

Important role of resident earth scientists in Geopark-In case of Lesvos and San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geoparks collaboration-

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Geoparks is a "bottom-up" or community-led program. Local people approach to recognize geological significance of each Geopark and they conserve and promote geological heritage and regional resources for science, education and tourism etc.

Basically, local people know local culture, traditional custom and human connection in each area but they are not understand scientific significance of their area. The other hand, scientists understand scientific information but they could not understand local culture, traditional custom and so on. So, it is important that resident earth scientists lead each Geoparks and they share knowledge and experience between Geopark networks.

In San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark and Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark, we share knowledge and experience and promote various Geopark activity by each resident earth scientists. Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark and San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark are two Geoparks that share many common features like spectacular volcanic and coastal landscapes, geothermal fields, protected areas, reach biodiversity and endemic species, reach cultural heritage, common approach in geotouristic and educational activities as well as innovative local development initiatives on food and handcrafts. On the 12th of February 2011 they have signed a sistering agreement, aiming to the close collaboration of the two territories in various fields of mutual interest like geotourism, educational programmes and networking.

The geographical distance between them was not an obstacle for fruitful collaboration, Concrete results during the last years shown that there is great potential and opportunities for common activities among Global Geoparks. As a result of the collaboration between Lesvos Global Geopark and San'in Kaigan Global Geopark several visits from both sides have led to the exchange of knowhow and experiences, to a comparative study, collaboration in conferences, capacity building activities and courses, research and educational activities, presentation of Geopark collaboration and preparation for exchange of exhibitions.

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