





14 - 17 JUNE 2018
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre





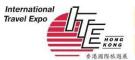


The 13th MICE Travel Expo 第13屆商務會獎旅遊展











International Travel Expo Hong Kong 2018 Post Event Report

About ITE Hong Kong 2018

International Travel Expo (ITE) Hong Kong, the city's only travel fair, highlights in-depth and theme travel to better serve the regional travel trade, high-quality MICE events and FIT travellers. It attracts a wide range of visitors of all ages and from all walks of life, thus generating good results on many fronts for the exhibitors, including the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Supported by the China National Tourism Administration, the Hong Kong Tourism Board, and trade associations in the region, ITE Hong Kong 2018 was held at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. The first two days were open only to the trade and professionals, and the last two days were also open to the public.

Officiated by Mr. Edward Yau, Secretary of Commerce and Economic Development of the Hong Kong SAR Government, Prof. Setsuya Nakada, Elected Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), Dr. Leung Siu-fai, Director of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), ITE Hong Kong 2018 opened on 14 June 2018.



Before the opening, Mrs. Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR Government, sent a Message welcoming all ITE participants.



Message

A warm welcome to the 32nd International Travel Expo Hong Kong and 13th MICE Travel Expo.

For more than three decades now, the International Travel Expo has served as one of the region's leading travel exhibitions, drawing a high percentage of international exhibitors. Last year's event featured some 645 exhibitors from 56 countries and regions, attracting more than 12 300 buyers. In addition, about 90 000 visitors flocked to the event during its two public days.

Highlights this year include first-time exhibitors from Egypt, Fiji, Greece, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Spain and Vietnam, along with such new theme areas as Green Tourism and Gourmet Travels.

Hong Kong, of course, is one of the world's premier travel destinations, welcoming more than 58 million visitors last year. To ensure its continuing success, the Government, last October, launched a Development Blueprint for the Tourism Industry. Among the Blueprint's strategies is to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness as a major MICE tourism destination.

In this regard, the 13th ITE MICE Travel Expo, held alongside the International Travel Expo, is a great help as an annual showcase of Hong Kong's MICE strengths and advantages to the region, and the world.



I wish this year's ITE Hong Kong a great success and its exhibitors and buyers the best of business at the fair.



(Mrs Carrie Lam)
Chief Executive
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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First Exhibition in Asia Featuring UNESCO Global Geoparks

The GGN, Gold partner of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) for the International Year of Sustainable Tourism, continues its global efforts to create new contacts with the International Tourism Market and raise the visibility of the 140 UNESCO Global Geoparks as high-quality, "green" and sustainable tourism destinations!

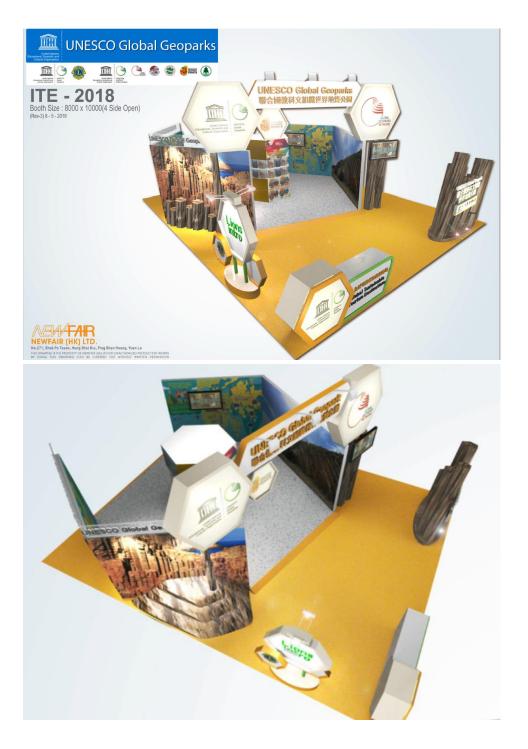
Committed to promoting sustainable tourism, the UNESCO Global Geoparks participated in ITE Hong Kong for the first time, making Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp) an exchange and promotion hub for the Asia Pacific Region this year. HKUGGp, with the strong support of its management authority, the AFCD, our counterparts from Messel Pit World Heritage Site, the GGN, the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN), the Lions Nature Education Foundation and the L'Hotel Management Company Limited, took the lead in organising the event and co-ordinating the participation of geoparks in the region.



ITE Hong Kong, an annual exhibition now in its 32nd edition, is well-known for attracting international exhibitors, the regional travel trade, and visitors with high spending power. The fair was held from 14 to 17 June at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. The UNESCO Global Geopark brand was recognized as one of the highlights of the travel fair this year. It successfully attracted over 12,460 visitors from the travel sector and the region during the two trade days and 90,055 visitors during the two public days.

Exhibition Design and Content

The UNESCO Global Geopark pavilion showcased all the 140 UNESCO Global Geoparks and the regional geopark networks. Thirteen new UNESCO Global Geoparks, located in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America, were also highlighted at the exhibition.















Our Supporters and Partners

ITE Hong Kong was supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Macao Government Tourism Office, the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, MICE and trade associations, and others.

Regarding the UNESCO Global Geopark pavilion, representatives from the GGN, the APGN, the European Geoparks Network (EGN), the Chinese Geoparks Network (CGN), the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) and the Hong Kong Geopark team were stationed at the Expo, where they effectively promoted the UNESCO Global Geopark brand, as well as the visitor services the various geoparks offer.

In addition to these parties, our media, trade and geopark partners shared their insights and support with ITE Hong Kong visitors, which contributed to making ITE Hong Kong the first and one of the most influential platforms for promoting UNESCO Global Geoparks in Asia.

Here is what some of our supporters and partners said:



"Hong Kong is one of the world's favourite tourist destinations. I am so happy to see Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark represented here. I understand this year the exhibition has a record 670 exhibitors from 55 countries, as well as 180 MICE trade participants. This is the result of the combined efforts of many people in the trade from cities and countries around the world."

Mr. Edward Yau, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

"A warm welcome from ITE Hong Kong, the city's travel fair, to UNESCO Global Geoparks, which are closely related to the travel themes of Adventure and Travel Photography, both of which are popular with our fair visitors, so their presence this year is timely."

Mr. KS Tong, organiser of ITE Hong Kong





"A UNESCO Global Geopark is a prestigious designation at the same level as a World Heritage Site or a Biosphere Reserve. This comparatively new brand promises visibility and a stamp of quality. I look forward to the successful participation of UNESCO Global Geoparks in ITE 2018 Hong Kong for the first time in Asia.

Professor Patrick Mckeever, Head of the UNESCO Global Geopark programme

"UNESCO Global Geoparks use geological heritage, in connection with other aspects of an area's natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society in the context of the dynamic planet we all share and depend on. We are excited to promote our 140 members from 38 countries as sustainable tourist destinations at ITE 2018 Hong Kong."

Professor Nickolas Zouros, President of the Global Geoparks Network





'Since the establishment of the first batch of eight global geoparks from China in 2004, the country's geoparks have undergone robust development. At present, there are 37 UNESCO Global Geoparks in China. The 2018 International Tourism Expo in Hong Kong is a very good publicity platform, allowing the worldwide promotion of the UNESCO Global Geopark brand, together with diverse geological beautiful heritage, landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and delightful ecological environment of our geoparks. We are very pleased to see the active participation of **UNESCO** Global Geoparks in this event and look forward to the success of this travel expo."

Professor Jin Xiao-chi, Vice President of the Global Geoparks Network

"Geoparks and related activities are very popular in Japan and in some other countries in Asia. We look forward to promoting our geoparks and related activities as sustainable tourism destinations through ITE 2018 Hong Kong."

Toru Yoneda, President of the Japanese Geoparks Network





"On behalf of the European Geoparks Network (EGN), it is a pleasure to support your great work for UNESCO Global Geoparks and sustainable tourism during the important ITE tourism fair in Hong Kong in June 2018. Promoting the network, UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Asia Pacific Geoparks at an important venue like ITE 2018 is a great opportunity for us all. We wish you great success, and are sure that the geoparks will achieve huge results during and after the fair."

Dr Kristin Rangnes, Coordinator of the EGN

"The Latin America Geoparks Network (LAGN) is the newest UNESCO Global Geoparks network. It includes Araripe, in Brazil, Grutas del Palacio, in Uruguay, and Mizteca Alta and Comarca Minera, in México. We are proud of our natural and cultural heritage and keen to developing sustainable tourism. Our participation in ITE 2018 Hong Kong will contribute tremendously to our global visibility."



Dr. Chulepin Helga, from the LAGN

Visitor Profile

ITE Hong Kong 2018 drew 12,460 visitors on the two trade days, up 1.2 percent, from Hong Kong and neighbouring markets.

Geographically, 9,083 (72.9%) visitors were from Hong Kong, 2,654 (21.3%) were from mainland China, and 723 (5.8%) were from abroad. By sector, 9,893 (79.4%) were from the travel trade, including the press, and 2,567 (20.6%) were from MICE-related organisations and corporations.

There were 90,055 public visitors, up 0.3 percent, of whom around 84% prefer traveling in FIT or private tours. They are well educated, with 42% having a university education and 32% post-secondary education. Only 2.5% had not taken an overnight holiday in the past year, while 13.3% had six or more, and 44.4% had 3 to 5 holidays. They are frequent travellers, and in effect the ITE public days constitute a FIT travel expo.

No. of trade / corporate visitors in trade days (14-15 Jun)

By business sectors	Numbers	
Travel trade (include press)	9893 (79.4%)	
Corporate visitors	2567(20.6%)	
By geography		
Hong Kong	9093 (72.9%)	
China	2654 (21.3%)	
Abroad	723 (5.8%)	
Total	12460	

About the Exhibitors and Themes

This year, ITE Hong Kong featured around 666 exhibitors, up 3.2%, including the UNESCO Global Geoparks pavilion. Of these, 87% were from abroad, from 52 participating countries and regions, with around half from outside Asia. Some 187 exhibitors targeted MICE business, and there were at least 27 official pavilions or stands organized by tourism bureaus or related authorities, including the first-ever UNESCO Global Geoparks pavilion. The event therefore served as the ideal platform to promote the UNESCO Global Geopark brand, as well as its in-depth, geopark-themed travel products, not only to the tourism sector and the public, but also to other exhibitors.

List of Participating Countries / Regions

Argentina*	Croatia	Iceland	Laos	Nepal	Switzerland*	USA(The
	(Zagreb*)					Marianas*)
Armenia	Egypt*	India	Macao*	Pakistan	Taiwan*	Uzbekistan
Australia	Fiji*	Indonesia*	Malaysia	Russia	Taiwan	Vietnam
			(Sabah*)	(Saint	(Taitung*)	
				Petersburg		
				*)		
Bhutan	Finland	Iran	Malaysia	South	Tajikistan	Vietnam
			(Selangor*)	Korea*		(Danang)
Cambodia*	France*	Italy	Maldives	Singapore	Thailand*	
Canada	Georgia	Japan*	Mexico*	South	Turkey*	
				Africa		
China*	Greece*	Kazakhstan*	Mongolia*	Spain	Turkmenistan	
				(Catalonia		
				*)		
Croatia	Hong	Kyrgyzstan	Myanmar	Sri Lanka	United	
	Kong*					

Notes:

- -Each of the above may include official pavilion (*), stand or only individual exhibitor
- -Some destinations may appear twice if there are separate official pavilions / stands

Seminars and Programmes

ITE functions like a marketplace, with visitors walking from booth to booth introducing themselves in stands with interesting travel products that suit their business and are potential partners. Exhibitors also have thee opportunity to take part in functions such as forums, targeting both the trade and the public.

For instance, Hong Kong Geopark staged an international forum titled "UNESCO Global Geoparks – Sustainable Tourism Destinations" on 14 June, a trade day, and a public seminar on 16 June.



Prof. Setsuya Nakada, Elected Chair of the Advisory Committee of the GGN, Dr. Marie L. Frey, member of the GGN Executive Board and Managing Director of the Messel Pit World Heritage Site, Dr. Wang Lulin, of Arxan UNESCO Global Geopark, Ms. Kana Furusawa, Vice Secretary General of the JGN, and other geopark managers from Japan and China delivered talks on UNESCO Global Geoparks and promoted them as green, sustainable tourism destinations.





The forum and public seminar attracted ~ 400 audience, including ~30 Recommended Geopark Guides, ~50 representatives from geopark partners and ~320 from the general public. The HKUGGp team and their colleagues from Arxan, Yanqing, Bergstrasse-Odenwald, Oki and Izu UNESCO Global Geoparks served throughout the entire expo. This allowed geopark managers and partners to communicate directly and exchange best practices with visitors, media representatives and tour operators.



ITE Hong Kong - Event Programme

14.6.2018 (Thu)				
09:30 - 11:00	Registration			
09:45 - 10:30	Tea Reception and Cultural Performance			
10:30 – 11:00	Opening Ceremony – Pro. Setsuya Nakada and the Director of the AFCD			
11:00 – 11:15	VIP Tour			
10:00 - 18:00	Exhibition booths open for trade visitors			
14:30 – 17:30	Trade Forum / Seminar			
	UNESCO Global Geoparks - Sustainable Tourism Destinations			
14:30 – 15:00	Prof. Setsuya Nakada, Elected Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee			
	UNESCO Global Geoparks – Sustainable Tourism Destinations			
15:00 – 15:30	Dr. Marie Luise FREY			
	Managing Director of Messel Pit UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site,			
	Germany			
	UNESCO – Global Geoparks Network & World Heritage Sites &			
	Geoparks: Geotourism & Sustainable Development			
15:30 – 15:40	Break			
16:10 – 16:40	Dr. WANG Lulin, Arxan UNESCO Global Geoparks, China			
	Chinese UNESCO Global Geoparks - Sustainable Tourism Destinations			
16:40 – 17:10	Ms. Kana FURUSAWA			

	Vice Secretary General of the JGN			
	Geoparks in Japan			
17:10 – 17:30	Discussion Session			
15.6.2018 (Fri)				
09:45 - 17:30	Registration for the press, buyers, and trade and corporate visitors			
10:00 - 18:00	Hall opens for all trade visitors			
11:00 – 17:30	Themed Travel Series Seminars			
16-17.6.2018 (Sat-Sun)				
09:00 - 19:00	Hall opens for exhibitors			
10:00 - 19:00	Hall opens for all public and trade visitors			
11:00 – 19:00	Travel Seminars by exhibitors, travel writers and celebrities			
16.6.2018	Where Dinosaurs Walked About – Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark –			
12:30-13:00	by Mr. ZENG Guang-ge			
11:00 – 18:30	Cultural Performance			

Press Coverage

ITE Hong Kong was publicized in the GGN newsfeed and on a considerable number of social media platforms, creating a wide marketing impact. On top of the 100,000 visitors, it is believed that ITE Hong Kong reached a local and global audience of over 500 thousands individuals via both print and digital media.

By attaining mass global recognition, this first ever regional trade show effectively promoted the 140 UNESCO Global Geoparks as world-class, green, sustainable tourism destinations and helped bring the momentum from ITB Berlin 2018 to the Asia Pacific Region.

Please see attached some of the media reports on the Expo. [http://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/ITE-2018-HK-Newscoverage-red.pdf]

Next ITE Hong Kong

The next ITE Hong Kong will be held from 13 to 16 June 2019 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. For further information on ITE Hong Kong 2018, please visit: https://www.travelexpo.com.hk



United Nations • Educational, Scientific and • Cultural Organization •



Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark