PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN KHORAT ASPIRING UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK, NE THAILAND

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Session Topic: Popularizing scientific knowledge for public education

Khorat Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark is developed the education in geopark area by cooperated with several partnerships such as the biosphere reserves and natural world heritage that located in the province, the government enterprise organizations, and Thachangratbumrung school, the first geopark school attending. The educational programs are activated base on geological, natural and cultural resources and knowledge in each local especially the resources from cuesta and fossils scientific areas. Local resources in cuesta are mostly developed by sandstone, dry evergreen and dry dipterocarp forests, Lam Takong River sedimentation, prehistorical and historical geocultural sites. The most important fossils are deposited in Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras. Mesozoic fossils are usually dinosaurs and other vertebrate animals associated such as crocodilians, turtle, fresh water shark, and fish etc. Cenozoic fossils are usually mammalian especially 10 genera of ancient elephant, rhinos, orangutan, anthracotheres, three toes horse, bovid, deer, and pigs with other vertebrate animals associated such as crocodilians, turtle, fish etc. After Khorat Geopark project running, there are 25 schools including 15 primary, 2 secondary and 8 high schools have joined with the project. In addition, at least 9 educational programs were activated and used for school and community developments. Programs are including 1) educational course trainings 2) youth guide course trainings 3) information and learning center constructions in geopark schools 4) learning program for student families 5) youth volunteer 6) local curriculum for geopark schools 7) geopark information for education and geotourism promoting 8) fossil festival and 9) local product developments.