

## Mr Van Tran Tan

Prof. Tran Tan Van is Director of Vietnam Institute of Geosciences and Mineral Resources, Head of the Technical Committee on Geoparks under Vietnam's National Commission for UNESCO. He obtained his BSc. in Geology at the Azerbaijan State University in Baku (former USSR) in 1984, MSc. in Geotechnical Engineering at the Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand) in 1994 and D.Eng. in Geotechnical Engineering at the Saitama University (Japan) in 1997. His major interests are karst geology, active tectonics, geohazards, geoheritage and geopark.

Prof. Van first heard about the Geopark initiative in 2004 and since then has been actively promoting it. Together with his co-workers, he helped develop the Dong Van Geopark in North Vietnam, which was eventually set up in Sept. 2009 and accepted to the GGN in Oct. 2010. In 2012 he prepared a nation-wide program for geoheritage conservation and geopark development and management, which was approved by Vietnam's Prime Minister in Sept. 2014. Consequently a number of aspiring geoparks have been established. The Cao Bang Geopark in North Vietnam became the second UGGp of the country in 2018. The Dak Nong Geopark in Vietnam Central Highlands became the third UGGp in 2020. The Ly Son-Sa Huynh Geopark in Central Coastal Vietnam submitted its dossier to UNESCO in 2019 and is preparing for its evaluation. Several other provinces of Northwest and South Vietnam are also developing their geoparks. Internationally Prof. Van regularly participates in Geoparks conferences and symposia since 2007, being one of the founders of the Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network. Currently he is member of both the APGN and GGN Advisory Committees.