

1. Please let me know about activity of your usually.

I am the head of the Earth Science section at UNESCO in Paris, France. I coordinate all of UNESCO's activities in this field including the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), Global earth Observation activities, the Earth Science Education Initiative in Africa and, of course, the Global Geoparks Network.

2. What kind of relation with a geopark do you have?

Before I took up my position in UNESCO, I was the scientific representative of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark in Ireland, vice-coordinator of the European Geoparks Network and a member of the Bureau of the Global Geoparks Network. Now I am the overall coordinator of the Global Geoparks Network. My role is to supervise the reception and processing of new applications, process all evaluation and revalidation missions and to represent UNESCO at major meetings and conferences on Geoparks. I also have the responsibility to steer the Geoparks initiative inside UNESCO. At the moment we are following a strategy to allow for the creation of an official "UNESCO Geoparks Initiative."

3. What is the attractive geopark activity for you?

For me the most attractive aspect of Geoparks is how they communicate the wonders and relevance of Earth Science to the general public. They do this in many topics including in the area of geohazards, which is of special relevance for Japan. Geoparks have a fundamental role to play in areas of high volcanic and earthquake activity to help inform the public about the risks of these hazards and to help local authorities and local communities devise and implement geohazard disaster response strategies.

4. What do you think japanese or global geopark will develop in the future?

I hope that the Global Geoparks Network will continue to grow in both quality and in geographic representation. The bottom-up approach used by Geoparks must be safe-guarded in the future but we need to make sure that we all work together in the network to spread the benefits of Geoparks to those areas of the world currently not represented to any great degree in the GGN. This includes Africa, Latin America and South and South-West Asia. All members of the GGN should explore ways in which they could help build strong, high-quality Geoparks in these areas.

5. What do you expect from the Japanese Geoparks Network Conference 2012?

I would like the JGN, especially those that are members of the GGN, to explore ways of how to strengthen the Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network. It is important that the APGN operate common projects, share experiences etc. in a similar way to the European Geoparks Network. We are network rather than just a list so all Geoparks have a fundamental responsibility to network with other Geoparks. The JGN should discuss how to do this.