



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO
Global
Geoparks



Satun Geopark...the first UNESCO Global Geopark in Thailand

On April 17 2018, Satun Geopark have been officially endorsed by the UNESCO to be the member of UNESCO Global Geopark. It is a very good news for Thailand to receive this honorary status which is in the same level as World Heritage programme. At present, there are 140 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 38 countries including our neighboring countries; Malaysia 1 geopark, Indonesia 4 geoparks and Vietnam 2 geoparks.

Satun Geopark are established from bottom-up approach by Satun people. They have combined conservation with sustainable development while involving their local communities. There are many important geosites in Satun Geopark area such as Stegodon cave, Phu Pha Phet cave, Wang Sai Thong waterfall and Prasat Hin Panyod. In terms of academic supports, there are organisations working together e.g. Department of Mineral Resources, Satun Province and Tourism Authority of Thailand while locals manage their own resources, facilities and tourism.

Tourism in the area of Prasat Hin Panyod is probably the best practice of cooperation between National Park and local communities. Local guides are strongly supported and trained by geopark's partners i.e. Mu Ko Phetra National Park and Satun Community College who inform them of geopark concepts and geological information which now become a strong point and uniqueness of the local guides here.

The outstanding of Satun Geopark : there are fossils recorded continuously through 500 – 250 million years ago. Fossils are rich in number and diversity, they are very much older than the well-known period of dinosaur or Jurassic Period.

Advantages for receiving UNESCO Global Geopark status

Geoparks use their activities to attract a large number of tourists and enable the founding of different manufacturing and utilities that help to improve the social-economic development of the local communities. Geoparks also encourage scientific research, create networks with colleges and other research institutes, and induce communication between geoscientists and local communities.

Will UNESCO Global Geopark status be forever?

Satun Geopark has been granted the UNESCO status for a four year period (2018-2021), after which are-validation process *will* take place.

