

### **TABLE OF CONTENT**

### **FOREWORD** 03 05 LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING ------LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK REVALIDATION 2023 ------- 09 110TH IGSC - WORLD CLEAN UP DAY 2023 ------COMPLETED PROJECTS: SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY FOR DAYANG BUNTING -------GEOPARK SISTERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAM: LANGKAWI UGGP VISITS MUROTO UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK -------**GEOPARK EXHIBITIONS:** 29TH INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND (IMT-GT) GROWTH TRIANGLE MINISTERIAL EVENT ----------------------------------**EXPLORING GLOBAL GEOPARKS:** 22 6TH REGIONAL COURSE ON UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK ------



### **FOREWORD**

### DATO' HASLINA BINTI ABDUL HAMID

Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) CEO

77

Welcome to Langkawi and welcome to our beloved UNESCO Global Geopark!

As the first woman to uphold the prestigious position of Chief Executive Officer of the Langkawi Development Authority, I must begin with thanking the unwavering commitment and high standard of excellence set by my predecessor, YBrs. Tuan Nasaruddin Bin Abdul Muttalib.

Under his exceptional leadership and tireless efforts, Langkawi has seen many milestone successes, such as passing 4th re-evaluation processes with the distinction of excellence, whereby we have been awarded the green card status by UNESCO.

This is a testament that the programmes and activities carried out over the years have successfully strengthened the geopark agenda, making Langkawi a magnificent island in the region.

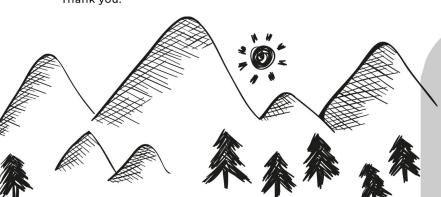
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the dedicated government agencies, Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) personnelles and most of all, the fellow Langkawians for continuously supporting our efforts in preserving Langkawi's beautiful nature and promoting responsible tourism to all the tourists who come to our shores and take in the splendor of the island.

The year 2023 saw a lot of strengthening of relationships with our fellow Global Geoparks neighbors in the region, with sistership exchange programmes and official MOU signings. This is crucial to the success of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, because as we all know 'alone we are strong, but together we are STRONGER'.

As we move forward and implement the goals set forth in our Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Management Plan, I look forward in witnessing the collaborative synergy between the Langkawi UGGp team, tourism players, scientific community and local community; as they continue to elevate the international standing of Langkawi towards beyond excellence.

Enjoy your visit to our beautiful island paradise and discover the natural and enchanting beauty of our UNESCO Global Geopark!

Thank you.





### **FOREWORD**

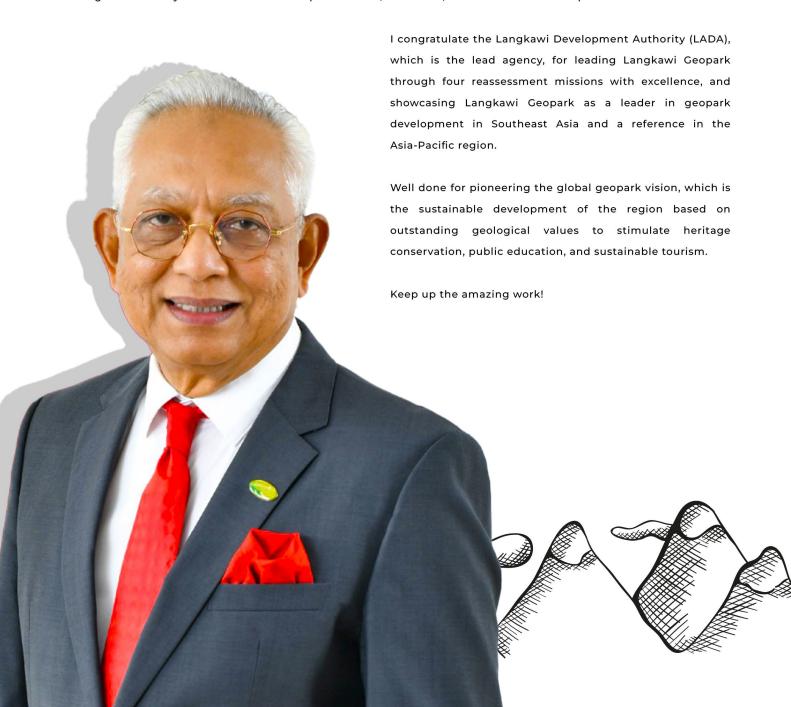
### PROF. EMERITUS DATO' DR IBRAHIM KOMOO

Advisor to Langkawi UGGP

77

It's been a very eventful 2023 for the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark team, the scientific community and the local island community, as the finishing touches were added to present Langkawi island in the best light for the 4th revalidation.

With all the effort put in, I am very proud of all the parties involved in helping Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark achieve yet again another green card status. This gives evidence to the world-wide community that Langkawi is not just an international tourist destination, but a region that has a rich geological heritage of global importance, and is managed holistically based on the vision of preservation, education, and sustainable development.



### **FOREWORD**

### DR AZMIL MUNIF MOHD BUKHARI

Manager of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark

77

Welcome back gazette readers and fellow geoparkians!

The year 2023 was very exciting and enriching experience for locals and visitors alike; from hiking the tops of mountains to diving into the beautiful Andaman Sea, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark held many geo-tourism and geo-education event to celebrate the wondrous beauty of Langkawi.

We also hosted the 6th regional course on UNESCO Global Geopark with the support of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and UNESCO regional offices, and had wonderful sharing sessions and field visits with our Global Geopark friends from Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and even a special guest all the way from Oki Island, Japan.

The highlight of the year will definitely have to be Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark achieving yet another green card status. This was a long road for us and there was quite a bit of work to be done, fortunately many outstanding individuals for various government agencies, the LADA team and of course the local community, pulled all their strengths together to achieve excellence in the international arena. For this I humbly thank everyone involved from the bottom of my heart!

As we move into the 2nd quarter of 2024, I look forward to another year of international Geopark events, engaging with the local community for geo-education programmes and celebrating our 17th anniversary of being a UNESCO Global Geopark.

Thank you for all the support you've shown Langkawi Geopark and we hope to see you around the island!





### MALAYSIAN GEOPARK NETWORK

To understand the Malaysian Geopark Network we must define what it means to be a Geopark. Generally, it is a geographical area where geoheritage sites are part of a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.

This concept remains true as we see evidence of synergy between heritage conservation, economic development and community development across the geoparks throughout the country. There various geopark in Malaysia falls into different levels of the national and international geopark spectrum:

Be it at the national or global level, there must be an active network of communication between all these geoparks to allow for crucial sharing sessions and workshops.

In summary the successful management of a geopark must consist of these four main elements:

#### 1. INTEGRATED CONSERVATION

Where geodiversity, biodiversity and cultural heritage are conserved as a single entity.

#### 2. BALANCING CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Geotourism is actively promoted to ensure sustainable tourism practices at already popular nature-based tourism sites.

#### 3. LOCAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Participation of the local community in geotourism activities, to increase socio-economic development in that community.

#### 4. ACTIVE NETWORKING AMONGST GEOPARKS

This can be achieved through Geopark sistership exchange programs, where knowledge and experiences are shared through workshops and geosite visits.





## UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS





## MALAYSIAN NATIONAL GEOPARKS























### LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

With the 4th revalidation set to take place from June 30th 2023 until July 4th 2023, a meeting with the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Advisory Council was held on June 28th 2023, chaired by the Chief Minister of Kedah, YAB Dato Seri Haji Muhammad Sanusi bin Md Nor.

The meeting was attended by the main parties that will be heavily involved during the 5 days of the revalidation visit, namely:

Global Geopark Network Vice President & Advisor to Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark : Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr Ibrahim Komoo

#### Deputy CEO of LADA:

YBrs. Tuan Haji Ahmad Fuad bin Che Ani & YBrs. Tuan Wan Kamarul Faisal bin Wan Kamardin

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark unit personnelles







Amongst the topics discussed during the meeting included a presentation of a new geotourism product, Tuba Geotourism Trail. From vertical limestone walls to a landscape of granite mountain ridge, this product introduces 5 new geo-trails that encircle the beautiful Tuba Island, allowing visitors to take in the geological wonders scattered throughout Tuba.

The Master Plan of Langkawi UGGp 2023-2027 was presented by Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo, to outline the strategic plan for the Geopark's development over the next few years.

Langkawi's final preparations for the 4th revalidation visit was also shared to shed light on any and all final improvements being made, days before the 30th of June.

## LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK REVALIDATION 2023

As part of a commitment to maintaining the prestigious green card status, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark underwent a revalidation process from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 until 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023. This process was conducted by two esteemed evaluators appointed by UNESCO, Professor Dr. Yuanyuan Zheng (Director of the Chinese Geoparks Network, China) and Dr. Yongmun Jeon, a geologist from Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark, Korea.



Professor Dr. Yuanyuan Zheng and Dr. Yongmun Jeon thoroughly assessed the geological diversity, conservation sustainable efforts, tourism practices, geo-education efforts and community engagement of the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, criterias set forth by UNESCO.







Some of the main showcase during the revalidation process were visits to:

Pulau Tuba as a new geo-tourism product, featuring stunning geological formations, diverse biological ecosystems and thriving local community.

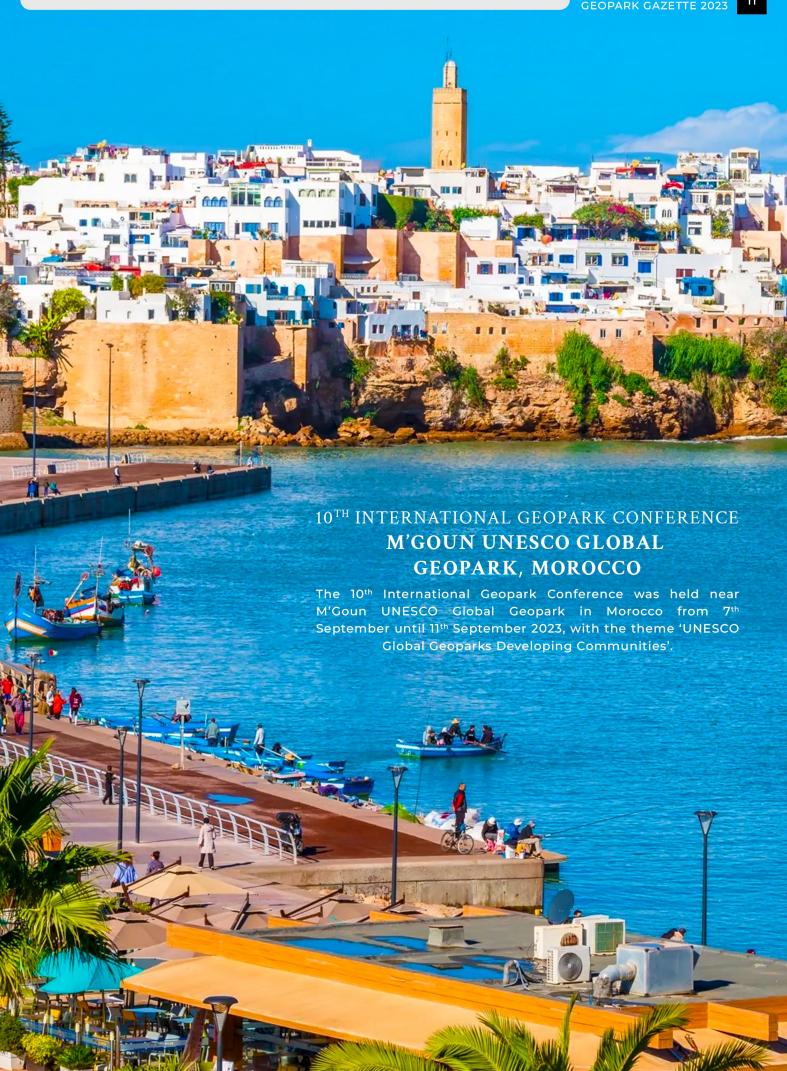
Drive-Thru Recycle Centre (DTRC), a revolutionary initiative to promote recycling and increase efficiency in solid waste management.

Sekolah Kebangsaan Kilim to witness first hand the success of the 'Geopark to School Program'. With cultural performances by students, visit to the Geopark Corner and briefing by the Geopark Junior Guide, this is a testament to Langkawi UGGps dedication to promoting preservation through education.

Kubang Badak Biogeotrail, where the evaluators were able to see engagement from the local community and learn of the socio-economic impacts of Langkawi being a UNESCO Global Geopark.

This revalidation is an opportunity to showcase Langkawi's ongoing commitment to conservation, sustainable development and responsible tourism practices. Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark aims to strengthen its position as a premier global destination for nature enthusiasts, researchers and visitors seeking an unparalleled holiday experience.



















This international conference saw more than 1,000 participants from over 50 countries coming together to meet and exchange knowledge, experience and best practices in managing Geoparks and the preservation of cultural heritage in UNESCO areas.

The main aspect of the conference included a Geopark exhibition and a range of different presentations and workshops on various topics by experts from all over the Global Geopark Network.

However, just as the first day of the conference commenced with a wonderful opening ceremony, Morocco was hit by a 6.8 magnitude earthquake on the second day of the conference, on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The earthquake was a devastating event for the region and local community and the participants' thoughts and prayers were with those families affected by the natural disaster.





The safety of the participants was the top priority for the organizing committee, as they provided great support, including support for finding alternative accommodation. UNESCO Global Geopark has a crucial role in promoting awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis, and many help prepare disaster mitigation strategies among local communities. This event showcased the importance of this role within UNESCO Global Geoparks

Despite the somber atmosphere brought about by the earthquake, the organizing committee managed to hold the closing ceremony and present the official GGN certificates to new and revalidated UNESCO Global Geoparks.

It was at this time that Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark was awarded the green card as the result from the  $4^{th}$  revalidation on  $30^{th}$  June -  $4^{th}$  July 2023.

We are thankful to all the government agencies, the scientific community and fellow Langkawians for all the hard work and dedication in helping to achieve this milestone success.



### 110<sup>TH</sup> IDAMAN GEOSITE CLEANUP **WORLD CLEAN UP DAY**

One of the main challenges in being an island Geopark is the effective methods of waste management. The task of tackling the abundance of single-use plastic that gets scattered and washed up on Langkawi's beautiful sandy shores, is no small feat.

This prompted Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark to host 110 participants from various agencies, NGOs & private companies for the 110th Idaman Geosite Cleanup (IGSC) in conjunction with World Clean Up Day 2023 at Kilim Karst Geoforest Park.

The clean up efforts from the participants garnered 455 kg of plastic waste and marine debris that was sent to the recycling centre, instead of becoming floating rubbish littering the waters of this island paradise.

A special thank you goes out to the UKM team, Puspanita LADA, Langkawi District Office, SW Corp, E-Idaman, Langkawi Forestry Department, Dream Forest (Enfinity) and Koperasi Komuniti Kampung Kilim for all the hard work and sweat poured into making this clean up event a success.

This program aims to preserve and promote the enchanting beauty of Langkawi so that it remains beautiful and comfortable for tourists and local residents alike.







**PROJECTS** 

## Completed

### SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY FOR PULAU TASIK DAYANG BUNTING

Pulau Tasik Dayang Bunting has long been a favorite amongst visitors to Langkawi for her captivating beauty, and mythical tales interwoven into the tapestry of Langkawi's rich cultural heritage.

Since Pulau Tasik Dayang Bunting is located approximately 20 KM from Kuah Town, there's no cost efficient way to permanently supply electricity to the island with underwater electrical cables. This means that electrical equipment are powered by small traditional type generators.

However this has changed, as LADA (through its Technical Division) has installed a 45kVA silent operation genset on the island. The project commenced on 1st November 2023 and was fully completed on 26th December 2023.

The installation of this genset is a necessity as it supplies the main source of electricity on Pulau Tasik Dayang Bunting.

LADA hopes that as a more reliable source of power has been installed, it will be a major step in improving the comfort and safety of visitors to the island.





PROJECT

## Completed

## CONSTRUCTION OF TELUK MEMPELAM JETTY & GUA LANGSIR JETTY

The local residents of Koperasi Komuniti Kampung Kilim and the community in Tanjung Rhu, needed well built jetties to be the touch point for better management of their ecotourism products around the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park. This ecotourism activity is a main source of livelihood for the residents of these local communities.

This warranted LADA to initiate the construction of Teluk Mempelam Tourism Jetty which started on 11th November 2020 and was completed on 27th June 2023, and the Gua Langsir Tourism Jetty which started on 3rd November 2021 and was completed on 30th May 2023.

The handover ceremony for the completion of these jetty projects took place on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at the Amphitheatre, Geopark Discovery Centre. The handover was conducted by Tuan Ir. Mohd. Fisal bin Ismail, Director of JKR State of Kedah, to a representative of LADA namely Tuan Ahmad Fuad bin Che Ani @ Abd Ghani, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Management Sector.

LADA hopes that these tourism jetties will further strengthen Langkawi's position as an ecotourism destination, especially in the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park area, as well as increase the level of safety for tourists and local residents.







### GEOPARK SISTERSHIP MOU SIGNING WITH GUNUNG SEWU UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

A strengthening of relationship took place on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023, as Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark and Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

This milestone event took place in Yogyakarta and commenced with traditional dance performances from three regencies of Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark, followed by a welcome speech from the Foreign Ministry of Indonesia, and a video speech from Prof Emeritus Dato' Dr Ibrahim Komoo, Vice President of Global Geoparks Network.

Event attendees were then treated to a presentation from Dr. Jatmika Setiawan from UPN Veteran Yogyakarta titled 'Geodiversity and Implementation for Geopark and Geotourism'; followed by Ms Nordiana Nordin, Deputy Manager of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark who presented 'Managing Langkawi as Geotourism Destination'.

The last presentation came from Pak Budi Martono, General Manager Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark with the topic of 'Geosites of Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark for Geotourism'.

The highlight of the event is the MoU signing between Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark and Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark. This will kick-start cooperation in enhancing geopark management through the exchange of ideas and best practices of both geoparks, in terms of sustainable tourism, cultural diversity, public education, and research on conservation efforts.







Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark and Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark have had an actively collaborative relationship over the years, and from 8th - 12th May 2023 they participated in a Geopark Sistership Exchange Programme.



This programme, which welcomed representatives from Langkawi Geopark to Muroto Geopark in Japan, is aimed at fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing between these UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Through site visits, workshops, cultural experiences and knowledge-sharing sessions, participants deepened their understanding of the unique geological features and cultural heritage of each Geopark, and exchanged insights on geotourism strategies.

Some highlights of this exchange programme includes:

- Visit to Muroto High School to engage with the students and educators from Muroto Geopark, as a way to promote cultural understanding, share geopark management experiences, and discuss environmental conservation initiatives.
- Geo-cruising experience where participants explored the coastal landscape and geosites of Muroto Geopark with boat tours; offering a unique perspective on the geopark's geological formations, biodiversity and cultural heritage.
- Visiting the iconic Murotozaki Lighthouse to learn about the maritime history of Muroto and take in the magnificent coastal views.
- Visiting Muroto Geosite in Cape Muroto, where with guidance from knowledgeable local guides, participants explored geological formations, exposed strata, and fossil remains, deepening their understanding of the region's geodiversity and geological history.
- Visiting Muroto Global Geopark Centre, where engaging interactive exhibits and presentations on geopark management and sustainable tourism practices, inspired both geoparks to implement similar strategies moving forward.
- Visiting the Whale Museum to learn about the importance of marine life conservation efforts and the rich marine biodiversity in the Muroto region. With interactive installations and educational presentations on whales and their habitats, participants developed a strong sense of responsibility towards marine ecosystem preservation.

By creating lasting friendships and partnerships, the Geopark Sistership Exchange Programme is an excellent collaborative platform to promote environmental conservation, education and community engagement within the Global Geoparks Network.









## Exhibition

### 29<sup>TH</sup> INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THAILAND (IMT-GT) GROWTH TRIANGLE MINISTERIAL EVENT

LADA has once again strengthened its agenda to promote Langkawi Geopark at the international level through the Gebyar Melayu Pesisir Exhibition platform, at the 29<sup>th</sup> Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand (IMT-GT) Growth Triangle Ministerial event.

This exhibition was held from 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Batam Marriott Harbor Bay, Riau Islands, where more than 500 participants attended the meeting and exhibition (including 11 exhibitors from Malaysia, representing 10 states).

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark came ready at the helm to their exhibit with brochure materials, coffee table books, trilobite fossils and of course the obit mascots. Throughout the event were various knowledge-exchange sessions, discussions on the future of the tourism sector and the economic health of each state (Malaysia) and province (Indonesia).



The highlight of this event was the attendance of the Malaysian Minister of Economy, YB Rafizi Ramli. He also took the opportunity to visit the Kedah state booth and dropped by the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark exhibit for a brief explanation about Langkawi Geopark.

It was definitely a rewarding experience and a proud moment for Langkawi UGGp to represent our beloved island home in the international arena.





## Exhibition

### GEOPARK EXHIBITION IN CONJUNCTION WITH LENGGONG GEOPARK SEMINAR 2023



Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark engaged in a knowledge-sharing session with Lenggong Geopark, at a seminar held on 15th September 2023.

As Lenggong Geopark is still aspiring to be recognised at the national level, Geopark rangers from Langkawi UGGp brought over rock samples found throughout the different geosites on Langkawi island.

The aim was to showcase the importance of knowing the unique geological features within the geopark, and how it correlates with the geological, biological and cultural heritage of the area.





## Exhibition

### GEOPARK EXHIBITION IN CONJUNCTION WITH PPD LANGKAWI OPEN DAY



On 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2023, the Langkawi District Education Office held an open day at their grounds, and LADA was invited as one of the exhibitors to share the various geotourism and education programmes promoted by Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark.

This 2-day programme gave the different stakeholders in Langkawi, a chance to highlight their uniqueness, tourism products and share their experience in achieving success. Among the target groups for the exhibitors were government and private agencies, NGOs and the local community.

A total of 14 strategic key players around Langkawi were involved in making the programme a success, and the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark team are proud to have been one of the contributors.







### GUNUNG SEWU UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK & TOBA CALDERA UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

For this year's Global Geopark showcase, we travel to our neighboring country of Indonesia and witness the stunning geological landscapes and rich biodiversity of two of their premier geoparks, Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark and Toba Caldera UNESCO Global Geopark.

#### **GUNUNG SEWU**

Nestled in the heart of Indonesia lies the enchanting Gunung Sewu Geopark, a geological wonder spanning across three districts and three provinces, namely Pacitan District in East Java, Gunung Kidul Regency and Wonogiri Regency in Central Java.

This UNESCO Global Geopark offers a remarkable journey through time, where visitors can witness the enduring legacy of Earth's processes. The expansive network of caves, underground rivers, and lush greenery provides a haven for biodiversity, making it a crucial hub for conservation efforts.

Beyond its geological allure, Gunung Sewu UNESCO Global Geopark is deeply intertwined with the region's cultural heritage, featuring ancient temples, traditional villages, and a rich tapestry of local customs.



### TOBA CALDERA

Located in north Sumatera, Lake Toba sits within the caldera of a supervolcano, which erupted 74,000 years ago forming a massive crater. The lake covers an area of about 1,707 square kilometers, with a maximum depth of 450 meters, making it one of the deepest lakes in the world.

The rock formations found within the lake area consists of meta-sedimentary rocks and the surrounding landscape is characterized by beautiful green hills and mountains, creating a stunning sunrise backdrop that adds to the allure of the lake.

The Batak Toba, Simalungun, Karo and Pakpak ethnic people are the traditional inhabitants of the plains surrounding Lake Toba; their traditions and customs are deeply intertwined with the lake and its surroundings.

Toba Caldera UNESCO Global Geopark offers a unique combination of natural beauty and cultural richness, making it an enchanting and unforgettable journey into the heart of Sumatra.

The geological, biological and cultural significance of these two UNESCO Global Geoparks, serves as a testament to the importance of establishing partnerships and having knowledge-sharing sessions amongst the Global Geopark Network, in hopes of enriching visitor experiences to our breathtaking natural wonders.



# ORKSHOP ON OPPORTUNITIES N MANAGING ISLAND GEOPARK



It was yet another amazing collaborative experience as Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark successfully hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark Conference, with the theme of 'Challenges and Opportunity in Managing Island Geopark'.



The event was held from 21st - 23rd October 2023 at Mercure Hotel Pantai Cenang, and saw over 70 participants from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines in attendance. There were many familiar faces from our sister geoparks and some new ones from neighboring countries.

The knowledge-sharing session consisted of 7 presentations from local experts on various aspects of geopark development, and one expert all the way from Oki Island UNESCO Global Geopark in Japan, presenting on the challenges and opportunities of being an island geopark.

Well deserved awards of appreciation were given by Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark to Prof Emeritus Dato' Dr Ibrahim Komoo (Father of Geopark Development), Prof Emeritus Dr Mohd Shafee'a Leman (Contribution for the Recognition of Langkawi as UNESCO Global Geopark) and Dato' (Dr) Kamarulzaman Abd Ghani (Pioneer for the Establishment of Langkawi Geopark). These three icons really are the true champions for the success of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark.

The highlight of the Regional Course has always been the site visits, and this time participants were brought to several locations such as:

THE LANGKAWI CRAFT COMPLEX

For a taste of cultural immersion and the beautiful tapestry of the island's local heritage

LANGKAWI SKYCAB

To take in the breathtaking view atop Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park

LANGKAWI RESEARCH CENTRE

To learn about the research on the island carried out by the scientific community

KILIM KARST GEOFOREST PARK

To witness the inextricable relationship between Langkawi's geological, biological and cultural heritage

Geopark Discovery Centre

5 For a glimpse into the geological past of Langkawi and how mythical stories were associated with geological activities

The closing ceremony featured the course certificate giving ceremony and as a special treat, the launching of the remarkably produced coffee table book, 'Raja Ampat Geopark: Permata Kars Kepulauan Tropic'.

A heartfelt appreciation goes out to all the participants for attending the 6th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark, see you at the next one!







#### **GEOLOGY FOR**

### NON-GEOLOGIST PROGRAMME

In keeping with Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark's intrinsic core values of networking and community participation, the Langkawi Development Board (LADA) held a knowledge-sharing session called, 'Geology Programme for Non-Geologist', over a span of 3 days, from 11th December 2023 till 13th December 2023.

Almost 30 participants, consisting of LADA staff, Geopark Partners, Geopark Ambassadors and several agencies such as Tourism Malaysia and Langkawi Tourism Academy, took part in this unique educational experience.





The programme commenced with a welcome speech by the Deputy Manager of the Tourism Division, Miss Nordiana Nordin and continued with the sharing of geological knowledge by renowned geologists, Dr Che Aziz Ali and Dr Kamal Roslan Mohamed at the Langkawi Geopark Discovery Center (LGDC).

The 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> December were the highlights of the programme, as participants (along with the expert geologists) engaged in field work around several geosites in the Machinchang Formation, Singa Formation, Chuping Formation and Setul Formation.

This programme serves as an ideal platform to highlight to the general public that geological knowledge is not limited to professional geologists only. It also aims to provide an understanding of an effective method of presenting geological research done by the scientific community and the Langkawi UGCp unit, to the various demographics of society.

'Geology Programme for Non-Geologist', is one of the early initiatives that can help open the minds of Geoparkians towards the geological uniqueness of the island, from a geotourism point of view.



NANGROVE-Ing OUR LIND



With the theme of 'Protecting Nature, Better Future,' the event was officiated by H.E. Fadhlina Sidek, Minister of Education Malaysia and MNCU President. In attendance were representatives from the Ministry of Education Malaysia, Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), educators, students from local schools in and around Langkawi, as well as environmental stakeholders.

The event's primary objective was to enhance public consciousness regarding the pivotal role played by mangrove forests in upholding the sustainability of natural coastal ecosystems. Beyond incorporating educational elements related to mangrove species, the programme aimed to provide insight into activities by expanding knowledge, effective management, and preservation of ecosystems within the designated sites of Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage, and Geoparks.





### MANGROVE-ING OUR LAND EVENT

H.E Fadhlina Sidek also introduced the 'One Student, One Tree' initiative, encouraging the planting of mangrove trees among school children. She advocated for schools to include visits to the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp) site as part of their outdoor learning experiences, thereby empowering both students and educators as Geopark Ambassadors.

The programme also included a visit to the Mangrove Sanctuary, whereby H.E Fadhlina Sidek along with the school children learnt about and planted mangrove seedlings. This is the kickstart to the 'One Student, One Tree' initiative.

Next on the agenda was a visit to Pulau Tuba Public School. The school has been listed as one of the 29 Geopark Schools in Langkawi, with geo-education support and initiatives by Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. The programme creates awareness and encourages students and teachers to become Geopark Ambassadors by managing their own Geopark Corner within the school compound.

Overall, the 'Mangrove-ing Our Land' event not only achieved success in the goal of planting mangrove trees, but also succeeded in building the community's understanding and commitment to the sustainability of the mangrove ecosystem. This achievement is a step forward towards environmental conservation, and shows that community efforts can have a positive impact on the sustainability of the mangrove ecosystem in the area.



### MANAGEMENT PLAN

### LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK 2024 - 2028

For Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark to take a step toward realizing its vision of becoming a leader and reference center for geopark development of global value, various government agencies, key stakeholders, the Langkawi UGGp Unit, experts in the scientific community, the local community and many other parties were crucially involved with coming up with a plan of action.

This led to the formation of the 'Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Management Plan'; the first strategic document to manage Langkawi Geopark based on core values, key components, and focused programmes to ensure Langkawi continues to be a leading and reference geopark in Asia Pacific.



This five-year management plan was developed based on the UNESCO Global Geopark status and guidelines, consultation with all key stakeholders, recommendations in several Langkawi planning and tourism documents, advice from the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), and synthesis by a team of national geopark experts. This plan is an effort towards celebrating the earth's heritage and the well-being of the local community.

This management plan introduces 5 new initiatives, 10 iconic programmes and 33 iconic projects to ensure the development of Langkawi UGGp is in line with the geopark's global vision.



Here is an estimated timeline for the implementation of the 10 iconic programmes throughout the projected 5-year time span.

In the context of governance, this management plan will focus on expanding actions based on co-management concept of Langkawi UGGp that have been established, whilst strengthening the role of the Geopark and Sustainability Section. The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), as the lead agency, will continue its role in making Langkawi Geopark the world's best geotourism destination.

