 3 (MAWILA) and local NGOs such as the Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH), Langkawi Business Association (LBA) and Trash Hero.

## 5.

### Geosite Cleaning (GSC) Programme

This Corporate Social Responsibility Programme is held amongst local corporations in an effort to ensure the preservation and continuous sustainability of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp). Among the activities that have been carried out during the programme included sowing seeds and planting mangrove seedlings in the Mangrove Sanctuary area as well as cleaning around the Tourism Jetty areas. Programme participants were also given the opportunity to visit the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp) Discovery Centre, which is a newest geo-tourism product on Langkawi Island.



## 6.

### World Tourism Day

Langkawi Development Authority through Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp) in another initiative to revive Langkawi's tourism sector conducted a SOP adhered Gathering of Geoparkians Programme in conjunction with World Tourism Day 2021. The programme organised at Dash Resort Langkawi involved almost 200 participants who are also geoparkians, partners, industry players, agency and business representatives, as well as individuals directly or indirectly involved with Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp).

Despite engaging a 'meet and mingle' session among its participants, the programme was held with regard to SOP compliance as enforced by the government, among which includes the organising of such event at an open beach area. Its main objective was to enable networking to take place, which would not only benefit LUGGp but all parties involved in this session. The programme was also made livelier with the presence of YBr. Tuan Nasaruddin bin Abdul Muttalib, Chief Executive Officer of LADA.



## 7. Tuba Island Interpretive Basic Course

An interpretive basic course on the Wang Buloh and Wang Lebah limestone cave trail jointly organised by the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), Friends of Langkawi Geopark (FLAG) and Langkawi Research Center (PPL-UKM) was conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021, at Pulau Tuba, Langkawi, Kedah.

This pilot project was conducted to upgrade the development of geo-tourism products in the area of Pulau Tuba, Langkawi as well as provide specific exposure to the rangers and staff of the LADA Tourism Division. The course began with an introductory session and briefing delivered by Dato 'Kamarulzaman Abdul Ghani (President of FLAG), Dr. Shamsul Khamis (Senior Lecturer of the Faculty of Science and Technology-UKM & Associate Fellow of PPL-UKM) and Dr. Azman A Rahman (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Architecture, Planning and Surveying-FSPU-UiTM Shah Alam).

In the first stage, the participants were taken along the trail to the 980 - meter - long Wang Buluh Cave, where there are 13 stations to stop or tell stories about the various types of flora, fauna and rocks found along the route. Then, the participants were taken on a climb to the Wang Lebah Cave to the end of the observation deck to see the species of bees that nest in the gap between the limestone walls. PPL-UKM staff also assisted and participated in the course.

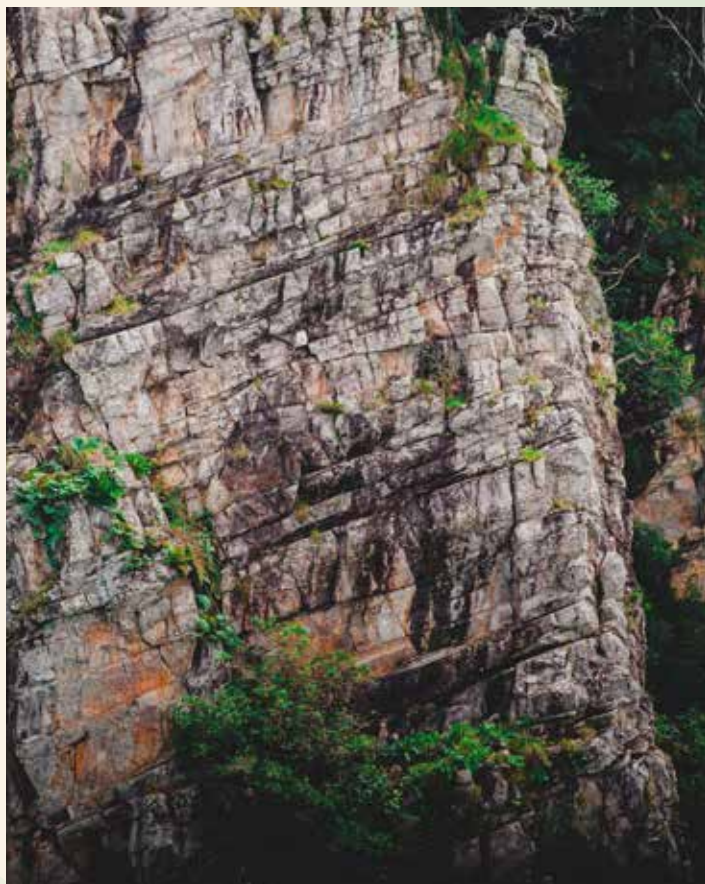


## 8. Geotalk: Langkawi Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp)



In conjunction with the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, a talk entitled "Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp) - Roles and Responsibilities of Geoparks (Special Incidents of Water Heads in Jerai Geopark)" was delivered by Prof. Emeritus Dato'Dr. Ibrahim Komoo at the Geotalk Programme organised by the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA). Prof. Emeritus Dato'Dr. Ibrahim Komoo, as the Principal Fellow of the Langkawi Research Centre (PPL) is the Vice Chairman of Global Geoparks Network and also the Advisor of LUGGp. The programme which took place at Hotel Adya, Langkawi was attended by 50 participants from various government and private agencies and was also attended by industry players from across Langkawi.





## 9 Geopark Ranger Empowerment Programme

A total of 15 Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) staff participated in the Geopark Ranger Empowerment Programme 2021 which was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at Lenggong Geopark and Kinta Valley Geopark, Perak. Among the locations that have been visited during the programme included the Gua Kajang Geosite, Marmar Gua Badak Geosite, Debu Toba Bukit Sapi Geosite, Masjid Raja, in Kampung Chepor, Aki's Gallery, Kg. Chepor, Lenggong, the Local Product Company in Pekasam and the Geological Museum in Ipoh. Masjid Raja is a historic building built in 1541.

The original construction of this mosque consists of four golden Cengal wooden pillars in the middle, a thatched roof and a wall made of Kelarai. The King's Mosque is still strong because its foundation was built on the dust deposits of the Toba Supervolcano, 75,000 years ago.

## 10. Formation of Earth from Perspectives of Islam and Science

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp) with Asia Pacific Geopark Partners celebrated the 2nd Asia Pacific Geopark Network (APGN) Week 2021 from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021. In conjunction with this occasion, LADA Tourism Department organised a talk event entitled "Formation of Earth from Perspectives of Islam and Science" on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The programme was also attended by LADA Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Management), Tuan Haji Rohaizad bin Rashid. The knowledge sharing session was moderated by En. Mazlan bin Md Isa with delivery by Cik Rasanubari Asmah Rahmah (LUGGp Resident Geologist) and Ustaz Suhaimi bin Shuib (Freelance Preacher). Aside from the formation of earth, other topics discussed during the event



included the formation of universe as well as proofs of earth creation through seven phases as stated in Al-Quran. A total of 120 participants involving staff of LADA, government agencies, and Geopark ICON had joined and benefited from the programme. They were not only able to enhance their understanding on the phenomenon of earth creation from religious and scientific perspectives but also appreciate the importance of caring for the indispensable treasures of the whole universe.



## 11. The One Tourist One Tree Nature Conservation Project (1T1T)

The 1T1T which is a collaboration between the Langkawi Forestry Office and Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) as well as the Langkawi People Project involving all communities in Langkawi. The 1T1T Nature Conservation Project is a flora conservation and preservation initiative in Langkawi with the target of planting 100 million trees within the next five years.



## 12. Langkawi 360°

For those keen to explore Langkawi from the comfort of their own home before they embark visiting it in real life, this virtual platform allows you to discover Langkawi with a 360° view, just like an eagle would, via a simple click on Panomatic.com. Via this website visitors can view various attractions, hotels, restaurants in a truly immersive 360° environment that transports you directly to Langkawi. You can even virtually take a tour and walk inside buildings in Langkawi with these amazing panoramic photos through the Naturally Langkawi website.



## 13. Projek Orang Langkawi

Projek Orang Langkawi (Langkawi People Project) is a community project launched by a group of young art activists supported by Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) that collects life stories on efforts, hopes, and the perseverance of the unsung heroes of Langkawi thus further illustrating the beauty of heritage and tradition practised by locals of the island. The forum aims to involve 150 strategic partners of LUGGp comprising local community, activists in the fields of art, culinary, and education, enforcement and implementing agencies in development of Langkawi, tourism industry players, expert groups, and technical agencies supporting geopark development in Malaysia.



# EAST & WEST WORKING HAND IN HAND

Canada & Malaysia  
Working Towards Better  
International Geopark  
Networking & Management

# CANADA & MALAYSIA

The Canadian and Malaysian International Geopark have agreed to build a closer working relationship that was recently endorsed via a virtual signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in cooperation with the field of geopark management. The ceremony took place simultaneously in the respective offices of Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) and Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark (DUGGp) today.

The MoU was signed by representatives of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp), Nasaruddin bin Abdul Muttalib who is also Chief Executive Officer of LADA from Malaysia and John Norman, Chair of Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark (DUGGp) from Canada. Also witnessing the momentous event were Azmil Munif bin Mohd Bukhari, Manager of LUGGp and Cyndy Stead, Manager of DUGGp. This MoU marks a sign of cooperation between both parties in fulfilling their respective duties and functions through information exchange and sharing of mutually beneficial geopark initiatives.

With the signing of this MoU, both parties have therefore expressed their interest to engage in collaborative activities in relation to sustainable development of the two geoparks involved. These include activities in areas such as tourism promotion, education, research, and community development in the respective geopark territories.

"This MoU will serve as a catalyst to promote international cooperation between LUGGp and DUGGp on a reciprocal basis. We look forward to providing each other with all the necessary information, experience, and best practice efforts for the good of both geoparks. Some instances include, knowledge sharing in regards to geoheritage protection, geosciences popularisation, and local geotourism development, some of which we hope would further improve with the current management of the two geoparks concerned," says Nasaruddin.

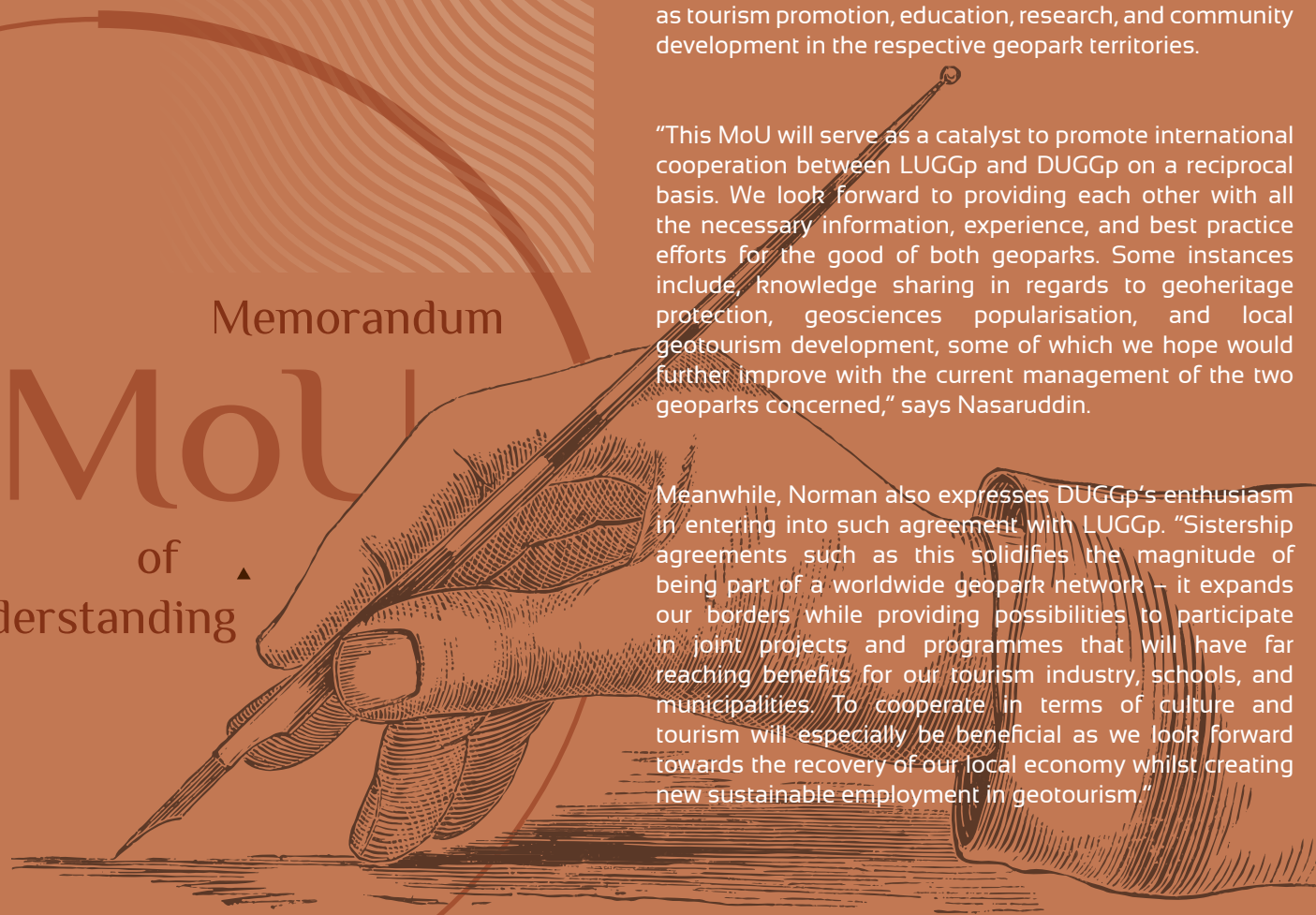
Meanwhile, Norman also expresses DUGGp's enthusiasm in entering into such agreement with LUGGp. "Sistership agreements such as this solidifies the magnitude of being part of a worldwide geopark network – it expands our borders while providing possibilities to participate in joint projects and programmes that will have far reaching benefits for our tourism industry, schools, and municipalities. To cooperate in terms of culture and tourism will especially be beneficial as we look forward towards the recovery of our local economy whilst creating new sustainable employment in geotourism."

## Memorandum

# MoU

of

Understanding





An aerial photograph of a tropical island, likely Langkawi, featuring a large building complex with multiple red-tiled roofs and a wooden walkway. The island is surrounded by turquoise water and lush green forest. A large, stylized red fingerprint graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# YOUTH of the NATION

Langkawi's Youth Doing Their  
Part for the Global Geopark





Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) is the custodian of the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp). The responsibility to sustain the geopark is maintained by the Geopark Division under the stewardship of Mr Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari. One of the many Geopark Division's responsibilities is to ensure that the geoheritage, cultural conversation and community engagement is preserved and protected so that people, both locals or tourists alike, are aware of their responsibility to ensure the continued sustainability of LUGGp.

Following that the GeoEducation Programme was introduced soon after with the mandate to develop and sustain LUGGp via impact-driven programmes, GeoEducation continues to inspire and inform the youth of the community on the environmental conservation of the Geopark.

Some of the programmes included are the GeoClub - Created to increase awareness and participation in local primary and secondary schools, GeoTeacher - Providing teachers with first-hand knowledge and experience on LUGGp so that they can further educate their own students, GeoCamp - A platform to strengthen ties amongst teachers, parents, students and other agencies via camping exercises at the Geopark, Geopark to School - An outdoor classroom concept that focuses on giving inspirational and educational talks on the Geopark and the School to Geopark - Providing students with up close exposure on the concept and missions of the Geopark.

LADAs Geopark & Conservation division also organises weekly clean-ups under the GeoEducation programme which has now become part of the local lifestyle activities for the past few years. GeoMangrove activities are also held every Sunday and is typically a corporate social responsibility programme with executives of leading Malaysian corporations, Geosite Cleaning every Wednesday is usually attended by Langkawi's schools' students as part of their extra-curricular activities at any one of the 38 geosites and the GeoCoral programme held every month includes diving trips to clean up coral gardens around Pulau Singa Besar and Tepor. Snorkel and scuba divers make it a point to join ever month.

The School to Geopark Programme was created by Geopark Department of LADA. The aim of this programme is to educate the younger generation of Langkawi to discover the value and importance of preserving Langkawi Geopark heritage and conservation efforts crucial in ensuring the future sustainability of these natural marvels of nature and the wildlife ecosystem it protects.

This outdoor classroom concept that focuses on giving inspirational and educational talks on the Geopark to bright young minds who as locals will inherit the legacy of these geoparks. This programme is designed to share valuable information and geopark knowledge as well as first-hand knowledge by experts in the field to students in Langkawi, Malaysia and even countries within the region.





# GOING for GOLD

LADA Wins Heritage Article  
Category at PATA Gold Awards







Langkawi Development Authority has done it again! It topped the Heritage Article Category in the international Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Awards for the year 2021.

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Awards is a prestigious award which has been organised for the past 26 years was for the first time held virtually on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 due to the ongoing worldwide spread of COVID-19 virus.

Encik Azmil Munif bin Mohd Bukhari, Manager of Tourism Division was virtually present to receive the award on behalf of LADA.

PATA Gold Awards 2021 was sponsored by Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and was judged by an international evaluation panel comprising 18 independent individuals from Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Australia. This year's awards attracted a total of 113 entries from 51 travel and tourism organisations and individuals.

In total there were 20 award categories with two principal categories in relation to tourism namely Marketing as well as Sustainability and Social Responsibility. 18 different 'PATA Gold Award' categories were presented to global winners including LADA. The main 'Grand Title Winners' category were respectively awarded to two 'Best of the Best' contenders in the two principal categories mentioned.

According to Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO), PATA Gold Awards is organised every year creating a stage to honour and allows for some of the best practices in travel and tourism industry from every country. This provides the opportunity for societies all around the globe to learn the techniques and methods implemented by various public and private tourism stakeholders in moving forward towards creating a more responsible and sustainable industry.


LADA is honoured to receive such a respected recognition by PATA yet again. May the presented award become one of the many sources of inspiration that will continue to motivate LADA to ensure Langkawi's tourism sector is consciously moving towards prioritising sustainability and social responsibility, particularly in facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic era.





# The Key to Understanding the FUTURE of LANGKAWI

Langkawi's Virtual Efforts of  
Sustainability in the New Norm



Institut Sultan Iskandar (ISI) recently organised the Nature for Nature: Sustainable Environmental Impact Management Webinar Series on On 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The webinar focused on a variety of topics correlated to environmental management practices in a one and a half hour sessions focused on environmental and sustainability awareness, the use of natural options for waste management, organic agriculture and horticulture activities, as well as the natural ways of environmental protection measures.

Ms. Norfaizah Zainal Ariffin, a freelance Green Practice Advisor (Hospitality & Ecotourism) and former Resort Assistant Environment Manager, Langkawi was the speaker for the evening and shared some very practical tips for all to practice from the comfort of their own home.

The webinar was part of ISI's efforts on introducing a variety of practical information which everyone can practice and contribute in, in order to support actions toward sustainable development. As part of ISI's social inclusion initiative supporting multiple stakeholder participation, this programme was also shared with complementary admissions to several different learning groups from various institutions.





The Langkawi of

# SOUTH KOREA

Jeju Island Plays Host

Jeju Island Host's UNESCO Global Geoparks  
9<sup>th</sup> International Conference



The 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks was successfully hosted digitally from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 by the Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, South Korea.



With 546 virtual participants from 52 countries the Conference gave the opportunity to Global Geopark Representatives and Geopark Professionals to discuss examples of best practices in Geoparks. The conference at the same time provided the opportunity for many colleagues coming from aspiring Geoparks to present their efforts so as to further fulfil the requirements necessary in establishing new Geoparks worldwide.

The Conference not only showcased an impressive number of the participants partaking from all over the globe but further garnered broad publicity in the South Korea as well as in many countries in Europe and across the globe.

The Conference was headed by the Meetings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Geoparks Network Ordinary General Assembly and the Global Geoparks Network Advisory Committee Meeting and the elections for the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board and the Global Geoparks Network Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

There was also a special session dedicated to the 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Forum where youth representatives aged 18 to 24 from all around the world met, discussed and elected their representatives. The Youth Forum was organised to offer young people an opportunity to engage more concretely in the preparation of the philosophy mandate and activities of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, elaborate their contributions to the debate the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and foster their commitment to the realisation of the future they want, being pioneers of change in their countries.





The Opening Ceremony of the conference was organised on December 14<sup>th</sup> and the scientific sessions ran from December 14<sup>th</sup> to December 16<sup>th</sup> in parallel rooms. On December the 15<sup>th</sup> a workshop on education was also organised by the Global Geoparks Network Working Group.

During the Conference participants had the opportunity to participate in virtual trips and explore the beauties of Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark. Participants had also the opportunity to have a tour at the Virtual Exhibition.

The closing ceremony of the Conference was held on December 16<sup>th</sup> accompanied by the Global Geoparks Network Certification Ceremony, the announcement of the Global Geoparks Network Honorary Members, the Film Festival Awards and the 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2023 announcement.

Jeju Island  
UNESCO Global Geopark







# LANGKAWI wins Six Gold

Langkawi UNESCO  
Global Geopark Wins  
Six Awards at Malaysia  
Tourism Gold Council  
Awards

Langkawi recently won another **6 awards** at the **Malaysia Tourism Council Gold 2021** Awards Ceremony organised by the Malaysian Tourism Council which took place at the New World Hotel, Petaling Jaya.

A total of **46 awards** in total were awarded in recognition of the role played in empowering the tourism industry in Malaysia.





## Chief Executive

YBrs. Tuan Nasaruddin bin Abdul Muttalib

Nasaruddin bin Abdul Muttalib, Chief Executive Officer of LADA said, "LADA expects tourist arrivals to Langkawi to increase in 2022. As of December 5, 2021, tourist arrivals have reached 472,572 people.

Meanwhile, the tourist income generated amounted to RM 487 million (from September 16 to December 5, 2021). If you look at the analysis, the 'trend' of tourist arrivals to Langkawi has been increasing every month since last September and this shows that Langkawi has great potential to shine after being dormant for so long from tourist excitement due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

The following is the list for Langkawi's six categories of awards and its recipients:





## Special Awards on Travel Bubble Initiatives

@ Langkawi Development  
Authority (LADA)



## Best Cable Car in Malaysia

@ Langkawi Skycab  
(Panorama Langkawi Sdn. Bhd.)



## The Best Malay Cuisine and Heritage Restaurant

@ Langsura Geopark Sdn. Bhd.



## The Best Eco-Friendly Destination

@ Langsura Geopark Sdn. Bhd.



## Best 3 Star Hotel (Sea View)

@ Nadias Hotel Langkawi



## Best Islamic Compliance Hotel

@ Adya Hotel Langkawi



These awards prove that Langkawi is a world-class tourist island that offers a unique and enchanting tourist experience. It is hoped that these awards can inspire industry players in Langkawi to jointly elevate the tourism sector of this legendary island.



A woman wearing a blue swim cap and goggles is looking out at the ocean. She is standing on a rocky shore with waves crashing against the rocks. The image has a halftone texture.

# Second Time's @ Tanjung Rhu Beach, Langkawi THE CHARM



## Langkawi Swimming Festival 2021 by LADA in collaboration with Tough Gorilla Venture

Langkawi Swimming Festival 2021 is a tourism event organised by Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) in collaboration with Tough Gorilla Venture. Tanjung Rhu Beach, Langkawi was chosen as the venue for the event which entered into its second edition. This event enhanced the image of Langkawi as a safe tourist destination as well as being a hub for water sports event organisation.

**YBrs. Tuan Wan Kamarul  
Faisal bin Wan Kamardin**

Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
(Planning & Development Sector) of LADA

The implementation of this event will give a positive indication that the waters of Langkawi are safe and suitable for swimming activities either for sports or family vacations. LADA is confident that such sports activities can attract tourists to continue visiting the island and LADA will continue to implement various activities as a measure to revive sports events in Langkawi.



There are four competing categories in its organisation, namely swimming as far as 2 km (kilometres), 4 km and 8 km as well as swimming events for children at 400 metres. The children's category was introduced to encourage the participation of this group in open water swimming.

A total of 480 participants have registered for this event with two (2) entries from neighbouring countries, namely from Singapore. The event was also attended by two (2) disabled swimmers (OKU) namely Jeff Wong and Faiq Adnan from Selangor.



# Don't Burst the TRAVEL BUBBLE

## Langkawi's Domestic & International Travel Bubble Initiative

International tourism has resumed in Langkawi under the international travel bubble initiative as part of the greater effort to revive the island's ravaged economy brought upon by the Covid-19 pandemic since the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2021.

The travel bubble initiative in Malaysia was conducted in selected destinations that could not meet the demand of the tourism sector. According to Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri, under the travel bubble initiative, Langkawi received a total of 204,953 domestic tourists from the 16<sup>th</sup> of September to the 30<sup>th</sup> of November with a total tourism revenue of more than RM211 million.

While local tourists can freely enter Langkawi, international tourists face much harsher restrictions. It is due to random nature of the pandemic which requires impromptu responses to cope with the spread of the virus and its many variants that a variety of criteria has been imposed with the travel bubble scheme and it is often altered sporadically. Numerous amendments have been made since its inauguration, with the most recent being dictated by the new Omicron variant.

At present, The Langkawi Domestic Travel Bubble pilot project has been considered a success. This is in accordance with a recent survey conducted by Tourism Malaysia involving 1,005 respondents. The

majority of respondents have stated their satisfaction in regards to their visit to Langkawi and also report having high levels of confidence in travelling following the enforcement of standard operating procedures (SOP) to curb the Covid-19 pandemic.

The requirement to get a Covid-19 screening test and complete vaccination have increased visitors' confidence in keeping them safe while travelling. The survey by Tourism Malaysia's Strategic Planning Division was conducted in Langkawi from Sept 30 until Oct 6 this year in conjunction with the reopening of the resort island to domestic tourists from Sept 16.







# The FANTASTIC FOUR

Langkawi's Top 4 Insta-Worthy Hot Spots





Spellbinding and set against a scenic view of gregarious mountains, fantastical formations, wondrous wildlife and teal blue seas, Langkawi is definitely one of the most instagrammable destinations in Malaysia.

Constructed in 2019, Langkawi Geopark Discovery Centre gives local visitors and global tourists a visual display of the fascinating history of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. It is the perfect place for capturing

images of you and your loved ones as well as a great place to capture the rich history of Langkawi and its geopark which dates back 550 million years.

It's geological formation processes, its environmental significance and its rich culture is displayed at the centre via posters, models, dioramas and even a state-of-the-art cinema with a curved movie screen with six projectors showcasing a seven-minute-long movie on the many facets of Langkawi.



## Telaga Tuijuh

Telaga Tuijuh or Seven Wells Waterfalls is as beautiful as it is enchanting. Located on Machinchang Mountain, the seven pools or wells along the waterfalls is how it got its name and it is also said to be the home of fairies. Whether the stories are true, we can't say but it is definitely a magical place surrounded by flora and fauna, crystal clear waters and a view that is need to be captured. If you're looking to recreate a magical photoshoot, or hike or have a swim with breath-taking views then this is the perfect place for you.



# Laman Padi

Another great place for some rustic shots of Malaysia's favourite staple is at Laman Padi Rice & Garden Museum. A vast rice complex, this place consists of rice fields, herb gardens and a museum exhibit that showcases the evolution of rice cultivating and its harvesting process.

@ Pantai Cenang

Coordinate: 6.2985° N, 99.7224° E



# Meritus Pelangi

A great way to immerse yourself in nature and kampung life, this agro tourism escape can be found in Pantai Chenang right across from Meritus Pelangi. With different sections of the complex to explore such as the Heritage Gallery, Paddy Gallery and more, this free tour is best discovered with a guide. Be sure to check out Laman Ria, a Japanese restaurant serving amazing Japanese, Malays, Chinese and even Thai cuisine on the premise as well as Jimmy's Café that serves delicious Asian feasts.



Meritus Pelangi Beach Resort & Spa @ Pantai Cenang

Coordinate: 6.2993° N, 99.7209° E



# Gunung Raya

Finally, the pièce de resistance for a picture-perfect post is Gunung Raya, the highest mountain in Langkawi, Gunung Raya peaks at 881 metres with a dense forest reserve that houses all kinds of flora and fauna.

Getting to the top of Gunung Raya takes about 30 minutes with breath-taking views to accompany you on your journey to the top. The lookout points along the way make for great memories and photos to treasure.

At the peak of the mountain, you will find a gigantic granite formation that offers a spectacular view of Langkawi's lush environs, islets, and the Andaman Sea.

With so much to offer, Langkawi is a must-visit. These four fantastic marvels are just waiting to be captured, so grab your camera and let the adventure begin.

Langkawi's Highest Peak

Coordinate: 6.3689° N, 99.8186° E





## The NEW MANDATE

**YBrs. Tuan Nasaruddin bin Abdul Muttalib**  
The Appointment of Chief Executive Officer

Langkawi Development Authority over the past year has recently welcomed the appointment of its new Chief Executive Officer, YBrs. Tuan Nasaruddin Bin Abdul Muttalib who has reported for duty in Langkawi Development Authority Complex since 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

YBrs. Tuan Nasaruddin Bin Abdul Muttalib shares in his new mandate that the geopark's ongoing success

is the collective result of many people and organisations, especially all those involved directly or indirectly in the island's tourism industry. The list includes airport and airline staff, hotels, F&B outlets, ground transportation personnel, tour operators, NGOs, and a long list of government agencies.

YBrs. Tuan Nasaruddin Bin Abdul Muttalib goes on to add that part of LADA's mission, especially in today's

digital and social media-driven age, is to share and disseminate information about the Geopark, especially in letting people know what a truly priceless ecological wonder Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark is. But even more importantly, it is our need to educate people about the importance and fragility of this ecosystem, and how it is a vital part of an even greater whole: our planet.

Langkawi's continued health and vitality are crucial not only to its people, but to the entire world as well. They are not only part of our heritage, but also that which we inherit so as to pass on to the next generation. In that sense, ours is much more than just an administrative goal. It is a responsibility and an obligation as a steward of this natural endowment, he adds.

In conclusion, YBrs. Tuan Nasaruddin Bin Abdul Muttalib states that LADA will continue to fulfill its primary duty, which is to protect the rich geological and biological habitats and diversity of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, and ensure its preservation.



Naturally  
**LANGKAWI**



**LANGKAWI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LADA)**

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