

20th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology

21-26 November, 2022

John Brush

This is an invitation for all ACKMA members to participate in the 20th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (ISV20) in Dak Nong Province in Vietnam's central highlands. The symposium commences with a welcome party on the evening of 21 November and will conclude after the field trips on 25 and 26 November.

The theme is: *Conservation and sustainable use of volcanoes and volcanic caves.*

The ISV is being organised by Dak Nong Province and the Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark with support from the Vietnam Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources (VIGMR) and the Vietnam National Museum of Nature (VNMN).

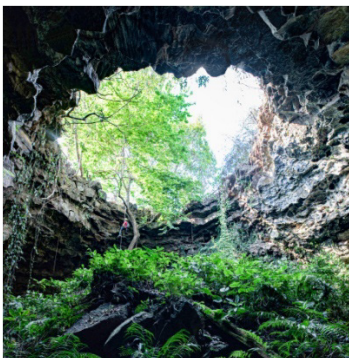


Provincial Conference Hall, Gia Nghia City.
Photo: Vo Minh Tien

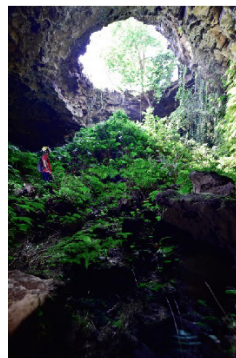


Entrance to Cave C9.
Photo: Ton Ngoc Bao

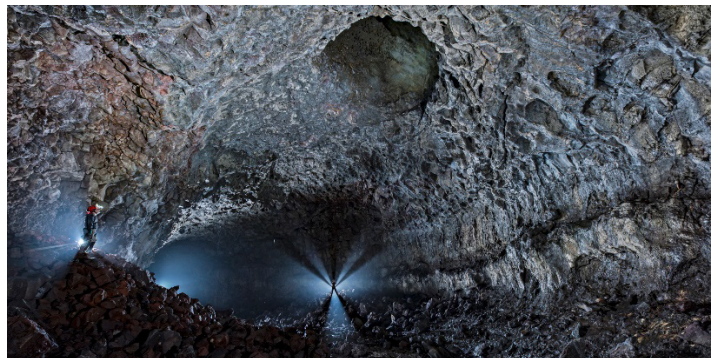
Presentations and workshop sessions will be held in the Provincial Conference Hall in Gia Nghia City, which is about 250 km northeast of Ho Chi Minh City. Field trips to caves and other volcanic features in the geopark will be conducted over the last two days of the ISV. Various one- and two-day field trip options are available. Among the highlights are trips into Cave C7, the longest volcanic cave in southeast Asia; an SRT trip into Cave P8, the deepest cave in the geopark; and visits to caves containing stunning volcanic features, ancient archaeological remains and diverse biological communities. There will also be walks to volcanic craters, lava flows and waterfalls.



(a)



(b)



(c)

- (a) 11m pitch into Cave C7. Photo: Takashi Murase
- (b) Entrance to Cave C7, the longest known volcanic cave in Southeast Asia. Photo: Takashi Murase
- (c) The main passage in Cave P8. Photo: Takashi Murase

Online registration is now open on the ISV20 Website:

[20th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology \(20isvdaknong.com\)](http://20isvdaknong.com)

The maximum registration fee, which covers participation in the symposium and a 2-day field trip, is \$US400 and includes shuttle transport from, and back to, Ho Chi Minh City, lunches each day, the welcome party, symposium dinner, farewell party, a gala banquet, and also transport and hotel accommodation (2 nights) during the field trip. The fees are lower for accompanying persons and students, and also if you only want to do a 1-day field trip, or if you are not interested in doing any field trips at all.

The fees do not include accommodation for the three nights in Gia Nghia City, but rooms in a range of hotels can be booked on the registration form.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the ISV. However, as there is limited accommodation in both Gia Nghia and the field trip area, preference may be given to members of the UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves when the accommodation limits are close to being reached. The underlying message here is *register now!*



Above - Low passage in Cave C8.
Photo: Takashi Murase

Left - Nam Kar Volcano.
Photo: Tran An

For more information, visit the ISV20 Website, where you can also download the Second Circular containing the program outline, field trip information, cave descriptions and Vietnam entry procedures and visa requirements.

Residents of Australia and New Zealand (and 78 other countries) can apply online to the Immigration Department of Vietnam for an e-visa. Applications are processed in 3 days and the cost is \$US25. The process is straightforward. See here:

[Vietnam evisa - National portal on Immigration \(xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn\)](http://xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn)

All photos are courtesy of the Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark.

John Brush
Chair
UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves

