THE 1st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOHERITAGE
4-7 June 2015, Huanjiang, Guangxi, China

FIRST CIRCULAR

South China Karst (SCK) is a serial world natural heritage site nominated and submitted by Chinese Government to the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO. The Phase I property, inscribed on the World Heritage List on the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee, comprises three internationally acclaimed areas such as Shilin Karst in Yunnan, Libo Karst in Guizhou and Wulong Karst in Chongqing. The additionally nominated sites for the Phase II includes specifically selected areas comprising Guilin Karst in Guangxi, Shibing Karst in Guizhou, Jinfoshan Karst in Chongqing, and Huanjiang Karst in Guangxi, all of which were inscribed in 2014. Fantastic natural conditions of humid subtropical karst together with rich biodiversity make the Huanjiang Karst so vital and active that it has been considered to possess an outstanding universal values from both scientific (geological / geomorphic) and aesthetic points of view. The Huanjiang site is a direct extension of the Libo Karst Property of the SCK Phase I, and displays various types of numerous cone karst (Fengsong and Fenglin) shown by its pristine condition and valued as one of the outstanding representative SCK sites. Contrary to serious rock desertification in other karst parts in China, the geoheritage values of the Huanjiang Karst become more obvious and its management for proper protection becomes necessary and required. Traditional relationship with minority people is an important part of Huanjiang, and the relationship between natural karst and the culture and tradition of minority people have gained growing recognition and respect among local communities. It is believed that the Huanjiang Karst not only belongs to Guangxi and to China, but also to the world. We believe that our responsibility to conserve, educate and utilize this wonderful geoheritage site as well as other geoheritage sites in other protected areas in the world will be thoroughly communicated by this First International Conference on Geoheritage. All the geoheritage experts from all over the world will be welcomed and will share with us the beautiful karst landscape.

Invitation

In order to understand various geoheritage activities in the world, to strengthen geoheritage-related activities in IUCN WCPA, and to promote the geoheritage and cultural values of the Huanjiang Karst site internationally, IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group (GSG), and State Engineering Technology Institute for Karst Desertification Control (SETIKDC) with the cooperative assistance from World Natural Heritage Management Bureau of Huanjiang Maonan Autonomous County and Geographical Society of Guizhou Province will host the 1st International Conference on Geoheritage. The conference will take place in Huanjiang Maonan Autonomous County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, from 4 June to 7 June 2015. The conference comprises
presentation and discussion on geoheritages for two days, one day visit to the Huanjiang Karst Site in SCK Phase II, and one day post-conference fieldtrip to the Guilin Karst Site. This conference is the first international conference, organized by IUCN WCPA GSG, on geoheritage protection, management and sustainable development in protected areas such as world heritage sites, geoparks and other protected areas. It will be a good opportunity to share insights and experiences with colleagues in the area of geological heritage. As a result, the Organizing Committee, on behalf of GSG, and SETIKDC, sincerely would like to invite you, your colleagues and others who have been involved in all aspects of geoheritages to participate in this conference.

**Hosts**

IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group  
State Engineering Technology Institute for Karst Desertification Control

**Organizers**

World Natural Heritage Management Bureau of Huanjiang Maonan Autonomous County  
Geographical Society of Guizhou Province

**Co-organizers**

Conservation and Management Coordination Committee for South China Karst World Natural Heritage  
IAG Redbed and Danxia Geomorphology Working Group  
Institute of Karst Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences  
Institute of South China Karst, Guizhou Normal University  
Committee on Speleology, Geological Society of China  
Institute of Subtropical Agricultural Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

**Organizing Committee**

**Co-Chairs**

Woo, K.S., Chair of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group (GSG), President of International Union of Speleology (IUS), Advisory Committee of Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN), WH, Geopark & Geoheritage Expert, Professor of Department of Geology, Kangwon National University of Korea  
Huang, R.B., General secretary of Huanjiang Maonan Autonomous County Party Committee of CPC, Guangxi, China  
Xiong, K.N., Expert Member of World Heritage Committee of MOHURD, Director of State Engineering Technology Institute for Karst Desertification Control, WH and Karst Expert, Dean and Professor of Institute of South China Karst, Guizhou Normal University of China

**Members**

Al-Aawah, M., Steering Committee of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, Reg delegate of Arabic countries, Earth Science and Ecology Programme Specialist, UNESCO Cairo Office
Anderson, J., Vice Chair of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, Chair of IUCN WCPA Caves and Karst Specialist Group
Boon, J. Steering Committee of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, Reg delegate of Canada, Joggins Fossil Institute, IUCN World Heritage Panel, Canadian National Committee for Geoparks, WH expert
Chen, H., Professor of Institute of South China Karst, Guizhou Normal University
Chen W.H., Director of Committee on Speleology of Geological Society of China, Researcher of Institute of Karst Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences
Chen, W.M., Executive Chair of Conservation Coordination Committee for South China Karst World Natural Heritage, and Deputy Director, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of Guizhou Province,
Crofts, R., Vice Chair of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group
Diaz-Martinez, E., Vice Chair of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, Vice President of ProGEO, President of Spanish Commission on Geoheritage, Researcher of Geological Survey of Spain
Dingwall, P., Vice Chair of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, Consultant on World Heritage
Ge, J.B., Director of World Natural Heritage Management Bureau of Huanjiang Maonan Autonomous County
Gordon, J., Vice Chair of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, Professor of School of Geography & Geosciences, University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK
Hill, W., Secretary General of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, WH and Geopark Expert
Huang, B.F., Governor of Huanjiang Maonan Autonomous County, Guangxi, China
Jiang, Z.C, Deputy Director & researcher of Institute of Karst Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences
Komoo, I., Steering Committee of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, GGN Bureau, Vice Chancellor of University Malaysia Terengganu
Leman, M.S.B., Steering Committee of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, Reg delegate of Asia, Professor in Geology Programme, Faculty of Science and Technology, University Kebangsaan Malaysia, WH and Geopark Expert
Lu, Y.R., Academician of Chinese Engineering Academy, and Honor Chancellor of Guizhou Normal University, Director in General of Geographical Society of Guizhou Province
Peng, H., Chair of Redbed and Danxia Geomorphology Working Group of IAG, Professor of School of Geography and Planning, Sun Yat-sen University of China
Rong, L., Professor of School of Geography and Environment Sciences, Guizhou Normal University
Wang, K.L., Director and researcher, Institute of Subtropical Agricultural Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Wang, M., President of Young Earth Scientist (YES), Geologist in Sedimentary Mines and Basin Analysis, China University of Geosciences, Beijing
Williams, P., Steering Committee of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, Professor Emeritus, School of Environment, Auckland University, New Zealand, WH and Karst Expert
Worboys, G., Steering Committee of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, WCPA Strategic Direction Co-Chair, WCPA Connectivity and Mountains Strategic Direction, WH expert
Xiao, S.Z., Expert Member and Deputy Secretary General of World Heritage Committee of MOHURD of China, Associated professor of Institute of South China Karst, Guizhou Normal University
Ying, B., Associated professor of Institute of South China Karst, Guizhou Normal University
Yuan D.X., Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Researcher of Institute of Karst Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences
Zouros, N., Steering Committee of IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, GGN Bureau
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Specialities</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Tentative title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al-Aawah, M.</td>
<td>Steering Committee of GSG, Reg delegate of Arabic countries</td>
<td>Geoparks</td>
<td>UNESCO Cairo Office, 8 Abdelrahman Fahmey Street, Graden City, Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td>Geoheritage of the Arab region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, J.</td>
<td>Vice Chair of GSG Chair, IUCN WCPA Caves and Karst Specialist Group</td>
<td>Caves and Karst</td>
<td>IUCN WCPA Caves &amp; Karst Specialist Group</td>
<td>Geoheritage values of caves and karst in the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boon, J.</td>
<td>Steering Committee of GSG, Reg delegate of Canada</td>
<td>WH</td>
<td>Joggins Fossil Institute, IUCN World Heritage Panel, Canadian National Committee for Geoparks</td>
<td>World Heritage Site Management and Realizing Benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casadevall, TJ</td>
<td>Scientist Emeritus</td>
<td>Geological heritage, volcanic geology, and geology of mineral deposits</td>
<td>U.S. Geological Survey</td>
<td>The Management of Protected Volcanic Areas in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crofts, R.</td>
<td>Vice Chair of GSG</td>
<td>Geoheritage, management and communication</td>
<td>IUCN WCPA Emeritus, 6 Eskside West, Musselburgh, Scotland, UK EH21 6HZ</td>
<td>Geoheritage values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaz-Martinez, E.</td>
<td>Vice Chair of GSG, Vice President of ProGEO, President of Spanish Commission on Geohitage</td>
<td>Geoheritage, geoconservation</td>
<td>Researcher, Geological Survey of Spain (IGME), Rios Rosas 23, Madrid 28003 Spain</td>
<td>International initiatives towards geoconservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dingwall, P.</td>
<td>Vice Chair of GSG</td>
<td>WH</td>
<td>Consultant on World Heritage</td>
<td>Protection of geoheritage in the World Heritage Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eavis, A.J.</td>
<td>Honorary President of UIS, Chairman of the British Caving Association</td>
<td>Speleology Exploring caves, particularly in the tropics</td>
<td>Tides Reach, Redcliffe Road Hessle, HU13 0HA; and British Caving Association and Hull University</td>
<td>British Chinese Cooperation to explore the wonderful caves of South East Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill, W.</td>
<td>Secretary General of GSG</td>
<td>WH, geoparks</td>
<td>IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group</td>
<td>Global Geopark Application Process and Essentials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray, M.</td>
<td>Steering Committee of GSG, Reg delegate of Europe, Reader Emeritus</td>
<td>Geodiversity and geoconservation</td>
<td>School of Geography, Queen Mary, Univ. of London, Mle End Road, London E1 4NS, UK</td>
<td>Geodiversity as a basis for geoconservation, geoparks and geotourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon, I.</td>
<td>Vice Chair of GSG</td>
<td>Geoheritage</td>
<td>Scottish Geodiversity Forum, School of Geography &amp;</td>
<td>Geoconservation: values, principles and practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Field of Expertise</td>
<td>Involvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jiang, Z.C.</td>
<td>Deputy director and researcher</td>
<td>Karst rocky desertification</td>
<td>Institute of Karst Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Komoo, I.B.</td>
<td>Steering Committee of GSG, Reg. Vice Chancellor</td>
<td>Geopark, Engineering Geology, Environmental Geosciences and Sustainability Science</td>
<td>Vice Chancellor's Office, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu Malaysia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leman, M.S.B.</td>
<td>Steering Committee of GSG, Reg. delegate of Asia, Professor</td>
<td>Geoparks, WH/Paleontology</td>
<td>Geoheritage activities in southeast Asia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lu, Y.R.</td>
<td>Academician of Chinese Engineering Academy Honor Chancellor</td>
<td>Karst and cave Geopark</td>
<td>Institute of Geohydrology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences Guizhou Normal University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peng, H.</td>
<td>Leader and Professor</td>
<td>Redbed and Danxia Geomorphology, WH</td>
<td>Redbed and Danxia Geomorphology working Group of IAG, School of Geography and Planning, Zhongshan University China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semeniuk, V.</td>
<td>Executive Council of Wetland Research Association; Director of V &amp; C Semeniuk Research Group</td>
<td>Inventory based geocarstification using the Geoheritage Tool-kit, Coastal Geoheritage, and Geoheritage policy and legislation; Coastal sedimentology; Wetlands</td>
<td>Wetlands Research Association, 12 Monger St., Perth, WA 6000, Australia; V &amp; C Semeniuk Research Group, 21 Glenmere Rd., Warwick, WA, 6024, Australia The Heritage values of Western Australian tidal flats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spate, A.</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Caves and Karst</td>
<td>Optimal Karst Management Best practice management of show caves.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wang, K.L.</td>
<td>Director and researcher</td>
<td>Karst rocky desertification</td>
<td>Institute of Subtropical Agricultural Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences Technology and demonstration of ecological restoration for the Huanjiang Karst</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Wang, M.</td>
<td>President of Young Earth Scientist (YES)</td>
<td>Geologist in Sedimentary Mines and Basin Analysis</td>
<td>China University of Geosciences, Beijing Silk Road Earth Science Program- Geoheritage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams, P.W.</td>
<td>Steering Committee of GSG</td>
<td>Caves and Karst, WH</td>
<td>Professor Emeritus, School of Environment, Auckland University, New Zealand Outstanding Universal Values of South China Karst</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woo, K.S.</td>
<td>Chair of GSG, Professor</td>
<td>WH, geoparks/ carbonate sedimentology, marine geology, speleology, paleoclimatology</td>
<td>Dept. of Geology, Kangwon National University, Korea President, International Union of Speleology World heritage, global geoparks and other geoheritages in the world: Their relationship with GSG activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worboys, G.</td>
<td>Steering Committee of GSG</td>
<td>Protected area management of geoheritage; WH</td>
<td>WCPA Strategic Direction Co-Chair, WCPA, Connectivity and Mountains Strategic Direction Arkaroola, Australia: From mining lease to geoheritage protected area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiong, K.N</td>
<td>Director and Professor, World Heritage Steering Committee of MOHURD of China</td>
<td>Karst and Caves, WH, Rocky desertification Control</td>
<td>Institute of South China Karst, Guizhou Normal University, State Key Engineering Technology Research Center for Karst Rocky Desertification Rehabilitation of China South China Karst World Heritage and its rocky desertification control</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuan, D.X.</td>
<td>Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences</td>
<td>Karst and caves, Karst rocky desertification</td>
<td>Institute of Karst Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences Development and evolution of the fenglin karst in Guilin area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main Topics

1. Geology and geomorphology of geoheritage site
2. Protection, management, Geotourism and sustainable development of geoheritage site including regional activities in the world
3. Geology, geomorphology of South China Karst World Natural Heritage Sites
4. Protection, management, geotourism and sustainable development of the South China Karst World Natural Heritage Sites
5. Protection and management of caves and karst in the world
6. The environment, rocky desertification and ecological restoration of Huanjiang Karst

Program of Main Conference and Other Activities

08:30–24:00 Wednesday 3 June: Pick up in Guilin Airport or Hechi Airport (via Shanghai) and 328 km or 80 km driving to Huanjiang County respectively, and arrival and registration at Huanjiang Hotel. The full papers in electronic version are encouraged to present at registration.
08:30–12:00 Thursday 4 June: Opening ceremony and oral presentation
14:30–18:00 Thursday 4 June: Oral presentation (with the spouse program to visit the Huanjiang Museum)
08:30–12:00 Friday 5 June: Oral presentation (with the spouse program to visit the minority show)
14:30–18:00 Friday 5 June: Oral presentation
14:30–18:00 Friday 5 June: An official meeting of the IUCN WCPA GSG Steering Committee
19:30–21:30 Friday 5 June: Evaluation for poster presentation
08:30–18:00 Saturday 6 June: Conference Fieldtrip to the Huanjiang Karst World Natural Heritage Site
18:00–21:00 Saturday 6 June: Closing ceremony with Huanjiang Declaration and Poster Awards, and Farewell Banquet and more…

Program of Post-Conference Fieldtrip

08:30–18:00 Sunday 7 June: Post-conference fieldtrip to Guilin Karst World Natural Heritage Site. A boat tour along the Lijiang River from Guilin to Yangshuo will be provided.
08:30–18:00 Monday 8 June: Departure

Presentation of Scientific Communications

Oral presentations will be made by invited experts. Additional oral presentations may be available depending upon availability of presentation schedule. You have to make a special request for an oral presentation. Other participants are encouraged to make poster presentations (up to 3 posters per participant) in English or Chinese only. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations should be submitted to the Organizing Committee together with the Preliminary Registration Form, no later than 1 May 2015. Oral presentation will be allowed for 20-30 minutes depending upon the number of participants. The conference room will be equipped with multimedia beam projector. Space and facility for poster presentation will be provided. The poster size is suggested to be 84cm×119cm. The abstracts and papers for presentations will be printed in both Chinese and English for the
conference. The full papers with oral presentations and poster awards, if the author agrees, will be recommended to *Carsologica Sinica* or *International Journal of Geoheritage* for publication in English or Chinese afterwards.

**Cost and Payment**

The cost will cover registration, meal, accommodation and transportation for the delegates and accompanying persons while they are in Huanjiang and Guilin. It will be possible to register and pay fees on arrival at Huanjiang on 3 June 2015. This fee will also include the hotel on 7 June in Guin.

Participants and accompanying person: US$ 360 per person for the whole conference for 3 days.
US$ 170 per person for one day fieldtrip to Guilin.

Children (under 16 years old): US$ 300 per person for the whole conference for 3 days.
US$ 150 per person for one day fieldtrip to Guilin.

OR

Participants and accompanying person: US$ 120 per person per day.
US$ 170 per person for one day fieldtrip to Guilin.

Children (under 16 years old): US$ 100 per person per day.
US$ 150 per person for one day fieldtrip to Guilin.

**Visa to China**

The organizing committee will send you an official invitation for visa when we get your preliminary registration form, but it would be much easier if you could get a travel visa to China.

**Host County**

Huanjiang with an area of 4572 km\(^2\), is the only county with the Maonan minority in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and even in China. With its countryside communities the Maonan Autonomous County has a population of 378200, in which Maolan, Zhuang, Miao and Yao minority groups are represented with 92.19\% of the total county. Early August weather in the Province is warm to hot. Daily maximum temperatures may range from 24-28°C, falling to 16-19°C at night. Hot days are often humid. There may be thunderstorms or longer spells of frontal rain, but most days should be sunny. Pick-up and shuttle service will be available from the Guilin International Airport or the Hechi Airport nearby (via Shanghai). The Guilin and Hechi airports are about 328 km and 80 km from Huanjiang, respectively.
# PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Name:</th>
<th>Given Name:</th>
<th>Sex:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Preferred Title:**  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Dr.  Prof.  Non  (check one)

**Nationality:**

**Passport No:**

**Date and place of Birth:**

**Affiliation:**

**Full address:**

**Mobile Phone:**

**E-mail:**

(Please check!) I would like to attend the conference______, and also to join the field trip______. I would like to make a poster presentation and will submit an abstract, titled as ____________________________________________________________.

**Notes:** Please type or print clearly; register one delegate per form. Photocopies of this form are acceptable. Send to Dr. Ying Bin, Institute of South China Karst, Guizhou Normal University, 116 Baoshan North Road, Guiyang 550001, Guizhou, P.R.China. Mobile phone:18508501461, E-mail: fighterbin@126.com