

Press Release

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Australia, Indonesia target geotourism growth

The natural wonders of Australia and Indonesia will be promoted under a new collaboration between the two countries targeting geotourism – considered the next big thing in international travel with a market estimated to reach around US\$1.2 billion by 2033.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Geoscience Council and the Indonesian Geoparks Network aims to raise the profile of both countries as world-leading, nature-based tourism destinations.

The MoU was signed on May 25 by AGC chair Dr Kevin Cassidy and IGN chairman Mohamad Farid Zaini.

Geotourism is defined as sustainable tourism that sustains or enhances the distinctive geographical character of a place — its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture, and the well-being of its residents.

Geotourism enhances the value of traditionally structured, nature-based tourism by generating new product development, including geology, landscape, flora and fauna, as well as cultural heritage attributes, both Aboriginal and post European settlement.

Australia's major geotourism developments include the [Murchison GeoRegion](#) in Western Australia, and the [Ku-ring-gai](#) and [Glen Innes Highlands](#) GeoRegions in NSW.

IGN members include 10 UNESCO Global Geoparks and nine national geoparks, which promote geotourism, agrotourism, and marine, sport and cultural tourism along with being centres for education.

The MoU furthers the AGC's work to showcase the importance of geosciences to a wide audience and builds on its [National Geotourism Strategy](#), launched in 2021.

Australian Geoscience Council President Professor David Cohen said the MOU was an important step in the continued promotion of geotourism in Australia and Indonesia.

The council believes fostering an understanding of the Earth's geology is one of the best ways to communicate the value of geosciences to the broader Australian community.

"An improved profile for geosciences is likely to have a positive impact in other areas of strategic importance, most notably the need for continuing tertiary enrolments in geoscience, which is required to meet Australia's needs for highly qualified geoscience graduates and researchers into the future," Professor Cohen said.



“Australia is blessed with amazing geology – from some of the oldest rocks and earliest indicators of life on Earth to spectacular mineral deposits that formed as our continent evolved.

“With such diversity and rich geological history, geotourism is a natural extension of nature-based and cultural tourism because it encompasses a range of attractions.”

Among the aims of the collaboration, the IGN and AGC will work together to:

- Promote geotourism through the development of geosites, mining heritage sites, geological time walks and rock gardens, geotrails, and existing or proposed geoparks.
- Raise the profile of Indonesia and Australia as world-leading, nature-based tourism destinations.
- Improve the quality of geoscience education.
- Explore collaborative projects such as conferences focused on geopark/geotrail development and geoscience education held in both countries.
- Foster the development of ‘sister’ relationships between existing or proposed geoparks and related organisations (such as geoscience professional societies) of Indonesia and Australia.

ENDS

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ABOUT

The Australian Geoscience Council (AGC) is the peak council of geoscientists in Australia. It represents eight major Australian geoscientific societies with a total membership of over 8,000 individuals comprising industry, government and academic professionals in the fields of geology, geophysics, geochemistry, mineral and petroleum exploration, environmental geoscience, geotourism, hydrogeology and geological hazards.

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