

FOREWORD

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ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Langkawi Development Authority (LADA)

In 2015, Langkawi was awarded a four years extension as a UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) up till year 2019. In preparation for the next revalidation exercise Langkawi UGGp is geared up to ratify all recommendations proposed by the UNESCO Global Geopark Council (UGGpC). On top of this, after 12 years, Langkawi UGGp has become a matured geopark, hence it faces mounting task in order to ascertain that the strong wave of developments in the island are compliant to the guidelines drawn by the UNESCO Geosciences and Geopark Programme (UGGP).

In the last few years, Langkawi has adopted careful approaches in all of its new developments in ensuring its economic goal is achieved without compromising on its priceless sustainable development goal. Only in this way will Langkawi become a better sustainable territory if not the best geopark territory in the world. Year 2018 was a hectic year for Langkawi UGGp and LADA with numerous annual events being organised.

For this year, a special roadshow has been organized involving various stakeholders of Langkawi UGGp, reminding everyone about the importance of maintaining the geopark status and how their geopark branding can be beneficial not only themselves but also to the whole community and their living environment.

New partners and ambassadors were appointed and new programmes were planned and executed. Among the most notable event is the hosting of the first ever PATA Travel Mart in Langkawi, the second in Malaysia after Kuala Lumpur hosted this event 13 years ago. Other annual events that have been successfully organized include the Regional Geopark Course, MTCP, IMT-GT dialogue, LIMA, Iron Man of Langkawi, Le Tour de Langkawi, Royal Langkawi International Regatta, to name a few.



Beside all these mega international events, Langkawi UGGp and its various partners and ambassadors have successfully organized countless numbers of local scale but highly crucial events for as far as geopark sustainability is concerned. These include exhibition & expo, site conservation, environmental awareness, sports, education, community participation, capacity building and networking.

LADA and Langkawi UGGp are much indebted to every individuals and institutions that have given their full supports and commitments in ensuring all events being successfully executed and keeping Langkawi the best ever place to live. Langkawi UGGp and LADA need continuous supports from all stakeholders in protecting Langkawi's priceless natural heritage that we all borrow from our future descendant.



MESSAGE

Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo

ADVISOR of LANGKAWI UGGp

VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK ASSOCIATION (GGN)

Heartiest congratulation to the Geopark Division of LADA for the highly successful execution of all activities and projects planned for the year 2018. There were big number of surplus activities conducted compared to what were originally planned at the beginning of the year. Most of these projects and activities were dedicated to enhance and continuously support Langkawi UGGp's ambassadors and partners programs which has become new phenomena or character of the geopark. Special congratulation for the appointment of new ambassadors and partners and for the inauguration of the new Junior Geopark Guide Program.

Through special roadshow conducted throughout this year, all stakeholders of Langkawi UGGp are now well aware and ever ready for the big year 2019 when Langkawi will undergo its 3rd UGGp revalidation exercise. This is a very important event, not just to achieve another 'green card', but

equally significance is to take stock on Langkawi's achievement in fulfilling its commitments toward UGGp vision.

Geopark is not merely about 'brand of tourism products', it is about how local community and stakeholders showcasing that they are able to develop their territory in the best sustainable manner in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. For Langkawi UGGp every single member of local community, tourism players, entrepreneurs, scientists, federal and local government agencies, NGOs and tourists have their own roles and responsibilities to make Langkawi one of the best geopark in the world.



PREFACE

Mr. Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari

LANGKAWI UGGp MANAGER



GREETINGS from Langkawi UGGp Office. Warmest welcome to all readers of our Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark Gazette Issue #2 in deliberating success stories of our beloved hardworking Langkawi UGGp through out the year 2018.

As we are approaching our new milestone, i.e.

the third UGGp revalidation in 2019, we will dedicate our magazine towards the geopark evaluation focussing on conservation, geotourism, sustainable development and networking. The column on Langkawi Story is maintained for highlighting the progress of our endeavour to achieve sustainable geotourism. Heritage conservation column is dedicated to portray continuous efforts played by various stake-

holders in protecting the environment and our heritage. This time, we are introducing two more iconic geosites in our geoheritage column, MoU signings with two foreign UGGps and introduction to a national geopark member in networking column. We have three separate columns for our official programmes, i.e. Geopark Partners, Ambassadors, and Products furnished with highlights on our new as well as old partners, ambassadors and products.

In addition to the above core business, this issue highlights some of the more important activities organized and participated by Langkawi UGGp in 2018, separated further into several columns namely Geo Community, Geo Capital (for capacity building), Geo Recreation and Geo Promotion. This issue also highlights on several special event such as the General Election, MATTA Trade Fair, the launching of Langkawi Junior Geopark Guide Program and the farewell function for the outgoing LADA CEO.

It is our wish that this small publication would be able to enlighten our respected readers about what has recently happening in Langkawi.

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Aerial view of
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LANGKAWI STORY

GEOPARK & LANGKAWI TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Forested hills, romantic white-sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters greet visitors to tropical *Legendary Langkawi Island*. These are among taglines posted in the world largest travel promoter site **TripAdvisor 2018 Travellers' Choice**. With these heavy taglines, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) was placed in the top two most popular tourist destinations in Malaysia, second only to the country's capital, Kuala Lumpur. This is to show just how popular is Langkawi islands to tourists all over the world and how important Langkawi is to the Malaysian tourism industry.

In international arena, Langkawi have just received the prestigious **Tourism Multimedia Diamond Awards** during the recent 2018 Golden City Gate Award ITB Berlin. This is an addition to the award received from 2017 PATA Gold Award on Heritage and Culture, where one of the hotels in Langkawi also received an award on Education and Training. Speaking about national tourism awards, individuals, organizations and premises within Langkawi UGGp have always dominating the award ceremony every years since the last decade or so.

In another development, during the Visit Malaysia Year 2014, Langkawi UGGp was voted in **TripAdvisor 2014 Travellers' Choice Awards** as 10 Most Popular Tourism Islands in Asia. This precious vote came one year before Langkawi UGGp underwent its second UNESCO Global Geoparks Revalidation in 2015. As a matter of fact, it was the second time that tourists have voted Langkawi for similar title. In 2019, Langkawi UGGp will again be revalidated for the third time, and with the various awards received, we hope that Langkawi will once again pass this process with excellent distinction.

These multiple recognitions and awards are strong testimonies that Langkawi UGGp can offer visitors' endless memorable experiences, pleasure and satisfaction. Continuous recognitions both from regional and global rating agencies for many years since the inscription of Langkawi Islands as global geoparks show that Langkawi UGGp tourism development was very well planned and executed to ensure better sustainability of the industry for a long time.

New knowledge-based tourism products are consistently being introduced in order to satisfy the needs of different groups of visitors, prompting them to come to Langkawi again and again. Most of these products are related to geotourism, a branch of sustainable ecotourism introduced when Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) embraced the geopark development concept in 2005. This is very much in line with the article written in Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks which said *"Geoparks adopted a "bottom-up" or community-led approach to ensure that an area's geological significance could be conserved and promoted for science, education and culture, in addition to being used as a sustainable economic asset such as through the development of responsible tourism"*.

Also written in the UNESCO Global Geoparks web page is *"The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high quality training courses is stimulated as new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism, while the geological resources of the area are protected"*.



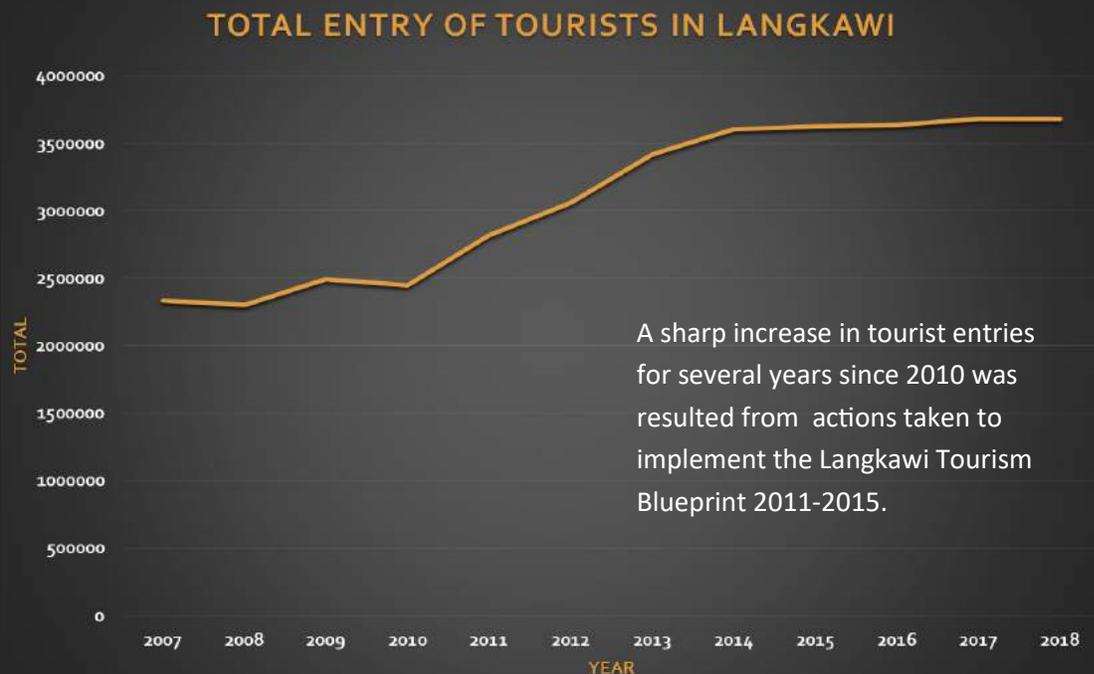
WELCOME TO LANGKAWI THE ISLE OF EXCELLENCE



LANGKAWI TOURIST ARRIVALS

Number of tourist arrivals to a tourism destination often reflects the success story of its tourism industry. As an island, this statistical data can be easily calculated from number of entries obtained from the Langkawi Airport and Marine Department Authority in Kuah, Tanjung Lembong, Porto Malai and Perdana Quay (or Telaga Harbour).

YEARS	TOURISTS ARRIVALS
2007	2,334,362
2008	2,303,157
2009	2,492,692
2010	2,448,466
2011	2,815,178
2012	3,059,070
2013	3,414,391
2014	3,600,511
2015	3,624,149
2016	3,634,577
2017	3,679,158



Spacious newly upgraded Langkawi International Airport is ready to receive more tourists to Langkawi UGp.



The busy Langkawi Terminal Jetty Point at Kuah City

The above graph shows gradual increased in tourist arrivals since the inception of Langkawi as a UNESCO supported Global Network of National Geoparks (GGN) in 2007, known as Langkawi Global Geopark.

There is a marked increases in tourist arrivals since 2011. This might have been impacted by LADA's big move to ratified the slow progressed towards the end of the previous decade by introducing the **Langkawi Tourism Blueprint**.

This positive trend continues until today. For the first quarter of this year the numbers have increase to 0.945 million arrivals from 0.936 million arrivals for the same quarter in year 2017.

These data revealed that Langkawi tourism development is strongly marching on the right track to compete with other big tourism destinations at both regional and global levels. More importantly, this data also shows that Langkawi has slowly but steadily and successfully transforming its once mass tourism into a more sustainable geotourism and ecotourism.

A GLANCE THROUGH HISTORY

For most of the twentieth century, Langkawi was nothing but a sleepy deserted island. There hardly any tourists coming to visit Langkawi for decades and centuries. Many believed that this island was under the curse spelled by the innocent beautiful lady, Mahsuri who was accused for adultery and was wrongfully sentenced to death. On her last breath the **legendary Mahsuri** have cursed Langkawi to become sterile field for seven generations.

This fate was suddenly changed in 1987, when Langkawi was declared as a **Free Duty Island**. Local people believed that is the end of the seven generations curse. As an immediate effect, Langkawi was swarmed by avid shoppers, mostly Malaysians with small numbers of foreigners. Free-duty shops sprouted in every corner of Langkawi island, particularly around historical and legendary-related sites such as Kuah, Ulu Melaka, Padang Mat Sirat and Padang

Lalang. Those days, apart from enjoying pristine beaches and cool waterfalls, there are no other nature tourism products for visitors or rather shoppers to experience.

In 1990, **Langkawi Development Authority (LADA)** was established to oversee the sustainability of tourism development in Langkawi and to propel Langkawi into the top world tourist destination. As a federal government agency, LADA started their impossible task by providing overall improvement on basic tourism infrastructures and promotion of Langkawi as meeting venues for government agencies as well as non-governmental organizations. International events were introduced in Langkawi in order to popularized Langkawi into international tourism market. Among memorable histories are the staging of the first Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Show (LIMA) in 1991 and le Tour de Langkawi in 1994.

TOWARDS NATURE TOURISM

Following up from the fundamental *Langkawi Declaration on Environment* made during the Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 1989 on the importance of environmental sustainability, LADA seeks expert opinions from local university researchers on how to develop Langkawi into a nature tourism hub, capitalizing on Langkawi's rich nature diversity.

This was strengthened by the signing of an **MoU between LADA and the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)**

in 1996, allowing the latter to pursue extensive research on Langkawi's unique biodiversity and geodiversity as well as cultural diversity. As an early result, geotourism was briefly introduced in adding value to the old folks' myths and legends of Langkawi as well as in linking the geology to the diverse ecosystems of Langkawi. UKM researchers later introduced the **geopark concept** to LADA in 2001. The partnership gaining further momentum when UKM established its **Langkawi Research Centre** in 2002.

LANGKAWI UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

It was not until 2006 that the geopark concept was completely formulated and endorsed by the State Government of Kedah. This was achieved a year after the **geoforest park** concept was accepted by the Forestry Department, one of the keys to the successful formulation of **Langkawi Geopark**. A year later, Langkawi was recognized as a member of the then UNESCO supported Global Network of national Geoparks (GGN).

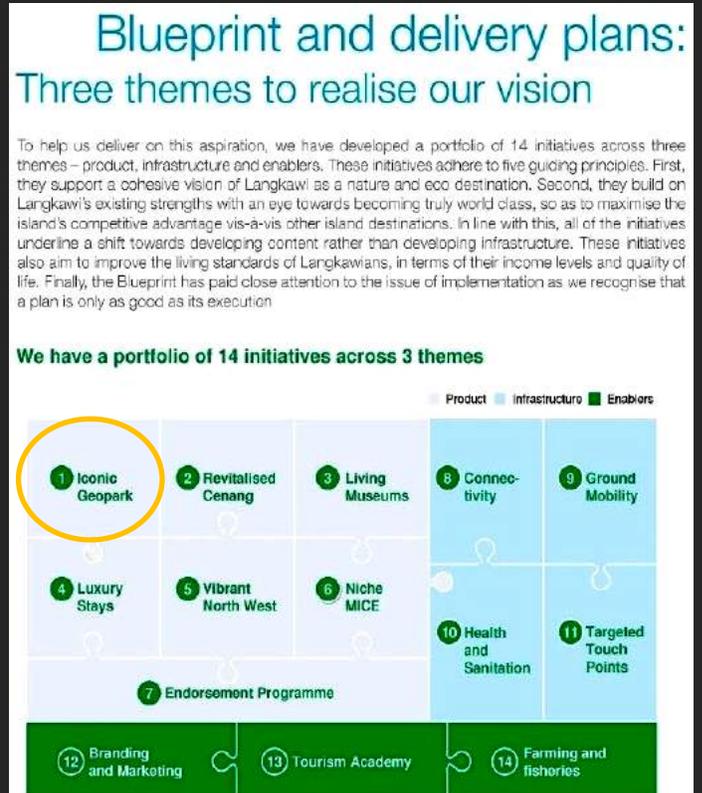
As a member of GGN (later UGGp since 2015), it becomes a compulsory for Langkawi to undergo rigorous revalidation process once in every four years. Among matters that always being seriously scrutinized during each revalidation process is how much was tourism activities within the geopark are compliance and moving towards a better sustainable tourism within the last four years and what are plans prepared to make it even better in the future.

LANGKAWI TOURISM BLUEPRINT

The growing number of tourist arrivals to Langkawi UGGp simply signalling demands for better tourism facilities and a more people and environment friendly tourism products to lure some of the visitors to come back to Langkawi again and to attract new visitors to Langkawi. These include knowledge substances and the various experiences in terms of accommodations, activities, transportations, communications, foods and most importantly the integrity of tourism sites they can enjoy throughout their whole stay in Langkawi. During these IT era, words of mouth travels as fast at speeds of light. Therefore, Langkawi UGGp cannot tolerate a sub-standard infrastructures and facilities and poorly performed tour operators and service providers.

In tackling this issue, LADA have formulated its very own **Tourism Blueprints** starting from year 2011 based on thorough analysis on available assets and strengths of the island and challenges that the island had to face in developing sustainable eco-tourism. In its Langkawi Tourism Blueprint 2011-2015, LADA has set their target rather high, i.e. to **become top 10 island and eco-tourism destination globally**. In achieving this vision, 14 initiatives have been planned across three major themes, i.e. products, infrastructures and enablers.

One of the seven initiatives categorized as products is the **Iconic Geopark** (item no 1) concerning research, conservation, training and education on three major geosites of Langkawi UGGp, i.e. the Machinchang, Dayang Bunting and Kilim. The aim is to upgrade and promote these geosites into a world-class geosites. Perhaps one other product worth mentioning for its contribution to sustainable nature tourism is the **Endorsement Programme** (item no 7) to oversee high precision quality rating for all tourism products including eco-tourism products. Other products, though are not directly related, can still indirectly be associated to eco-tourism. Meanwhile, for the enablers (item no 12 – **Branding and Marketing**) is crucial in strategically promoting geosites as well as other eco-tourism sites of Langkawi UGGp worldwide.



In general, Langkawi UGGp has successfully executed nearly all their planned initiatives. Based on research done by USM Langkawi has already achieved its vision to be become top 10 island and eco-tourism destination in the world. LADA and Langkawi UGGp must be proud that through their initiatives and investment, tremendous achievements have been attained as far as geo-tourism and eco-tourism promotions are concerned....**EXCELLENT INVESTMENTS**.

This huge success could not be materialized without active participations from private sectors such as Malaysia Airlines, Panorama Langkawi, NAAM, Underwater World, Andaman Hotel, Frangipani Hotel, Four Seasons Hotel, etc., community such as Koperasi Komuniti Kampung Kilim, research institution such as Langkawi Research Centre, and NGOs such as Langkawi Tourism Association (LTA), Langkawi Tourist Guide Association (LTGA) and Friends of Langkawi Geopark (FLAG) who have made Langkawi one of the world best sustainable tourism destination today....**WELL DONE**.

MASCOT of LANGKAWI UGGp



The introduction of **Obit** as **Langkawi UGGp mascot** is another initiative implemented by the LADA Geopark Division to celebrate the 11th Langkawi UGGp Day at Ayer Hangat Secondary School on 7th of December 2018. LADA Geopark Division Manager, Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari said Obit will play important role in enhancing public awareness on Langkawi status as one of the top UNESCO Global Geopark.

The obit mascot is actually derived from word **trilobite**, one of the **earliest complex living form on earth**. First appearance of trilobite marked the dawn of **Palaeozoic Era** (541-252 million years ago), while the last trilobite on Earth marked the end of the era. Thus, **Palaeozoic Era** is often referred to as **Trilobite age**. Trilobite became extinct during the Permian-Triassic extinction event, the biggest mass extinction ever recorded on Earth.

Trilobites were among most successful of all early animals, flourishing across vast oceans for nearly 300 million years. Contradicting to the simple evolutionary theory, the first trilobite was so much advance in its anatomy and modes of life compared many other animal groups born later. Trilobite is a highly diversified and cosmopolitan animal group, thanks to their easily fossilized exoskeleton for providing us this remarkable record.

Many species of trilobite fossils were found in Langkawi and Malaysia. The most significant trilobite is the 500 million years old **saukiid trilobite** found within the **Machinchang** sandstone. **Saukia** has been chosen as the mascot of Langkawi UGGp because it is the oldest fossils ever known in Malaysia.

Photo during the launching of Langkawi UGGp mascot, Mr Obit



GEOLOGY & LEGEND

TALE OF MERONG MAHAWANGSA

Cave distributions within Kilim Karst Geoforest Park



While other caves of Langkawi are famous for their wonderful stalactites, stalagmites, columns and other cave deposits or for their amazing cave inhabitants such as insect bats, spiders and other insects, **Gua Cherita** is highly celebrated for its illustrious myth. *Cherita* in Malay Language means tale or narration, hence Gua Cherita literally denotes **Caves of Legends** or **Cave of Myths**. The cave had long been related to the old folks tale about the journey of Merong Mahawangsa, the king who founded the Kingdom of Langkasuka which is believed to be the origin of the present Sultanate of Kedah Darul Aman in which Langkawi is located.

Once upon a time, a charming Roman Prince, Merong Mahawangsa fell in love with a beautiful Chinese Princess. He set an armada sailed across vast oceans destined for China to hand his marriage to his beloved princess. Unhappy with the Prince intention, the mythical great bird, Garuda kidnapped and hid the Princess inside the Gua Cherita. A fiery battle broke when the Roman Prince try to rescue the princess from Garuda. During the fight the prince fell to the sea and brought by sea current to land near the cave where the princess

was detained. The couple met and get married. Another big battle broke when Garuda found out that the couple have got married. During this fight the Roman armada was defeated and forced to flee Langkawi. It is then, when the Prince landed on new piece of land where he set his Kingdom of Langkasuka.

Gua Cherita is a small northernmost cave of Langkawi protected within the Gua Cherita Forest Reserve. It has two cave chambers. The top one is the main chamber where sculptures associated with the legend are found, some 4 meters above the present sea level bottom cave is about 2 meters above the sea level. Comparing with the ancient sea level curve, the main chamber could be correlated to ancient sea level 4,000 to 5,000 years ago, while the bottom chamber could be correlated to ancient sea level 1,000 to 2,000 years ago.



Infrastructures to facilitate conservation of Gua Cherita



Some of the structures and objects inside the main chamber

ICONIC GEOSITES

PULAU SINGA KECHIL

God created the Earth in many layers

Understanding the amazing characteristics and great significances of each layers of our physical earth from the exposed crust to the deep core needs a deep knowledge in geology.

Sometimes, layers of Earth were coincidentally presented in front of our own eyes simply as a gifts of nature, to be treasured by one who could reveal and understand the intrinsic and aesthetic values behind what might be seen as a common scene by others.

Located along most of Langkawi southern island hopping routes, Pulau Singa Kechil is a very special island where one can paint multiple (at least six) layers of Earth spheres. From various angles, one can observe the bluish sea-water (hydrosphere) being overlain by thin black rocky beach (geosphere) covered by thick green or seasonally multi-coloured forest (biosphere) which is overlain by thick grey and tan marble (geosphere) capped by thin stunted forest (biosphere) with blue sky (atmosphere) above and surround it.



The top biosphere lived on a karst ecosystem while the lower biosphere is a typical of island lowland forest.

From a certain angle, the island resembles a face of a sitting lion, hence the island got its name as Lion Island (*Pulau Singa*).

As iconic as it may look like, this small island was designated as one of the important geosites of Langkawi UGGp for its very high geological significance. Pulau Singa Kechil displayed the best examples of **transition boundary** between the older and colder Singa Formation and the younger and warmer Chuping Formation (Jong Limestone) as well as best evidences of one of the **biggest global warming episodes** on Earth, i.e. the Early Permian global warming that caused the melting of Gondwanaland.

Can you identified six layers of geosphere in this picture?

The layered black rocks along the coast of the island are mostly sandstones representing the youngest part of the **Singa Formation**, revealing many trace fossils and sedimentary structures including slump fold structures which indicate gradual increases of sea level due to the continuous melting of glaciers once covering huge portion of Gondwanaland. Most of the overgrown vegetation grows on thin soils of this sandstone.

At the topmost of the Singa Formation, the sandstone suddenly became calcareous, i.e. containing small amount of carbonate material indicating that the sea was warm enough for the carbonate material to be precipitated. Soon, the carbonate precipitation became more dominant forming thick limestone as the climate is getting warmer and thus stopping the deposition of sandstone. The thick grey coloured limestone at the peak op of the island belonged to the **Chuping Formation** (sometimes called Jong Limestone).

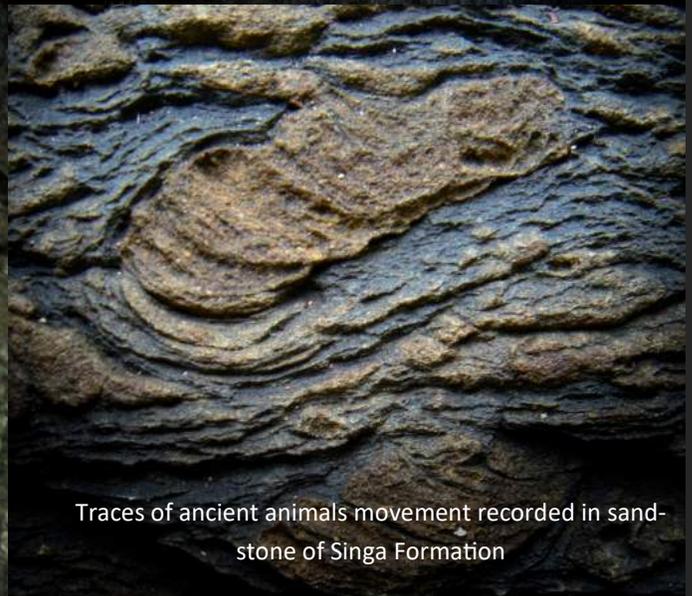
The phenomenon in which one type of sedimentary rocks gradually becoming more dominant than the others is known as transitional. In the case of Pulau Singa Kechil when this phenomenon separated the rock sequence into two different rock formation, the boundary between these rock formations will be described as a transitional boundary. In geological description it is said that the Chuping Formation is conformably overlain the Singa Formation at Pulau Singa Kechil.



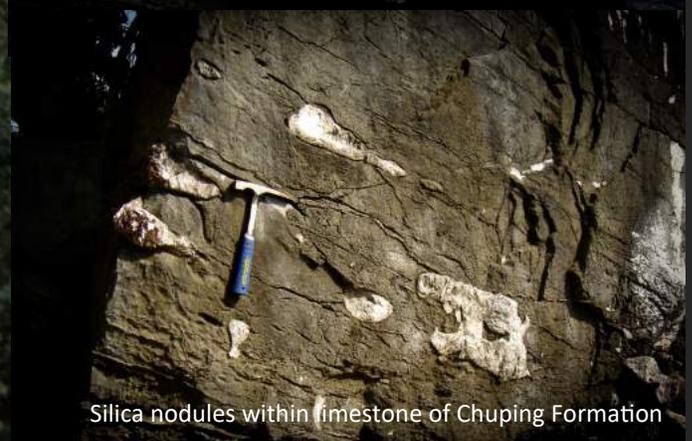
Peeping through needle hole of limestone



Dropstones brought by rafting iceberg in Singa Formation



Traces of ancient animals movement recorded in sandstone of Singa Formation



Silica nodules within limestone of Chuping Formation

PANTAI PASIR HITAM

Having a naturally white or golden coloured sandy beach is a huge bonus we inherit from nature. Beach lover will flocked themselves wherever they find these type of beaches. Black sandy beaches, on the other hand, are only preferred in the absence of white or golden sandy beaches.

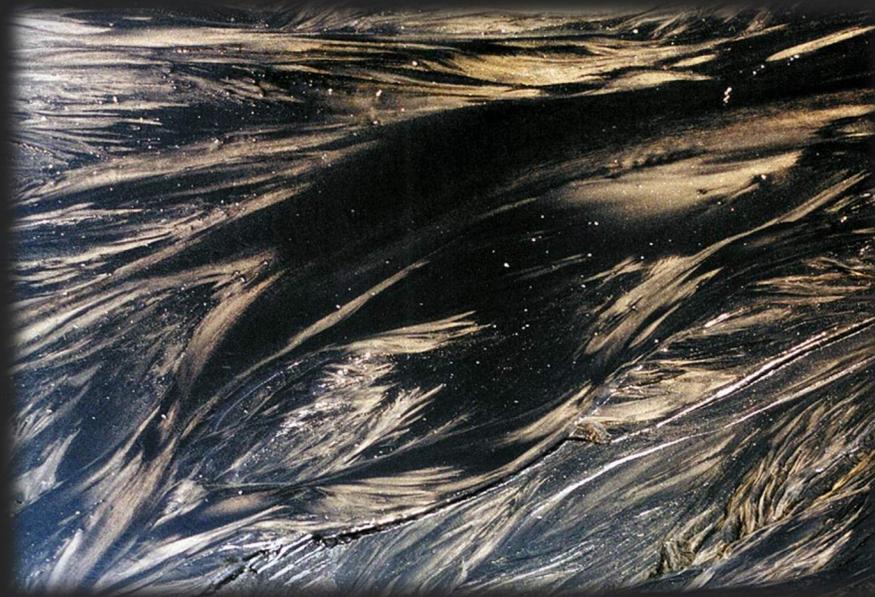
It is a natural processes on different types of rocks by different regimes of sedimentation that determine the type of coastline and the colour of a sandy beach. Normally, white and golden sands were inherited from quartz grains within high silica sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks, while black sands were derived from mafic and intermediate volcanic rocks that is rich in iron with little silica in it.



Pantai Pasir Hitam in Langkawi which is not of volcanic origin

PANTAI PASIR HITAM GEOSITE is located on the northern coast of Langkawi, below the vertical cliff along the Kuah-Datai road, about half kilometer north of the Padang Lalang roundabout. The beach is made up of fine to coarse sand, well sorted by the pounding waves and longshore currents as well as spring water flowing from the foot of the cliff. The spring water flows often formed a beautiful braided pattern of black and white to these sands.

Pantai Pasir Hitam or **Black Sand Beach** is not among the list of Langkawi's popular beach for bathing or picnicking activities but strolling along this linear beach while enjoying beautiful scenery and cool sea breeze and breathing fresh air could relaxed your mind. If you are curious enough, you will be surprised of what you can treasure from this black coloured sand beach. It is indeed a **unique black sand beach, not a volcanic tuff beach.**



Sedimentary structures produced by flows from a spring

Careful inspection on coarser sands will reveal that these sands are made up of **broken crystalline minerals** and not all of them are black. They are a mixture of different minerals that co-existed together. Among them one can recognize the presence of quartz, feldspar, tourmaline, zircon, and ilmenite. **Tourmaline and ilmenite** are two black minerals that are responsible in making the beach turned black. The fact that these minerals always mixed together (weakly sorted) and the majority of the grains are still angular, suggested that the source for these minerals must be very close by.

Source of black sands.

To the west of the beach one could observed a field of submerged rock mounds known as tor of granitic rocks. This is part of an elongated body of **Bukit Sawar Granite**. All minerals that formed the black beach must have been originated from this granite instead of from Gunung Raya as it has often been misinterpreted before. The fact that bulk of the black minerals are tourmaline suggested that Bukit Sawar Granite should contain tourmaline minerals as rich as those of Gunung Raya Granite if not richer.

Black sand are also found at several other smaller beaches in Langkawi and other beaches in Malaysia, but the percentage of black coloured minerals are far much lower. Hence, they occur in smaller patches as compared to the Langkawi Pantai Pasir Hitam. Some of them are even occasionally exposed and disappeared. Therefore, Pantai Pasir Hitam should be considered as a **geoheritage site of national rank**.



Tors of Bukit Salwar Granite submerge during the low tides

Myth of Black Sand Beach

Meanwhile, like many other interesting sites of Langkawi Pantai Pasir Hitam also had its own myths. According to old folks' legends and myth, once upon a time, a mermaid had cursed the sand of the Pantai Pasir Hitam to turned black because she was angry with a fisherman for not fulfilling his promise to the mermaid. This myth has been past down to generations, although the authenticity of the myth is yet to be revealed.

Another myth said that long ago there was a war between the land and sea empire. As a strategy to avoid a real battle, the land empire started to burn peat to trick the sea empire to mistakenly took the flame for the land empire's soldiers. Because of too much burning, the beach sand became black.



Tourmaline, black minerals from Gunung Raya Granite

CORAL PARADISE

Throughout geological record of over 500 million years coral has been playing pivotal role in controlling biodiversity of marine life. Up till today nobody have ever denying this hard fact. This primitive forms of life is also known to be highly sensitive towards any changes on environmental parameters, be it physical, chemical or biological in nature. They are one of the best **indicator for climate change**. Thus, conservation of coral is crucial in maintaining balance in marine aquatic life amidst fast changing climatic condition today.

In the wake of the devastating effects of 2004 great tsunami on the 8,000 years old Datai fringing coral reefs, the Andaman Resort started a noble project in 2010 to rebuild the reef by using the ARMS (**Artificial Reef Module System**), in collaboration with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and LaFarge Cement. This was followed by another pioneering project, the **Coral Nursery project** in 2012 headed by Dr. Gerry Goedon who is the consultant marine biologist. In this project Dr. Gerry and his expert teams has experimented on thousands of coral individuals and colonies for their better habitat and healthier growth. Dr. Gerry also shared in his writing that there are more than 600 coral species in the world and Langkawi holds one of the richest coral reefs in the world.



CORAL NURSERY

This project is not all about preserving corals, but also a part of education activities for all guests regarding the process of nurturing corals and provides deeper information regarding all marine lifes found at Andaman Sea. The Andaman built a small pond known as **the Coral Garden** within the resort for rehabilitating damaged corals found at the Andaman Sea. The dead corals found is recycled at the nursery to be used as a healthier mineral substrate for the new baby corals to grow inside this salt water pond. The Andaman even provide spaces for guests to plant baby corals that they have found near the beaches. These baby corals are kept in the pond for about one year to let it grow sufficiently under a full nursery surveillance. Once the baby corals are healthy and fully grown, they will be return back to their natural habitat.

CORAL REEFS

The Andaman Coral Nursery is part of a bigger **Coral Conservation Project**, aiming at rebuilding the Datai fringing coral reefs that was severely damaged during the 2004 great tsunami. Up to date, some 200 healthy matured coral individuals and colonies from the nursery have been re-planted on 55 ARMS and 30 mini-ARMS fixed at various depth below the intertidal zone. More healthy specimens will be re-planted in the near future. The research team will check the reefs annually to see how the reefs grows. The Andaman Coral Conservation Project is aimed to rebuild a healthy new ecosystem for all marine life at the Andaman Sea. This project should be applied to other shelves of Langkawi in order to make Langkawi a coral heaven for snorkeling and diving activities.

PAPILLION DREAM



Gossamer-winged butterfly



Bicyclus anynana



A caterpillar stage

They called him **Papillion** not for nothing. **Henri Charere**, the man with his famous **butterfly tattoo** who successfully wrote the 1970's best selling novel **Papillion**, a story about how he escaped imprisonment for many times. The 1973 box-office movie casted by **Steve McQueen** as **Papillion** was based on novel of the same title.

Papillion is a French word for butterfly, derived from Latin word *papilio*. The story of the astonishingly colourful insect, papillion or butterfly is as fascinating. They are often regarded as the most beautiful animals on Earth, particularly in tropical countries like Malaysia.

The fascinating book **Butterflies of Langkawi** by **Katsutoshi Kato** and **Selvam Raman** just tell us all about it. It took them about 10 years of compilation works to completed the book. This bilingual English-Japanese book contains more than 300 high quality

colored pictures and general information on butterflies **once roamed** around Langkawi.

Dr. Kato and **Mr. Selvam** has since focused their research on many unrecorded butterflies species and possibly new species that will put the Langkawi on tourism and scientific maps.

In Langkawi UGGp, one can encounters butterfly and moth just anywhere from pristine forest trails to dumping sites and to typical **Kampung Gardens**.

For its very short life span, butterfly is always fascinating to observe in their own natural environment. They often left Mr. Selvam dreaming in awe, blinded by their charm gentle wings, but at the same time amused by their highly dynamic stages of life. "I realized that I have inherited a legacy that give me the responsibility to defend, rather than merely passing around the knowledge that some of us often undervalued" said Mr Selvam.

Mr. Selvam have made it his personal crusade to educate the society on the significance and importance of these graceful creatures. He was doing his very best to study and gather information on butterflies around the world, despite however small the details might be.

Mr Selvam said further "with only a handful of us we are racing neck to neck against deforestation made in the name of development". Butterflies thrive in the **cradle of Mother Nature**, but mankind has been very much instrumental in ensuring that nature's law **survival of the fittest** works.

All of us should be educated and enlightened on what would be the impact a full-scale assault on nature could bring. So let us all spread our wings and fly without any fear or doubt, for then we might be able to feel what it is like to be in that similar **Papillion dream**.



Herona marathus angustata



Common blue Morpho



A pupa stage

GEO CONSERVATION

New Colombo Plan Awareness & Conservation Program on Limestone Forest

Heritage conservation is the key component of a geopark and **limestone karst forest** is the biggest nature heritage asset for Langkawi UGGp. Limestone karst forest has its own functions in our **natural ecosystem**, hence should be conserved for the benefit of human civilization for long time in the future. For this purpose, the **New Colombo Plan** under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia have organized a series of **Awareness and Conservation Program on Limestone Forest** in Malaysia.

One of the program was held in Langkawi UGGp from 17-25 September 2018 organized by New Colombo Plan with strong support from LADA, Kedah State Education Department and Penarak Nature Center. The program was facilitated by Dr. Siti Suriawati Isa from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and 4 staffs from Queensland University of Technology (QUT), attended by 15 students from QUT and students from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Ayer Hangat, SMK Syed Ahmad, SMK Mahsuri, SMK Merbok, SMK Naka and SMK Sri Gunong. It was aimed at creating awareness on conservation of our precious limestone forest for our future generations. Langkawi UGGp welcomes any noble awareness and conservation initiative that will benefit the sustainability of our forests.



Marine Life's Conservational Apparatus (APEHAL) for Selat Tuba - Dayang Bunting

In 2018, Langkawi's biggest NGOs the **Friends Langkawi Geopark (FLAG)**, together with *Langkawi Research Center* (PPL) and LADA carried out a very important project on **Environmental and Socio-Economic Conservation of Pulau Tuba and Pulau Dayang Bunting**. One of the agenda under this project is on **conservation of marine ecosystems** in the waters between the two islands for which FLAG in collaboration with LADA, PPL, Kedah Fisheries Department, Arau Branch UiTM, Langkawi Fisheries Office, Lafarge Holcim Langkawi with local community has built 100 **Marine Life Conservation Apparatus** or **Alat Pemuliharaan Hidupan Laut (APEHAL)** to be sinked to the sea floor in stages. APEHAL was built by using waste material such as tyres, pipes, cables added with concrete weight.

The first APEHAL sinking ceremony was officially done on 22 February 2018 at the **FLAG Office Site** in Kampung Selat Bagan Nyior. The first sinking of APEHAL has drawn a very good responses from various state agencies such as the District office, Forestry Department, Police Department and Marine Department, local community corporation including Kilim Village Community Cooperative and SJW Corp, as well as other NGOs of Langkawi. It is hoped that these APEHAL would attract small and big fishes that would bring future more sustainable revenue to the local fisherman.



The making of APEHAL (top); APEHALs ready for sinking (bottom)

WELL DONE FLAG

Kubang Badak BioGeoTrail Opening Ceremony

On 14 September 2018 the Kubang Badak BioGeoTrail was officially launched by Langkawi UGGp Royal Patron, the **Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Temenggong Kedah Tan Sri Dato' Seri Diraja Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz binti Almarhum Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah** at the Kubang Badak Jetty Complex.

Kubang Badak BioGeoTrail was developed from a joint project between LADA and PPL spearheaded by PPL's **Senior Research Fellow Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo**. The main objective of the project is to develop more geosites and biosites in the area of Teluk Kubang Badak for conservation, education and geotourism and to boost economy of the local community. Perhaps beyond all these, this project was initiated in order to **support and strengthen conservation** of Kilim Karst Geoforest Park by **reducing tourism stress** to the area.



Her Royal Highness signing the memorial plaque (top);
Her Royal Highness receiving a memento from Dato' Haji Azizan, CEO of LADA (bottom)



Mangrove Conservation Day

On 26 July 2018 the **Worldwide Mangrove Ecosystem Conservation Day** Celebration was organized in Kampung Kilim by the Kampung Kilim Community Cooperative in collaboration with LADA, UKM, UMT and LTGA. This program includes the identification of **biodiversity and mangrove forest resources**, understanding the **function and role of mangrove ecosystems** and sowing seedlings and planting saplings for the conservation of mangroves. The opening speech was from Dr. Abdul Ghani Hussain, the founder of Herbwalk Langkawi. The participants were given the opportunity to sow mangroves from three different species, i.e. *Ceriops tagal*, *Rhizophora apiculata* and *Rhizophora mucronata* and attend a workshop entitled *Identifying the Mangrove Forest Species* managed by Tuan Haji Muhammad Razali Salam (UMT) and Dr. Ahmad Aldrie Amir (LESTARI, UKM).



Dr. Aldrie during his speech (top);
mangroves of Langkawi (bottom)



SISTERSHIP IN GEOPARK

As part of the commitment for individual geoparks within UNESCO Global Geopark programme is to share their best practice in various components of Geopark development with other UGGp members. This can be done through exchanges in visitation of geopark officials and ambassadors as well as exchanges in community and school programmes, education modules, research approaches, geopark products and exchanges in tourism best practices. In some cases, a legal binding by signing of **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** or any other kinds of memoranda is made between two sister geoparks with common geological features, geographical settings, natural and cultural environment to prove that they are fully committed for whatever contents of their agreement.

Langkawi UGGp has actively participating in geopark networking since the day of its inception as a Global Geopark in 2007. Among active sisters of Langkawi UGGp are the Muroto UGGp (Japan), Jeju Island UGGp (Korea), Zigong UGGp (China), Dong Van UGGp (Vietnam), Dali-Changshan UGGp (China) and its youngest sisters, the Satun UGGp of Thailand.

MoU with MUROTO UGGp

Muroto UGGp is one of the very well known Geopark in Kochi Prefecture for its very well planned Geopark education modules which has been shared with many other geoparks across the globe since its inception as a Global Geopark member in 2011. Muroto UGGp has been aggressively pursuing sisterships with many other geoparks in Asia including the Langkawi UGGp. Several program exchanges and official visitation exchanges have been executed by both Langkawi and Muroto UGGps since 2012. This good relationship was strengthen on 27th October 2018 by the signing of an MoU between Langkawi and Muroto UNESCO Global Geoparks. The ceremony was held at Sekolah Menengah Ayer Hangat, Langkawi indicating the strength of geopark education between the two sisters. The MoU was signed between Haji Mohd Asri Redha, the Acting CEO of LADA representing Langkawi UGGp and the Manager of the Muroto UGGp.



MoU with SATUN UGGp



2018 is a memorable year for Langkawi UGGp when on 13th December 2018, a team of officers from Langkawi UGGp went to Satun to sign a very important MoU between neighbouring Langkawi and Satun UGGps. Satun is the first UGGp established in Thailand inscribed by UNESCO this year. Regardless of its young age, Satun has had a long history of communication with Langkawi UGGp during its preparation dated back as early as 2015.



Satun and Langkawi UGGps have many aspects in common including their geology, fossils, geological landscapes, nature and culture. Satun UGGp has benefited much from Langkawi UGGp in developing their concept and geosites as well as their community and education programmes.



The MoU was signed in Satun Town by Mr. Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari, the Manager of Langkawi UGGp and the Director of Satun UGGp, Mr. Narongrit



Ciletuh Palabuhanratu Geopark Festival 2018

On 13th of October 2018, a team from Langkawi UGGp pay a visit to a new member of UNESCO Global Geopark, the Indonesian Ciletuh Palabuhanratu to share Langkawi's experience in developing its geopark.



ASPIRING LEMBAH KINTA GEOPARK

GEOPARK LEMBAH KINTA (GLK) or Lembah Kinta Geopark is located in the heart of Perak State, covering almost the entire Sungai Kinta basin in between Titiwangsa and Kledang Range. In October 2017, GLK became the second **National Geopark of Malaysia**, after Langkawi. GLK is well connected to the neighboring areas by networks of major highways, railways and airways. In the middle of GLK is the old and new Ipoh City, the capital city of Perak State. The geopark **commemorate rich mining history of the valley** while protecting precious geological wonders, nature and culture within the valley.

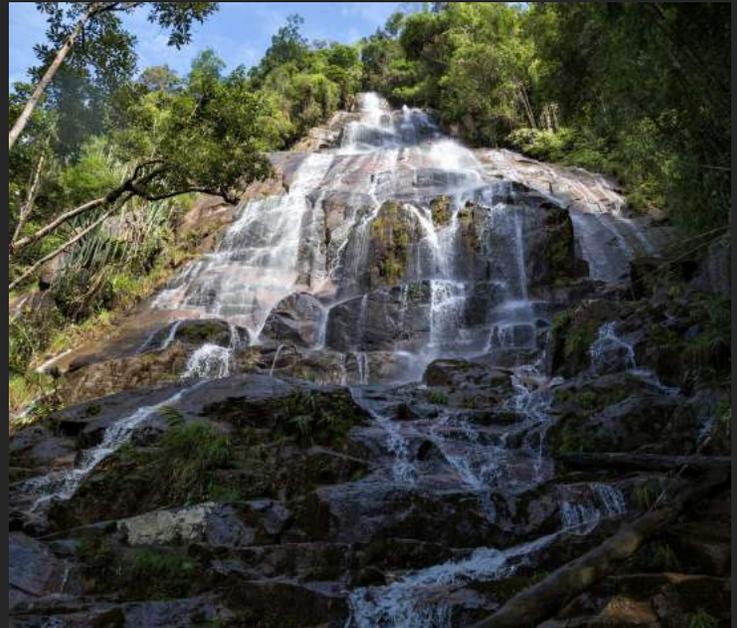


The proud peak of Gunung Korbu – peak of Titiwangsa

The location map of Geopark Lembah Kinta



The surface areas of GLK is about 1952 km square, comprising of Kinta and Kampar Districts and Ipoh City Council. The geopark is administered under the jurisdiction of these districts and city council, coordinated by **Geopark Division of Perak State Parks Corporation**. Geological wonders within GLK are protected as iconic objects that enrich sense of belonging among local communities and as main attraction for local and foreign visitors. GLK has over 850,000 inhabitants with 45.4% Chinese, 37.8% Malays, 13.8% Indian and 0.4% Semai ethnic minority group, providing the territory with colourful culture and tradition.



The gorgeous Air Terjun Sungai Chellik at the foot of Titiwangsa Range



Kinta valley and the mesmerizing karst landscape

GLK is made up of Ordovician—early Permian Kinta Limestone, Carboniferous—Permian Kati Formation, late Triassic—early Jurassic Main Range Granite and Quaternary alluvial and cave deposits. The granite is associated with dykes and veins rich in tin and iron ores.

Kinta valley is an ancient graben formed as a result of an extension tectonic after the formation of Peninsular Malaysia during Triassic period. This asymmetrical graben brought down limestone dominated area of Kinta Limestone, leaving its arenaceous unit on top of the Main Range Granite. Later weathering and erosion resulted in the formation of GLK's rich geological wonders in forms of karst caves and peaks, mountain peaks, waterfalls and rapids, and rare fossils. These processes are also responsible in the deposition of rich placer tin within the valley floor, and creating ecosystem heaven for flora and fauna.

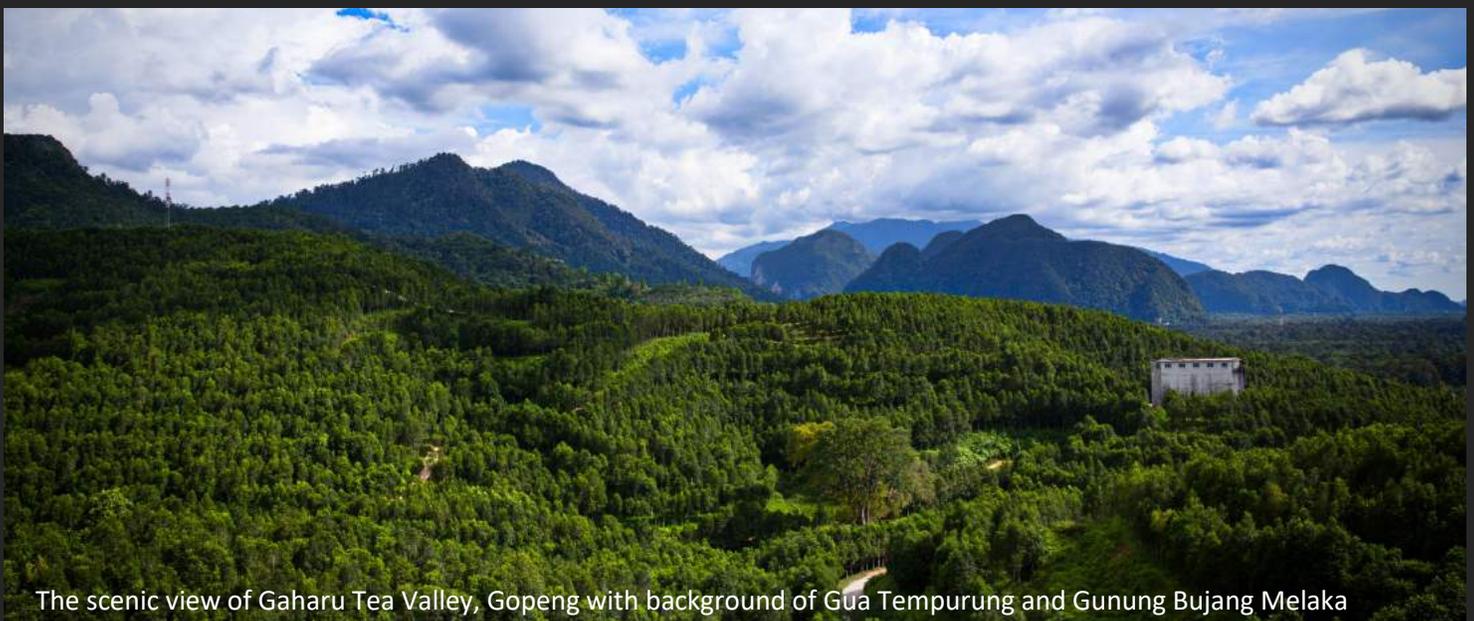
Tin mining started in mid-19th century and during mid-20th century Kinta Valley was the largest tin producers in the world. Owing to its long history of development related to tin mining, Kinta valley inherited many historical buildings, towns and relics of abandoned mine pits around Ipoh, Batu Gajah, Kampar, Papan and Gopeng. The industry was also responsible in bringing rich cultural heritage to this geopark territory.



The magnificent Giant Chamber of Gua Tempurung



The enchanting Tasik Chermin



The scenic view of Gaharu Tea Valley, Gopeng with background of Gua Tempurung and Gunung Bujang Melaka

THE VOICE OF LANGKAWI

Newest ambassador of Langkawi Geopark



A geopark is not all about nature or geological significant around it, it is also about community and culture native to such territory. That is what makes Langkawi UGGp unique. There are several individuals in Langkawi who are highly responsible in expanding knowledge on Geopark among the citizens who are called 'Langkawi UGGp Ambassador'. Recently, Langkawi UGGp has a new ambassador nicknamed as the *Voice of Langkawi* and the person is none other than Cikgu Sufina Halim.

Cikgu Sufina is an English teacher at **Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Mahsuri**. Born in Alor Setar, Cikgu Sufina has been working in Langkawi since 2001. In 2002 she started to involve herself as a part time English DJ in **Langkawi.fm radio station**. Apart from teaching she also works with a company that manage art & exhibition event around Langkawi called the HKM Kr8tif.

Recently, Cikgu Sufina has been scouted by LADA to be newest ambassador of Langkawi UGGp 2018. She was chosen on the basis of her broad connection and networks and her ability to reach to Langkawi's people. During her involvement in various community events she always shares her vast knowledge regarding Langkawi UGGp to enhance awareness among the general public. As people might not remember, Cikgu Sufina was the official MC during the Inauguration Ceremony for Langkawi as a member of UNESCO Global Network of National Geoparks (GN) in 2007.

She is also well known as a public figure of Langkawi for her creativity, outspoken and easy-going personality. She keen to share her knowledge about nature preservation within Langkawi geopark to her students, as well as other Langkawi citizens. She loves promoting Langkawi Geopark through Langkawi cultural activities via different media such as radio, social media network and public speaking.

Her first act as an ambassador was giving a talk to several Langkawi schools regarding Langkawi culture and nature. She was also invited to review components of Langkawi UGGp such as hotels, events and functions in TripAdvisor and Instagram to reveal her honest critics formally. She did all these voluntarily in order to boost well being and socio-economy of Langkawi peoples. For this Cikgu Sufina Halim is dubbed as the voice of Langkawi. To her, the greatest thing about Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark is life within Langkawi. As she said, 'Langkawi is different than other islands in the world because of the people, and the Geopark nature it has'.

GENERATION BANK OF LANGKAWI

The students are the true ambassador of Langkawi Geopark

It always been said that the new generation will be the leaders of the world tomorrow. However, current younger generation seems to be addicted to the sophisticated technology entertainment, thus most of them are lacking in awareness on vital roles of natural environment around toward their daily life. Therefore, it is utmost important that the current young generation is exposed towards nature to implant awareness and good values against nature within themselves. Some school teachers have been trying to create activities that promote awareness on their roles in safeguarding natural environment.

Ustaz Ammar Qanwa is one of the role model among school teachers in Langkawi who promoted the understanding on Geopark value. He taught religious subjects at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kelibang for 4 years. Not an ordinary religious teacher, this ustaz is very keen in outdoor curriculum activities and has been given responsibility as the **Deputy Commisioner of Langkawi Boy Scout**. Ustaz Ammar Qanwa is a person who is adventurous and a big fan of Geopark himself. He was appointed as **Langkawi Geopark Ambassador** for his persistence in implementing geopark value in all Geopark Camp programme he organized.



Ustaz Ammar Qanwa at the camping spot



Geopark camp activities at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kelibang

His first act as an ambassador of Langkawi UGGp is organizing a school camping program called **Geopark Camp**. The camp is organized 3 times a year at the backyard of Sekolah Kebangsaan Kelibang. The camping site is located on a small field covered by tree canopy, next to a small stream.

The Geopark Camp is to create an awareness on Geopark and to teach the students on how to appreciate and preserve the environment. *"The students are the true ambassador of Langkawi Geopark"*, said Ustaz Ammar Qanwa.

Ustaz Ammar had recently expanded his Geopark Camp activities at international level in order to promote

Langkawi Geopark to foreign Student. The Geopark Camp program is not just for the local students, they also invited others several school scout team around Peninsular Malaysia and several international school to participates with the Camp. Among schools that have participated in this camping program are schools from Thailand, Indonesia and Japan.

Among activities in the modules are camping, singing patriotic songs, cultural dance competition between participating schools, jungle trekking, create own souvenir from nature items and Geopark awareness talks delivered by Langkawi Geopark personnel.

The camp is normally held for 4 days and some of the camping program attended by up to 400 participations from several schools (including school teachers who served as facilitators).

This program is organized in collaboration with LADA, Persatuan Pengakap Langkawi and Sekolah Kebangsaan Kelibang. This program was created by Ustaz Ammar Qanwa to enhance awareness on Geopark to younger generation and to create a bond between races and nations. It is his wish that *Current Youths Would Become Future Ambassadors for Langkawi UGGp or Other Geoparks*.

EXCITING EDU-TOUR

No 1. Jet ski tour recommended by Trip Advisor—MEGA WATER SPORTS



Quest to experience tropical island karst of Langkawi while jet skiing on Selat Kuah's turquoise waters

Jet ski and extreme sport are two inseparable phrases. For the majority of youngsters jet skis is considered as an ultimate sports as far as beach and coastal water recreation is concerned. A little bit expensive, but active youngsters would sacrifice all other needs for this kind of adrenaline pumping sports they love.

What about grown-up? What about kids? You will find the answer to this question at Pantai Chenang in Langkawi. How? **MEGA WATER SPORT** has all the tips for this. Mega Water Sports is very popular among foreign tourists because it has been recommended by *CNN travel* as the **no.1 Jet Ski tours** coolest way to see Langkawi Naturally.

Mega Water Sports is one of the companies in Langkawi that can give you the most memorable jet skis experience in life regardless of your age or fitness condition. Despite of having

high capacity jet skis craft, Mega Water Sport did not solely banking on speeds to feed your adrenaline demands but the most importantly on nature experience for both of your body and soul consumption.

Setting their operation on Langkawi's beautiful and longest beach, the Pantai Chenang, the highly experience tour guides will take you to some of the most beautiful part of Langkawi Archipelago where you could take part in various activities while enjoying Langkawi Naturally.

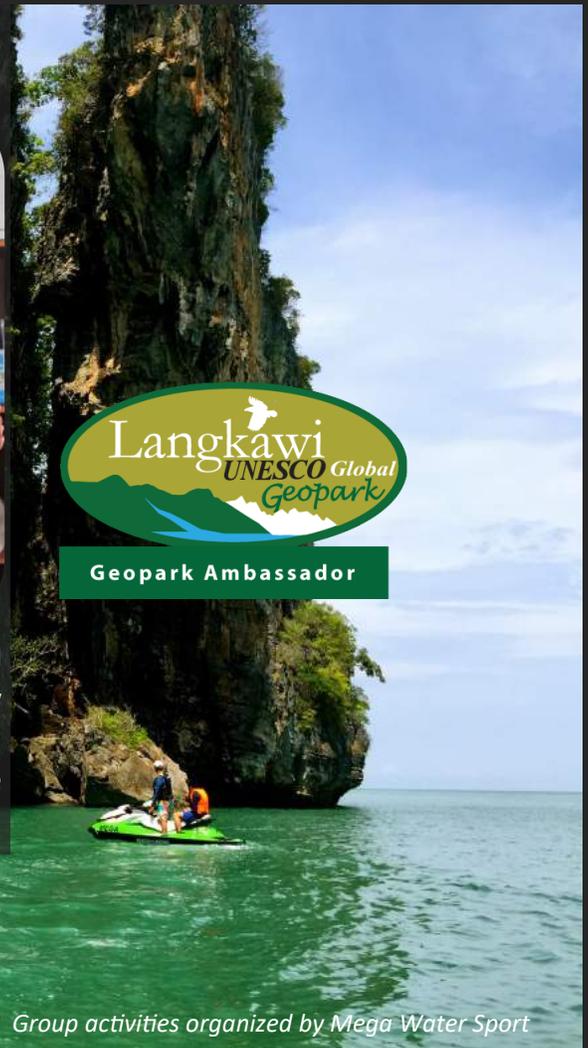
Mega Water Sports that does not emphasis on going as fast as you can aspect from water sport of this nature. Instead they emphasis on unique ways of seeing some of the incredibly beautiful geological landscapes and lush tropical forest engulfing Langkawi's shorelines, without the inconvenience of having a boatload of tourist within an arm's



Group activities organized by Mega Water Sport's experienced tour guide in waters around Tasik Dayang

Mr Hussein Mohd Said
Langkawi UGGp Ambassador

CEO of Mega Water Sports, Mr Hussein Mohd Said who has operated this water sport business for 9 years highly recommend signing up with his company if you want the best Jet Ski experience and plenty of fun!! The fun will consist of guided 40 km/4 hours Jet Ski rides packed with fun, education and nature experience catered in group of maximum of 6 jet skis. Mega Water Sport received over 1000 riders per month, most of which are foreign tourists. Mr. Hussein Mohd Said was promoted to be the Ambassador of Langkawi UGGp solely because of his effort to promote Langkawi Geopark as a main attraction for Langkawi for its nature preservation to attract more visitor world-wide.



Group activities organized by Mega Water Sport

reach. Their well trained and highly experience tour guides will entertain and amuse you in person or in group with all scientific facts and figures about nature in your surroundings. They do, of course, have special tours to accommodate those who prefer to go wide open throttle and just let loose!

Mega Water Sports offer three unique and affordable (group and private) jet skis tour that are so much more than just going fast for an hour and calling it a day. Mega Water Sports' four-hour tour is designed for different rider's category and different sightseeing interests. Among them is the child friendly tour such as Tour 1, which will take you to three different islands at slower pace which was perfect in order to gain a lot of experience throughout the tour. The tour guide will allow you to have enough free time to enjoy riding the jet skis and swimming or snorkeling in the sea as while sharing with you

their knowledge on the islands, the sea, the mountain, the flora and fauna, the geology, geological heritage, geological landscape and so on.

Mega Water Sports will provide you with wet shoes which is practical on the jet skis and good for the jungle walk on stop over. Every participant will get an easy to understand safety briefing and instructions on how to walk the talk, before the tour of your choice begin. Once you are offshore, the incredible beauty of the archipelago will completely relax you.

Mega Water Sports Jet Ski Tour is not only interesting, but it is full of fun for all ages and levels of fitness. For all thrill seekers from children as young as 3 to 5 years, up to the age when you are as young as you feel, there always are something for everyone. So what do you have to wait for, let's try one of the tour package your heart desired now.

THE ANDAMAN

Langkawi Luxurious Traditional Nature Resort



PARTNER

The Andaman is a 5-star luxury resort that is located at Teluk Datai in the north-western corner of Langkawi Island. Amazingly, it is considered as one of the **most classical resorts in Langkawi**, using lots of **traditional Malay house concepts and architectures** and its preservation towards the environment, architectures, cultures, delicacy and wild-life as well as maintaining the traditional concepts. The Andaman is cozily tucked away between million years old rainforest at the foot of Machinchang Range and postcard perfect Datai Bay, a natural sanctuary for **8,000 years old fringing coral reef**. Surrounded by an untouched natural reserve of rainforest as well as a fringing coral reef, the Andaman is blessed to be home to a diversity of flora and fauna, making the resort a unique destination.

The Andaman keep to its promise to be an **eco-friendly resort**. Bath amenities in the suite and luxury rooms are presented in locally crafted porcelain pots, eliminating the use of plastic containers. Another eco-friendly effort worth mentioning is the service of complimentary drinking water in some of the rooms. Available upon request, guests can experience the indigenous way of staying hydrated with drinking water provided in Labu Sayong, a traditional black clay pitcher, believed to help prevent illness and stomach disorder as well as keeping the water cold. It is refilled daily with reverse osmosis drinking water, again eliminating the use of plastic bottles. Apart from that, the desk lamps in the newly renovated rooms are made from the fallen rocks that form the backdrop of the Datai Bay, some of the oldest geological material on Earth dated back more than 500 million years.



The Andaman and the enchanting Datai Bay



Tranquillity - more than word can say!



A luxurious traditional Malay architecture within the pristine forest environment



Pool viewed from top at the resort

The Andaman has all sorts of activities throughout the hotel, no matter what kind of experience you are looking for. With a plenty of rare wildlife and exotic flora, the Andaman's inspiring location enables guests to contribute in a wide range of activities that integrate the surrounding nature, while still enjoying the luxurious trimmings of a five-star resort.

The hotel has several nature tours each day open to all the guests. There is a complimentary **Rainforest Awakening** tour each morning, where an experienced naturalist takes you on an hour walk around the rainforest next to the hotel. If you prefer a nighttime experience, there

is a similar **Rainforest After Dark** tour, where you might spot one of several flying animals, including flying foxes and flying lemurs! Plus, there are some trails through the rainforest you can take leading you to the next bay.

The Andaman joined the rank of Langkawi UGGp Partner for the management's tireless efforts in showcasing nature conservation. The latest are their efforts in **rehabilitation of the 8000 years old fringing coral reef**, severely damaged by the 2004 tsunami disaster.

Named the **Best Spa Hotel and Best Sustainable Hotel in Malaysia** for three consecutive years since 2011 at the **International Hotel Awards** and also featured twice on the 2010 and 2011 **Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Awards** list as **10th Best Hotel in Asia and the Indian Subcontinent and 6th Best Hotel Spa Outside the UK**, the Andaman brings together relaxed 5-star luxury and an unparalleled destination experience in the heart of some of the most alluring



The Andaman Resort viewed from front

The luxurious traditional resort lobby

PARADISE 101

ISLAND OF UNLIMITED FUN



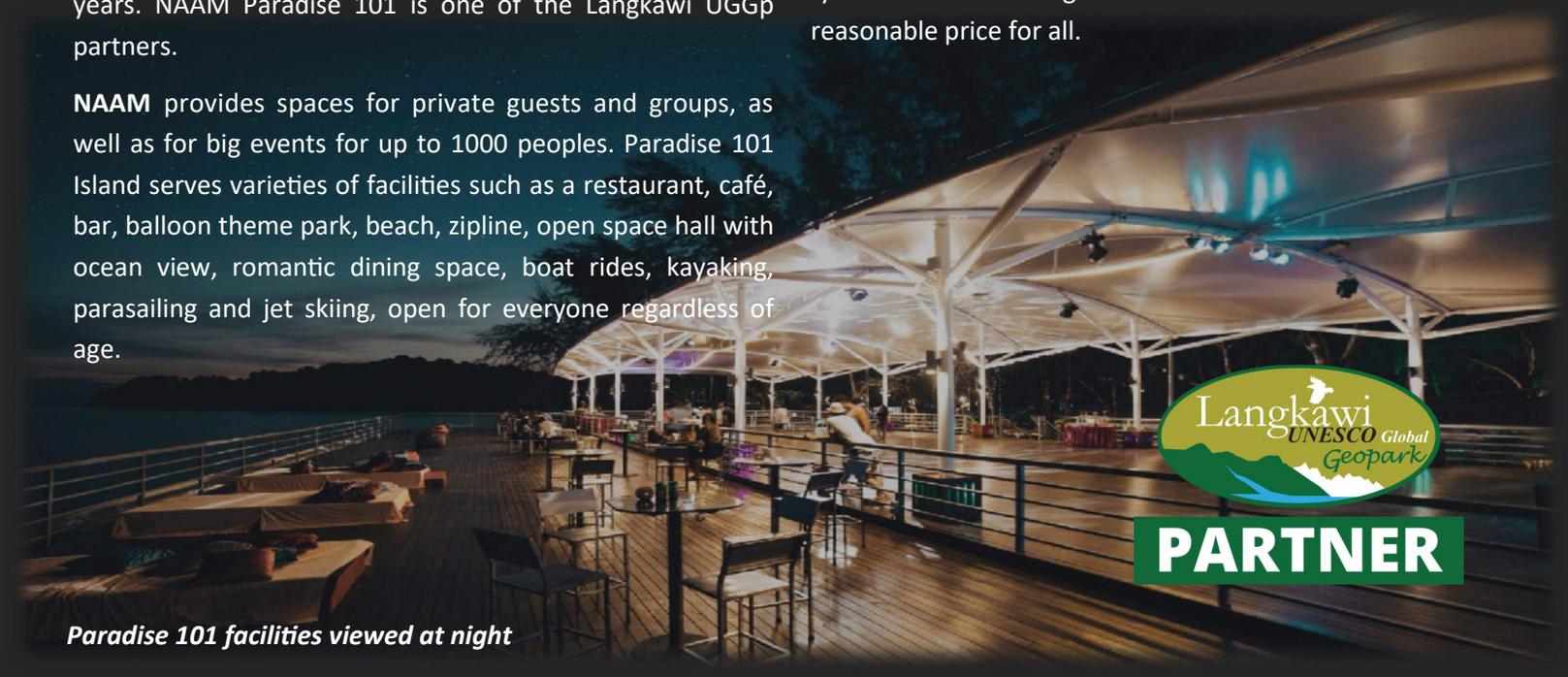
Paradise 101 island on Teluk Burau

Located in Teluk Burau, **Paradise 101** is one of the Langkawi man made island, just a stone throw away from **Perdana Quay (Telaga Harbour)** of Langkawi. Relatively a small island, but NAAM Paradise 101 serves for multi-functions and hosts more exciting activities that a person can ever experience.

NAAM means 'water' in Thai language, which is described as **'of unlimited energy'**. It is a private tourism company owned by Dr. Ravi, and have been fully functioning for two exciting years. NAAM Paradise 101 is one of the Langkawi UGGp partners.

NAAM provides spaces for private guests and groups, as well as for big events for up to 1000 peoples. Paradise 101 Island serves varieties of facilities such as a restaurant, café, bar, balloon theme park, beach, zipline, open space hall with ocean view, romantic dining space, boat rides, kayaking, parasailing and jet skiing, open for everyone regardless of age.

NAAM provides hundreds of entertainments in an island. They even provide special package for honeymooners with romantic lunch and dinner on a cruise to private island. They also serve for family and company functions packages, such as team-building activities, weddings and festivals on NAAM Paradise 101 Island. This family-friendly attraction offers roundtrip boat shuttle from Perdana Quay to show the beautiful Teluk Burau and Machinchang Range. People also can relax and chill on the island, in one of the so many comfy cabanas overlooking the sea with full butler services for a reasonable price for all.



PARTNER

Paradise 101 facilities viewed at night

Sustainable Tourism

Paradise 101 Island is **handicap friendly** place where the whole island is provided with handicaps pathway so that everybody can have a peace of mind in sharing beautiful nature of Langkawi UGGp.

It is an **eco-friendly island** where varieties of local plants are planted all around the island. All infrastructures are also built using environmental-ly friendly material.

Elsewhere in Langkawi, NAAM regularly contributes towards beach cleaning initiatives. They organize regular trip to other beaches including the uninhabited Teluk Daun where they provide free service for free to help maintaining Langkawi esthetics.

Children always are special asset and special ambassador to Langkawi UGGp and NAAM. For this NAAM also help special students in Kedah by providing them a full educational trip for free to help widen their knowledge of Langkawi.



Private night event on the island



Bonfire dinner on the island



Parasailing at Teluk Burau

NAAM is proud to be chosen as one of the co-organizer for PATA Travel Mart Fair 2018, one of the major event in Langkawi on September 2018. During this event, NAAM hosted one of the most memorable fun full dinner for over a 1000 participants who have given loads of positive feedbacks to the organizers.

Hence, if you are looking for unlimited fun in just one small private island, NAAM is just the right place for you.



Round-trip lunch cruise

GEO PRODUCT

RUHA— GAMAT Chocolate Chip Biscuit

Gamat is a Malay word for several species of **sea cucumbers**, which are marine creatures that have a leathery skin and a long body. They live on the sea floor, feeding on hard detritus especially broken death coral rubbles all over the world. These ugly watery animal have been chased by people for its various **medicinal values**. Gamat has been linked with **special healing power** for various external and internal wound and many other kind of illness. They can also be cooked into nice delicious dishes. Several gamat species which have high healing properties were once found in abundant in the sea around Langkawi. Now, they have been over harvested and initiatives are made to culture gamat to meet the growing market demand.

Langkawi is synonymous for its varieties of **gamat-based products** such as gamat ointment, water, balm and soap. In order to meet growing market demand for gamat, Ruha Zara Enterprise, a local Langkawian company have created an innovative foods to diversify gamat-based products. The company introduced the delicious **Gamat Chocolate Chips Biscuit** that are nicely wrapped and packed, sold in the market. The gamat chocolate chips of Ruha Zara Enterprise is mixed with ginger and herbs, suitable for healthy foods intake. Ruha Zara Enterprise Manager, **Hasruha Othman**, said “she took advantage of the huge Gamat business in Langkawi to produce this special biscuits”. This biscuit has nutrition that heals internal wounds, removes the wind in the body, strengthens the mind, reduces cholesterol, aging, increases body metabolism, improves blood circulation, and as a supplementary diet.



Hasruha Othman and her proud geopark product



Nicely packed RUHA gamat chocolate chip biscuit

BAHASA CORNER

Dalam bahasa Melayu, gamat adalah sekumpulan sea cucumber berkulit liat dan berjasad panjang. Haiwan ini hidup di dasar laut seluruh dunia, memakan butiran keras terutamanya serpihan karang mati. Hidupan berair ini menjadi buruan manusia untuk nilai perubatannya. Gamat dikaitkan dengan kuasa penyembuhan istimewa untuk luka luaran dan dalaman serta berbagai penyakit lain. Gamat juga boleh dimasak menjadi makanan delikasi yang lazat. Beberapa spesies gamat yang mempunyai nilai perubatan yang tinggi banyak dijumpai di perairan Langkawi. Kini kebanyakan spesies gamat ini telah hampir pupus, dan beberapa inisiatif kini dilaksanakan dalam membiak semula spesies gamat ini bagi memenuhi permintaan pasaran yang membesar.

Langkawi amat terkenal dengan kepelbagaian produk berasas gamat seperti minyak, air, balm dan sabun. Demi memenuhi permintaan pasaran yang pesat berkembang, sebuah syarikat tempatan bernama Ruha Zara Enterprise di sini mengambil inisiatif untuk menghasilkan makanan inovatif untuk mempelbagaikan produk berasaskan gamat. dijual di pasaran.



Delicious gamat chocolate chip biscuit

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RUHA (continue)...

Syarikat ini telah memperkenalkan Biskut Cip Coklat Gamat yang telah dibungkus dengan baik dan biskut cip coklat keluaran Ruha Zara Enterprise telah dicampurkan dengan halia dan herba, sesuai untuk dimakan sebagai makanan kesihatan. Pengurus Ruha Zara Enterprise, Hasruha Othman berkata “beliau mengambil kesempatan pada industri gamat yang besar di Langkawi untuk menghasilkan biskut istimewa ini”.

Biskut ini mempunyai khasiat pemakanan yang boleh menyembuh luka dalaman, membuang angin dalam tubuh, menguatkan minda, mengurangkan kolesterol, penuaan, meningkatkan metabolisme tubuh, meningkatkan peredaran darah, dan sebagai diet tambahan.

DATAI VALLEY Virgin Coconut Oil



The organic mango farm owner **Mardiana Shaari** has developed a range of **virgin coconut oil** under the **Datai Valley Brand**. Datai Valley was one of the Malaysian brands showcased at the inaugural *InStyle Langkawi* (ISL) trade show held at the resort island of Langkawi recently. Datai Valley was registered in June last year and ever since it came up with new packaging, the products have been high in demand. Datai Valley virgin coconut oil is made only from local coconut. They are proven by testimony to be very good for dry skin and since it has a soft coconut scent, not a strong odor, it is also perfect for massaging purposes. There was a story happened several years ago, a farmer's son was scalded by boiling water and a neighbor suggested that he use virgin coconut oil on his skin. It healed the burn and left no scars.

Furthermore, Mardiana stated that “two years ago, her hands were very dry, so she applied some virgin coconut oil on them and was amazed by how moisturizing it was”. She also said, “Whenever she drive around Langkawi, she saw so many coconuts lying around. She thought to herself that it is sad to see something great being wasted. Since many of her friends and she herself use a lot of virgin coconut oil, she decided that she should start making her own virgin coconut oil product that she started about two years ago”.

As for today, Datai Valley virgin coconut oil products are only available at selected hotels such as the Danna, Andaman, at Pantai Cenang as well as at her home at Atma Alam. Her range of virgin coconut oil is packaged in 120ml or 100ml bottles and made through the cold press method using local Langkawi coconuts. It takes her three to four days to produce five to six bottles of virgin coconut oil from 10 coconuts. Mardiana hopes that ISL will give her products the boost it needs so she can widen her market and at the same time make some inroads overseas.

LANGKAWI MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

93 years-old Prime Minister represents Langkawi

The sustainability of any endeavor towards protection of culture and nature such as UNESCO program for World Heritage Sites and Global Geoparks relying much on political stability of the host country. In order to attained political stabilities all countries in the world will exercise periodical general election. In case of Malaysia the general election is held once in every 4 years. During this year's 14th General Election, Pakatan Harapan chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has won the Langkawi Parliamentary seat on May 9, 2018 and was appointed as the 7th Prime Minister of the country.

During his reign as Malaysia's 4th Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir has given Langkawi a big push to enabled the island to be develop at par with other districts and islands in the country. His legacy in Langkawi is very strong as residents remember his efforts in transforming Langkawi's agriculture-based economy into a tourism attraction by giving it Free Duty Island status in 1987. Later, by establishing the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) that reported directly to the Prime Minister Office, the island was no longer competing for funds with other projects in the state of Kedah. With the support of federal government, Langkawi experienced a rapid development of infrastructure.

Dr Mahathir served as an **Advisor to LADA (1998-2003)** when various key development projects were successfully completed. Due to Mahathir efforts, strategies and contributions to the development of Langkawi all these years, Tun Dr. Mahathir is known as "**The Father of Langkawi Development**".

Prime Minister's Langkawi UGGp Working Tour

On August 4th 2018, Langkawi UGGp stood proud when the Farther of Langkawi Development, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad held a **one day working visit** to review progresses of ongoing development projects here. Everyone know how busy he is, but for the sake of peoples of Langkawi and the development of Langkawi UGGp, he made his commitment to visit Langkawi on his official visit. He started the tour by opening the Langkawi Nature Park, Langkawi's largest eco-tourism center located at Kampung Belanga Pechah. The park houses more than 80 species of animals in a natural mangrove forest area. He then launched the Langkawi Member of Service Center in Kuah before visiting Langkawi District Hospital. Local people were very happy to have opportunity to meet their Prime Minister.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Langkawi Member of Parliament (top); Tun Dr Mahathir paid his visit to Langkawi (middle and bottom)

PATA TRAVEL MART



● **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)** is a nonprofit membership association founded in 1951, acts as a substance for the responsible development of travel and tourism within the Asia Pacific region. PATA provides support, perceptive research and groundbreaking events to its member organizations, including 98 government agencies, 19 international airlines, 91 hospitality organizations and 70 educational institutions.

PATA Travel Mart is a worldwide travel trade exhibition featuring unparalleled networking and contracting opportunities to help travel and tourism organisations access to decision makers, meet new clients, expand their networks, establish new relationships and consolidate existing business partnerships. Thus, to host PATA Travel Mart on September 12th-14th, 2018 is indeed a privilege to Langkawi UGGp as it greatly helped to boost the island's tourism industries to the broad participating audiences. Langkawi UGGp was extremely fortunate when after this great event was first held in Kuala Lumpur 2005, this is only the second time Malaysia was chosen to host such prestigious event.

This opportunity was captured to introduced the geopark element to Asian tourism ambassadors through a special talk by the **Vice President of Global Geoparks Network Association (GGN)**, Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Ibrahim Komoo. Professor Ibrahim enlighten the audiences with the inseparable link between geopark - geotourism and sustainable development concepts and the need to explore local creativities and innovations in luring tourists without compromising indigenous heritage and the authenticity of natural environment.

PATA Travel Mart 2018 was officially launched by the Honorable Dato Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, **Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia** at the **Mahsuri International Exhibition Center (MIEC)**. The event was attended by over 1000 participants coming from over 60 countries across the globe. 67 Malaysian sellers from government agencies and private sectors were on board this year, leveraging on this golden opportunity to meet international buyers.

As the host, LADA was very proud of its CEO Dato' Haji Azizan Noordin for being appointed as the **Vice Chairman of PATA**. With his vast experience in tourism, PATA will continuously be regarded as the best platform for addressing issues on Asian tourism for a long time in the future. As for Langkawi UGGp, this was a simply great opportunity to sell the **geopark branding for Langkawi**.**CONGRATULATION to LADA and LUGGp**

PATA GOLD AWARDS 2018

Luncheon and Presentation

September 14, 2018
Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC)
Langkawi, Malaysia



Prof Emeritus Dato' Dr Ibrahim (above)
and Dato' Haji Azizan (below)



JUNIOR GEOPARKIAN

Langkawi starts world's first Geopark Junior Guide project in 2018



Langkawi is the first UNESCO Global Geopark in the world to introduce a **Geopark Junior Guide**. It is a program to train school students to become tour guides specializing in geoparks. Since

Upon completion of the program, the top five students from the primary and secondary school categories will be qualified as in-house tour guides. As part of the training program, the students were taken to several geopark locations on the island, such as the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park and the Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park to improve their knowledge. It was fascinating that the talent had shown by the students, especially their ability to talk about the Langkawi geopark in a very interesting way. The students were also encouraged to include legendary stories to make their presentations more interesting, as well as messages on the importance of preserving the natural environment and cleanliness of Langkawi.

October 2018, about 46 students from 14 primary and secondary schools in Langkawi have attended training by the geopark division staff of the LADA. According to LADA Acting CEO, Haji Mohd Asri Redha Abdul Rahman the Global Geopark Network (GGN) under the UNESCO had confirmed that the program is first of its kind. No other geoparks in the world has organized such project beforehand and this would make it a great move as Langkawi would be undergoing a revalidation exercise next year.

LADA's Geopark Division manager, Mr. Azmil Munif Mohd Bukhari said the education aspect was one of criteria that would be assessed by UNESCO during the revalidation exercise and the Geopark Junior program would give another merit for Langkawi to maintain the global geopark status. LADA had worked closely with the Langkawi District Education Department, schools and the local community since 2007 with the objective of getting them to understand the concept of the geopark and the roles that they could play in promoting sustainability on the island. This Geopark Junior Guide program also gave the students the chance to understand the role of LADA as the leading government agency to promote the Langkawi Global Geopark in the past and future.

There are approximately 140 Geopark around the world and Langkawi and was accorded the geopark status by UNESCO on June 1, 2007 and had successfully maintained it in the last two revalidation exercises, which were conducted by geopark experts from other countries on a four-yearly basis. Langkawi was the first location in Southeast Asia to be accorded the Global Geopark status which has helped promote the island for its unique natural formations. Haji Asri Redha said the **Geopark Junior Guide project** will be conducted on an annual basis and would play a crucial part in promoting the island's geopark status.



Group photo with LADA team and participants of the Geopark Junior Guide Project 2018; top photo—one of the top five students receiving his winning award.

FAREWELL CEO



On November 18, 2018, Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) has organized an event of *Sanjungan Budi* in commemorating the departure of its Chief Executive Officer, **Dato' Haji Azizan Noordin** due to his retirement. The post is currently held by his Deputy Tuan Haji Mohd Asri Redha Abdul Rahman as an acting CEO. Dato' Hj. Azizan Noordin is recognized for his effort in strengthening tourism in Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. Dato Haji Azizan, who is also a certified tour guide, spent several years at Tourism Malaysia as the main body to promote tourism, where he was made a Deputy Director-General of the Department before being offered to lead LADA as a CEO.

Dato' Haji Azizan said that the tourism trade community should focus on marketing and promotion since global tourism is a competitive industry. He also advocated the need to focus on sustainability and to improve the maintenance of tourism infrastructure for future generations.

And now as Dato' Haji Azizan becomes the **Vice Chairman of PATA**, he hopes that the outbound and inbound travel practitioners of Langkawi could also leverage on PATA's research to plan their strategy to attract tourists here. "We also need to ensure that tourism benefits all levels of society here and to be big enough to benefit all industry players" said Dato' Haji Azizan.

By his retirement as the LADA CEO, he hoped that the new CEO of LADA would continue to promote Malaysia in this context, and to look at sustainable tourism, to pay attention to maintaining the infrastructure, to liaise with the private sectors who know what incentives are needed, and to strategize marketing and promotions for Langkawi.



Group photo together with the outgoing LADA CEO; above—Dato' Haji Azizan delivering his farewell speech and receiving a memento from staffs of LADA.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LADA has taken initiative to create and organize community events to encourage more local community participations in Langkawi UGGp. Some of these events also allowed involvement of international community. Some of these events indirectly served as a tools in injecting awareness among the community about geopark and its sustainability. These events are designed to cater the interests of the different groups of community, from family fun days, heritage and geology talks to walking and food festivals, craft workshops and guided rambles. There is a mix of activities for all those interested in learning more about the Geopark. The Earth Day 2018 organized by LADA was made to articulate environmental protection, especially plastic pollution that poisoned the sea and the soil.

Relaxing with Langkawi UGGp Community

On the February 2018, a casual discourse between Langkawi community and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) and LADA was held at Laman Padi, Langkawi. Senior Research Fellow of PPL also Advisor to Langkawi UGGp, Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim bin Komoo was invited to share some of his experience. The program was attended by NRE Secretary General (KSU), Dato' Sri Azizan Bin Ahmad, and Dato' Haji Azizan bin Noordin, Chief Executive of LADA.



Local community having a casual discourse with officers from NRE and LADA



Langkawi UGGp Advisor Outreach Program

A special Langkawi UGGp Advisor Outreach Program was organized by LADA and Panorama Langkawi Sdn. Bhd. (PLSB) at the Oriental Village on April 19, 2018. This program is aimed at enhancing participants knowledge about Langkawi UGGp in greater detail. Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo, a senior research fellow at PPL was invited as a speaker. Participants include staffs from LADA, PLSB, Lada Eco-Tourism Sdn Bhd and Langkawi Port Sdn Bhd. This program is part of the initiative for the Langkawi UGGp Road to Revalidation Program 2019.



Local stakeholders listening to talk by Prof. Emer. Dato' Dr Ibrahim Komoo

Awards Night of Langkawi Tourism Industry

Exhibition of Langkawi UGGp during the Awards Night of Langkawi Tourism Industry held on 31st March 2018

GEO VOLUNTEER

As part of an initiative to empower the public, Langkawi UGGp and LADA has created a program called Geo Volunteer involving stakeholders from the tourism industry, community group, NGO and individual to undertake scheduled cleaning up activities at different critical locations in order to keep Langkawi a better living place to everybody. Most of these cleaning activities are supported and sponsored by LADA. In addition to this big group of geo volunteers, there is also a group of individuals called the Trash Heroes of Langkawi doing more or less similar jobs in especially areas not covered by Geo Volunteer program.

IMT-GT Tourism Forum

On 31st October 2018, the first IMT-GT TOURISM Forum and Press Conference was held at Langkawi Resort World in order to explore, develop and promote more new tourism attractions that can provide more business opportunities and generate more profit to tourism industries in growth triangle areas of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand. The press conference was attended by Datuk Rashidi Hasbullah, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia together with Mr. Santi Pawai, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Thailand and Mr. Ari Setyo Nughoru, Assistant Deputy Director for the Government and International Relation, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Indonesia. A forum was organized dedicated to community participation in tourism industry during this three nations meeting.



IMT-GT forum dedicated to the role of community in tourism industry.

Let's Keep Kilim Clean

Another initiative of Geopark community for the geopark sustainability is the participations of Geo Volunteers in "LET'S KEEP KILIM CLEAN" program. On 7 October 2018, geo volunteers from the Langkawi Craft Complex have participated in the Let's Keep Kilim Clean program from 8.00 am - 1.00 pm, at the Kilim Tourist Jetty, organized by the LADA and Langkawi UGGp in conjunction with UNWTO Tourism Day 2018. The program was officiated by the Honorable Mr. Muhammad Bakhtiar Bin Wan Chik (Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture). The main purpose of organizing this program is to clear all the junk and rubbish settled along the bank of Kilim River.



Volunteers from Langkawi Craft Complex doing voluntary work in cleaning the Kilim tourist area.



GEO VOLUNTEER

Clean Up Geosite Program

New year is coming, let us make a 2019 resolution that there is no more trash on the beach and along the road in Langkawi. For any events E-Idaman Sdn Bhd must place recycle cages for rubbish separation & **Majlis Perbandaran Langkawi Bandaraya Pelancongan**, LADA and other organizers must agree to reduce plastic trash. This program was held at Teluk Burau on 17th of January 2018.

On top of that, The Geopark and Conservation Department, LADA has implemented Geo Volunteer as initiative to encourage the involvement or interest of the youth of all races on conserving activities that run by Langkawi UGGp that will also actively contribute towards the development of Langkawi UGGp.



Volunteers separating rubbish for recycling purposes

Langkawi Trash Hero activities

The Trash Hero of Langkawi is an honorable group of peoples who voluntarily help in cleaning Langkawi. There are many volunteers from among the youth of Langkawi between the ages of 18 to 30 years old whom were interested in joining the activities concerning Langkawi UGGp. But most importantly, a lot of young people could be reached in order to educate them about littering, burning trash, and how our daily lives affect this planet we live on. It is a matter of creating awareness on the ways to handle trash pollution and Trash Hero project for 2019 is educating the public on plastic pollution.

Hopefully for any events like Night Run or Cycling, Iron-man or anything participants are given recycle bottles for them to refill. Refill stations or points where they can get filtered water are placed in many areas. Thus, it automatically will reduce plastic bottles pollution. This is our dream, a clean green Langkawi UGGp.



Trash Heroes doing one of their beach cleaning job at the Westin Langkawi

LANGKAWI CULTURE

All through the year, Langkawi serves many festivals and events that reflect the culture and heritage of the island. During these festivals all peoples of Langkawi are seen celebrating together in full harmony regardless of their races and religions. This religious harmony can become Langkawi's biggest tourism assets yet to be tapped seriously.

Ramadhan Special

LADA and Langkawi UGGp celebrated Ramadhan this year through multiple community events called Exploring Ramadhan which include lambuk porridge Iftar at Al Hana Mosque, Iftar with Prime Minister, Iftar with the needy Asnaf at Surau al Amin, and Iftar with students of AlYamani Tahifiz School, Kelibang.



Haji Mohd Asri at the Lambuk Iftar, Al-Hana Mosque, Kuah

Asyura Carnival 2018

Asyura is the tenth day of the Islam Hijri calendar. On 27 September LADA had organized a special Asyura Porridge Carnival where rice porridge of various taste were prepared by competing teams and tasted by the judge and public. To make up the day, there are also colouring, azan calling and speech recital competition.



Ladies and gentlemen cooked Asyura porridge together (top left), the organizer (top right), participants with traditional Malay costume attending religious forum at LADA Sport Complex (bottom).



Chinese New Year Special

On 20 February, 2018 Langkawi Chinese community celebrated the first day of the year of the Rooster, the tenth animals in Chinese calendar at Kuah Town.



Cultural performance by Langkawi Chinese community

Hari Merdeka (Independence Day)

The independence day of Malaysia is celebrated in the country on every 31 August. Every year, Langkawi hosts a lot of cultural, social and sport activities during Independence Day in great patriotic spirit.



Independence Day Parades that took place in Kuah.

BANKING ON HUMAN CAPITAL

UNESCO global Geopark has realize that capacity building is broadly recognized as a crucial tool to foster sustainability of tourism development within geopark territory. In Langkawi, rapid transformation of the island leads to the slight marginalization of the rural economy. In addressing this issue, various strategies and events have been attempted by Langkawi UGGp to enhance the capacity building and to empower local community to participate in both local and international tourism activities.

MTCP Global Geopark Planning and Development Workshop

On 15 - 20 September 2018, MTCP Global Geopark Planning and Development Workshop was held at the PPL, UKM, and was participated by 10 international and 6 local participants consisting of officers from relevant government and private agencies from multiple countries. The workshop was officiated by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Azhar Haji Yahaya.

For this year, a theme on *Geopark for Sustainable Tourism* was chosen as an extension for a much fundamental theme previously. During this course participants were exposed to the fundamentals of Geopark including theories and practices, to increase the awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today and how Malaysia manages Langkawi UGGp, particularly when it comprises of 99 islands in Langkawi. Furthermore, the participants were taught about the spillover effects and creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high-quality training courses through development of Geoparks and be able to assess and identify shortfalls in the management of Langkawi UGGp and make constructive recommendations for improvement.



Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark

The Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark was helping to boost the connection between GGN members regarding sharing experience, challenges, and best practices for sustainable management of Geoparks in October this year. The third series of Regional Course was held from 22—26 October 2018 at the Holiday Villa Resort in Langkawi UGGp. There are total of 40 participants that attend from all GGN across the world most of from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Iran.

Throughout the course, there are several important invited speakers who like to share their experience in creating a Geopark in their countries. The first one is **Prof Emeritus Dato' Dr Ibrahim Komoo**, Vice President of GGN and also the Course Director graced the ceremony and gave the overview of UNESCO Global Geoparks, while **Dr Mahito Watanabe**, member of both the UGGp Council & GGN ExB from Geological Survey of Japan and **Prof. Zhang Jianping**, UGGp Council Vice-Chairperson, GGN ExB member from University of Geosciences Beijing. The other invited speakers from Thailand whom is **Ms Pakkaporn Singhwachiraworakul** from Vongchavalitkul University and **Mr Nguyen Tien Dzung**, from Vietnam Ly Son National Geopark.



GEO RECREATION

Sport tourism has become a popular sub-sector in the tourism industry today. Langkawi is one of the nucleus for the development of sport tourism in Malaysia ever since the success in staging Le Tour de Langkawi in 1992. In 2018, Langkawi continue to stage several world-class sport events, among them the Royal Langkawi International Regatta (January), Le Tour De Langkawi (March), Tuba Trail Run (April), Ironman of Langkawi, and many more.

Tuba Trail Run 2018

Known for the likes of the tough Xterra and Ironman Triathlon Races, Langkawi UGGp also organised local race called the Tuba Trail Run annually. The race on 21 April 2018 explored a mixture of trails from tarmac road around the village to beach way in order to promote nature and culture around the island. This is an important part of the UGGp efforts to empower the local in order to boost their economy.

Tuba Trail Run follows the newly opened trails that span the rustic islands of Pulau Tuba and Pulau Dayang Bunting. Langkawi UGGp is grooming the race to make it bigger at international level. At this moment the full length of the trail is only 30 km, fell a bit short of the normal marathon distance of 42 km.



Selective photos during the Tuba Trail Run 2018

Royal Langkawi International Regatta

The 16th Royal Langkawi International Regatta (RLIR) 2018 with over 20 boats signed up to race in the highly anticipated annual sailing event from 8-13 January.

Organised by the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club (RLYC), the international regatta had witnessed competitive sailors from Australia, France, Denmark, Japan, Great Britain, Russia, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia vying for coveted trophies and prizes in seven classes: Racing, IRC 1, IRC 2, Club Cruising, Multihull, Ocean Rover and White Sail.



Selective photos taken during the Royal Langkawi International Regatta 2018

IronMan

The Langkawi UGGp Ironman held on 17 November 2018 at different venues, spread out across the Langkawi island.



OceanMan

The Langkawi UGGp Oceanman held on the 1st December 2018 at Tanjung Rhu, Langkawi.



FIVB Volleyball World Tour Langkawi Open

The Langkawi UGGp Volleyball tournament held on 26 -29 April 2018 at Pantai Chenang, Langkawi.



Le Tour De Langkawi

The 23rd edition of Le Tour de Langkawi from 18 - 25 March 2018 and organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia.



GEO PROMOTION

Tourism is the most important sectors of Langkawi's economic activity and the key to successfulness of a geopark. The Tourism Division of LADA was set up in order to market Langkawi UGGp as the world leading tourist destination. At home, LADA has been given a full responsibility to organize various international and national tourism events, and for the year 2018 Langkawi UGGp have organized several major tourism events such as the Langkawi International Maritime Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) and MATTA Fair as well as sport tourism and outreaching events. Equally important is for LADA to take part and promote Langkawi UGGp during various events organized by other government and non-governmental agencies in Langkawi, in Malaysia as well as overseas.

UNESCO Malaysia Day

The UNESCO Malaysia 2018 Day was held at the Sultan Azlan Shah Circle, Ipoh, Perak from 29 to 30 September 2018. The ceremony was officiated by Education Minister Dr. Maszlee bin Malik in the presence of Mr Shahbaz Khan, Director of Science Bureau, UNESCO Asia Pacific Region. The celebration was organized by the UNESCO Malaysia National Commission (SKUM) under the Ministry of Education Malaysia with the theme "Youth for Change". The aim of the celebration was to enhance the visibility and role of SKUM at the national level and to improve cooperation between SKUM and government as well as non-governmental agencies. Langkawi UGGp put on its promotion booth during the celebration.



Selected photos taken during UNESCO Malaysia Day in Ipoh

MITA Fair

Promo booth of Langkawi UGGp during the MITA Fair held from 19-21 January 2018 at MITEC, Kuala Lumpur.



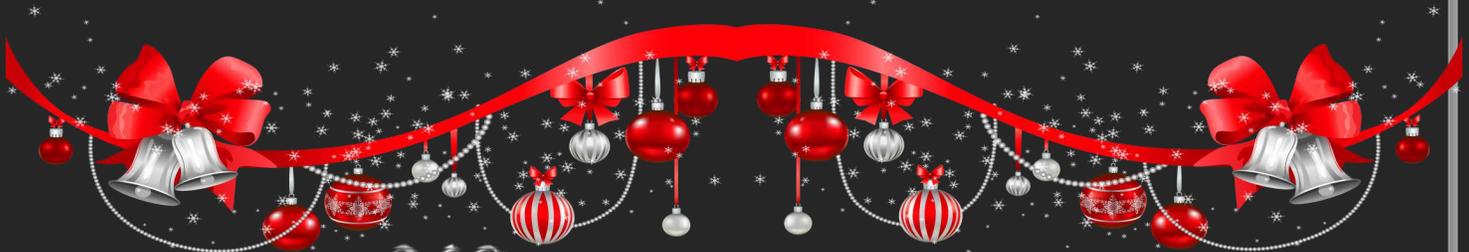
MATTA Fair

Promo booth of Langkawi UGGp during the MATA Fair held from 16-18 March 2018 at PWTC, Kuala Lumpur. LADA also put on their booth in several other state hosted MATA exhibition across the country.



Staffs of LADA organizing promotional booth at PWTC, Kuala Lumpur

Join us in Langkawi UGGp in 2019!



Happy
New Year &
Merry Christmas

Upcoming Events



ROYAL LANGKAWI
INTERNATIONAL REGATTA
7-12 JAN 2019



THE 15TH LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME & AEROSPACE EXHIBITION

26-30 March 2019
Langkawi, Malaysia

#LIMA19

