

SECOND CIRCULAR

The 9th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Symposium 2026

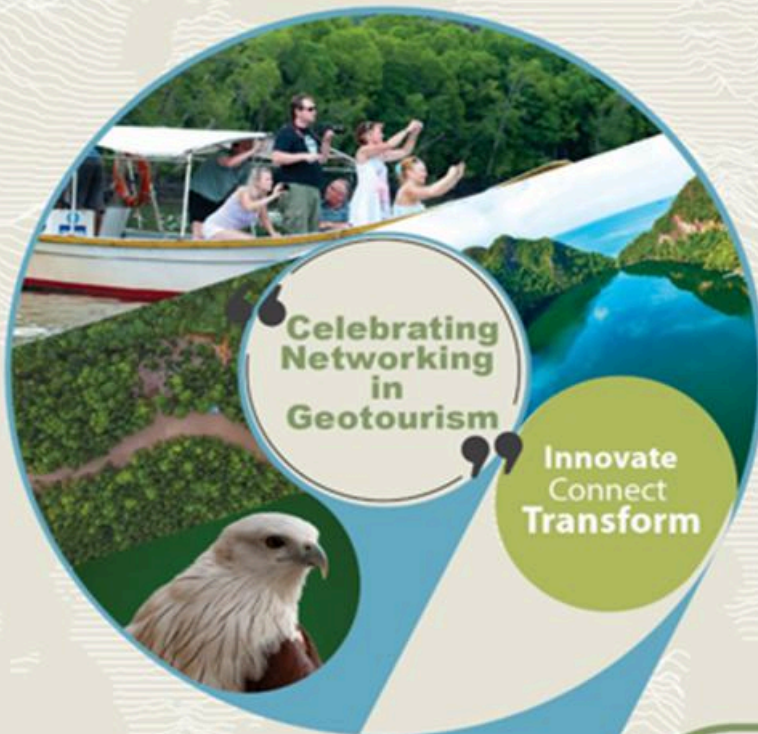


LANGKAWI
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PPG
PUSAT PENYELIDIKAN GEOTAWAN

Naturally
Langkawi

Experience
KEDAH



Date :
7-10
September 2026

Venue :
LICC Hall,
Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Malaysia

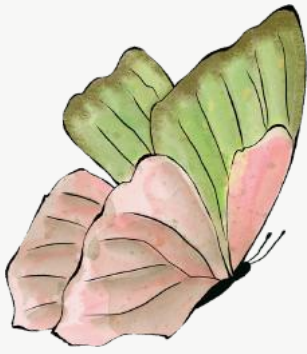
For more Info:-
<https://apgn2026.lada.gov.my/>

The 9th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Symposium 2026

Celebrating Networking in Geotourism

7-10 SEPTEMBER 2026





Welcome Remarks

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, warmly welcome you to the 9th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Symposium 2026.

Guided by the theme “Celebrating Networking in Geotourism: Innovate – Connect – Transform,” this symposium brings together the geopark community to strengthen collaboration, share knowledge, and shape a more sustainable future. In a rapidly changing world, geoparks play a vital role in connecting people, nature, and heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

We look forward to welcoming you to Langkawi—where landscapes tell stories, and partnerships create lasting impact.
See you in September 2026.



Introduction

The Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN), in collaboration with Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, is to please host the 9th APGN Symposium 2026, after a long gap from the inaugural symposium in 2007, to be back in the oldest continent in the region, Langkawi , Malaysia.

The symposium will bring together geopark managers, researchers, policymakers, educators, tourism practitioners, and industry partners from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond to exchange knowledge, share best practices, strengthen networks, and shape the future of sustainable geotourism.

Theme of the Symposium

Celebrating Networking in Geotourism

The theme highlights the importance of collaboration among geoparks in driving innovation, strengthening partnerships, and creating transformative impacts for sustainable development.

Theme pillars:

- Innovate – Exploring new ideas and approaches in geotourism and geopark management
- Connect – Strengthening cooperation among geoparks, communities, and partners
- Transform – Turning shared knowledge into meaningful actions



Symposium Venue

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark is Malaysia's first UNESCO Global Geopark, recognised in 2007. It is internationally known for its outstanding geological heritage dating back to the Cambrian period, rich biodiversity, and strong integration of culture, legends, and community participation.

The symposium will be held at the **Langkawi International Convention Centre (LICC)**, located within Kuah Town, offering world-class conference facilities and convenient access to accommodation and main town of Langkawi Island.



Programme Highlights

1. **Plenary Sessions** with renowned speakers
2. **Poster Presentations** showcasing research and best practices
3. **Thematic Workshops:** GGN Working Groups and communities
4. **Geopark Fair:** Explore diverse exhibits showcasing the latest innovations, research, and success stories from geoparks worldwide, along with displays of cultural heritage and local crafts.
5. **Field Trips:** exploring Langkawi's diverse geosites, including Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Conservation Area and Kilim Karst Geoforest Conservation Area and Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Conservation Area.
6. **Networking Events:** Build meaningful connections with participants from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, including geopark managers, researchers, educators, and industry partners, fostering collaborations and exchanging best practices



THE 9TH ASIA PACIFIC GEOPARKS NETWORK (APGN) SYMPOSIUM 2026

7th – 10th SEPTEMBER 2026

LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK



Date / Time	Morning Session 0900 – 1000	1000 – 1030	Mid-Morning Session 1030 – 1300	1300 – 1400	Afternoon Session 1400 – 1530	1530 – 1600	Evening Session 1600 – 1700	1900 - 2100
5/9/2026 (Saturday)	GGN Executive Board Meeting APGN AC Meeting	Tea Break	GGN Executive Board Meeting APGN AC Meeting	Lunch	GGN Executive Board Meeting APGN CC Meeting and Election	Tea Break	GGN Executive Board Meeting APGN CC Meeting and Election	
6/9/2026 (Sunday)								Ice Breaking Party
APGN2026 REGISTRATION / GEOPARK FAIR BOOTH PREPARATION								
GEOPARK FAIR EXHIBITION								
7/9/2026 (Monday)	Opening & Keynote 1 Keynote 2 & Session 3	Tea Break & Networking	Session 1 Session 4	Lunch & Networking	Session 2 Session 5	Tea Break & Networking	Geopark Fair Opening Poster Session Working Group Workshop	Opening Dinner Free & Easy
8/9/2026 (Tuesday)								
GEOPARK FAIR EXHIBITION								
9/9/2026 (Wednesday)			Mid-Symposium Fieldtrip					Free & Easy
10/9/2026 (Thursday)	Keynote 3 & Session 6	Tea Break	Session 7	Lunch	Session 8	Tea Break	Closing Ceremony & Farewell	Free & Easy
GEOPARK FAIR EXHIBITION								
DISMANTLE BOOTH								

Call for Abstracts

Participants are invited to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentations using the official template.

Submissions should be uploaded to apgn2026.lada.gov.my/#abstract

Topics of Interest

1. Heritage Conservation

Exploring strategies to preserve geological and cultural heritage for sustainability and future generations.

- Geoheritage Conservation
- Integrated Heritage Conservation

2. Geotourism and Public Education

Highlighting innovative geotourism experiences and educational approaches that promote awareness while protecting heritage values.

- Community Empowerment
- Innovation in Geotourism Products
- Education for the Future

3. Social and Community Development

Promoting inclusive development that empowers local communities and supports sustainable socio-economic growth.

- Social and Private Enterprises
- Geopark Gastronomy
- Women, Youths and Indigenous Peoples

4. Aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks (aUGGp)

Sharing experiences, best practices, and development pathways toward UNESCO Global Geopark designation.

- Preparation and Development
- Geological Heritage of International Value

5. Geopark Governance and Management

Discussing effective governance, partnerships, and management practices to strengthen geopark visibility and collaboration.

- Innovative Management
- Networking and Outreach
- Best Practices

6. Special Topics on Geoparks

Addressing emerging issues such as climate change, natural hazards, peacebuilding, and sustainable regional development.

- Hazard and Climate Change
- Regional Sustainable Development
- Peacebuilding and Strong Partnerships through Geoparks



Registration Fees

APGN MEMBER			MALAYSIAN	NON-APGN MEMBER	STUDENT	BOOTH GEOPARK FAIR
Early	Regular	Late			1 Feb. - 31 Aug. 2026	
1 Feb. - 31 Mar. 2026	1 Apr.- 31 Jul. 2026	1 Aug. - 31 Aug. 2026	1 Feb. - 30 Jun. 2026	1 Feb. - 31 Aug. 2026	€200 (Int.Student)	1 Feb. - 31 Aug. 2026
€450 RM2000	€500 RM2,500	€550 RM3,000	RM2,000	€550 RM3,000	RM750 (Msian Student)	€750 RM3,750

The registration fee covers participation in the official APGN2026 programme, including:

- Ice-breaking Event on 6 September 2026
- The Symposium Sessions from 7–10 September 2026
- Opening Dinner on 7 September 2026
- Mid-Symposium Field Trip on 9 September 2026
- Closing Ceremony on 10 September 2026

Important Dates

Important Dates for Registration:

1. Early Bird Registration: 1 February–31 March 2026
2. Regular Registration: 1 April–31 July 2026
3. Late Registration: 1 August–31 August 2026

Important Dates for Abstract Submission:

1. Call for Abstract Opens: 15 February–15 June 2026
2. Notification of Acceptance: 30 July 2026*
3. Final Abstract Confirmation: 15 August 2026

*Condition of Abstract Acceptance:

It is a pre-requisite of the acceptance of the abstract that the submitter must register to attend the 9th APGN2026 in person (physical attendance).

Abstracts submitted before payment of registration are eligible for an offer of acceptance. However, final acceptance requires registration with **full payment by 15th August 2026 at 5pm (MYT)**.

Mid-Symposium Field Trip Options

9 September 2026

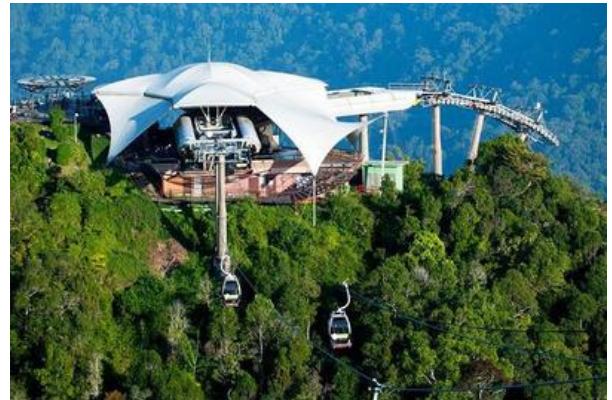
(Estimated duration: 7-8 hours per trip)

Participants may join selected geopark field trips showcasing Langkawi's geological, natural, and cultural heritage.

Important note: Each field trip has a limited quota and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to availability.

1. Machinchang Mountains Trail

Explore one of Southeast Asia's oldest rock formations, showcasing Cambrian sandstones, sedimentary structures, and fossils that reveal Langkawi's geological history.



2. Kilim Mangrove Trail

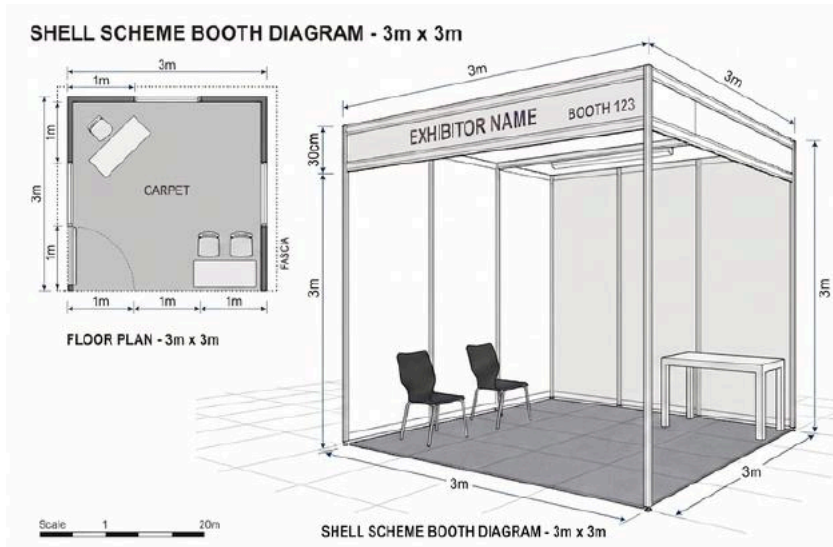
Experience a tropical karst landscape featuring limestone cliffs, caves, mangroves, and fossil-bearing limestone. The trip highlights karst geomorphology, sea-level change, and community-based geotourism.

3. Dayang Bunting Islands Trail

Visit Dayang Bunting Island to observe limestone and marble karst features, collapsed dolines, and tectonic influences, combined with local legends and geopark interpretation.



Geopark Fair Booth



Each booth will get:

- 1 table, 2 chairs
- Booth name
- Power socket

APGN2026 Venue Layout



Travel to Langkawi

Langkawi is well connected by air and sea, making it easily accessible for regional and international delegates.

Langkawi International Airport (LGK) serves as the main entry point to the island.

By Flight

Direct international flights to Langkawi include:

- Singapore (SIN)
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan (TAS)
- Bangalore, India (BLR)

In addition, Langkawi is well connected via frequent domestic flights from major Malaysian cities such as:

- Kuala Lumpur (KLIA & Subang) (KUL)
- Penang (PEN)
- Johor Bahru (JHB)

Delegates may also transit through Kuala Lumpur or Singapore for onward connections to Langkawi.

By Ferry

Ferry services provide a scenic and convenient alternative route to Langkawi.

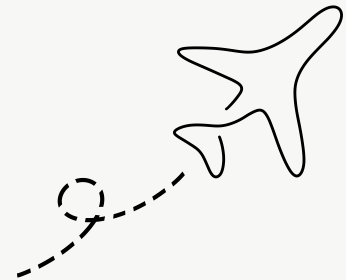
Domestic ferry routes:

- Kuala Kedah → Langkawi
- Kuala Perlis → Langkawi

International ferry route:

- Tammalang Jetty, Satun, Thailand → Langkawi

This international sea connection offers easy access for participants travelling from southern Thailand and neighbouring regions.



Weather in Langkawi in September

Expect tropical island climate during the symposium month:

- Average temp: around 27–31 °C (warm)
- Rain: frequent showers possible; short rain bursts typical of equatorial weather
- Humid, with dynamic sea breezes from the Andaman Sea

Tips for delegates: Lightweight rain gear, sunscreen, comfortable outdoor shoes, and refillable water bottles are recommended.

Immigration & Visa Information

Entry into Malaysia

All international delegates travelling to Langkawi must:

- Hold a valid passport with at least 6 months validity
- Comply with Malaysian immigration, customs, and health regulations

Malaysia Arrival Card (MDAC) – Mandatory

All overseas travellers entering Malaysia are required to complete the Malaysia Digital Arrival Card (MDAC) before arrival.

Key points:

- MDAC must be submitted online within 3 days prior to arrival
- Applies to all foreign passport holders, including those who are visa-exempt
- Travellers will need to present MDAC confirmation during immigration clearance

Delegates are strongly advised to complete the MDAC early to ensure a smooth entry process.

Visa Requirements

- Citizens of many countries are visa-exempt for short stays in Malaysia
- Some nationalities are required to obtain a tourist or social visit visa prior to travel

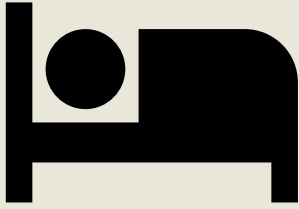
Participants should:

- Check the latest visa requirements with the nearest Malaysian Embassy or High Commission
- Ensure visa approval is obtained before departure, where applicable

Important Reminder

Immigration requirements are subject to change. Delegates are advised to regularly check official Malaysian immigration announcements prior to travel.





Accommodation

Here are several friendly accommodation options with approximate price range and proximity to the venue:

Luxury

- The Westin Langkawi Resort & Spa – premium 5★ resort with beachside amenities; close to LICC
- The St. Regis Langkawi – ultra-luxury resort with private beach and wellness facilities; close to LICC

Mid-Range

- Bayview Hotel Langkawi – centrally located in Kuah with good value accommodation
- Ramada by Wyndham Langkawi Marina – comfortable mid-range hotel near the waterfront
- Adya Hotel Kuah Langkawi – modern stay with convenient access to Kuah town
- Dayang Bay Resort Langkawi – family-friendly resort with spacious rooms and sea views

Budget / Comfort

- Bella Vista Waterfront Langkawi
- De Baron Resort Langkawi
- HIG Hotel Langkawi
- Langkawi Seaview Hotel
- Goldsands Hotel Langkawi
- We Hotel Langkawi
- Signature by The Concept

There are also many other accommodations surrounding Kuah Town, including hotels, boutique stays, apartments, guesthouses, and homestays with a wide range of prices to suit different preferences and budgets.

Note: Kuah Town is approximately 10–15 minutes by car from Langkawi International Convention Centre (LICC).

To move around Langkawi, participants may use taxi or e-hailing services or rent a self-drive car for easier and more flexible transportation around the island.

Registration

All participants are invited to register for the APGN2026 via the official registration portal:

Website: <https://apgn2026.lada.gov.my>

Participants are required to select the following during registration:

- Mid-field trip option
- Official events

Payment Method:

Malaysian Participants

- Debit/Credit Card
- Local Order (LO) / ePerolehan (eP)

International Participants

- Credit Card
- Telegraphic Transfer (TT)

For payments via Telegraphic Transfer (TT), the Secretariat will issue and email a quotation, along with bank details, upon successful registration.

Secretariat and Contact

Join us in Langkawi—where innovation meets heritage, and networking drives transformation.

Email: geopark@lada.gov.my

Phone: +604-960 0600

Website: www.langkawigeopark.com.my

