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**Geological relics and geopark in Anhui Province, China**

Wu, W.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Geological Survey of Anhui Province, Hefei, 230001, PR China.

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China is vast in territory, complex in geology structure and abundant in geological relics, it is one of the countries with a complete range of geological relics in the world. Anhui province is in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, southeast of China, lie between latitude 114.75E and longitude 119.83E, longitude 29.42N and longitude 34.67N, the area is 139,600 square kilometres.

Anhui province is located at the junction of the North China plate and the Yangtze plate, with the Dabie orogenic belt in the middle. Since late Archean, Anhui has complete stratum, frequent magmatic activity, strong metamorphism, vast mineral resources and various types of geological relics. Anhui is one of the provinces with a complete range of geological relics in China.

The main geological relics in Anhui are: Global Stratotype Section and Point of lower Triassic (Induan stage - Olenekian) in Pingdingshan Chaohu, the ultrahigh pressure metamorphic belt in Dabie Organ, the Tan-Lu fault zone in south China, ichthyosaur in Chaohu, fossils of dinosaurs, dinosaurs eggs, dinosaurs footprints in Qiyunshan, Lantian biota, Huainan biota, Eocene mammalian faunas in Qianshan, the world's second largest reserve of molybdenum in Shapinggou, copper deposit in Tongling, iron mine in Maanshan, granite landscapes in Huanshan, Tianzhushan, Tiantangzhai and Jiuhuashan, Danxia landform in Qiyunshan and Songliaoyan, karst landform in Taijidong, Jiushandong, Penglaixiandong and Yashan, ancient volcanic landform in Fushan, Marenshan, Dashushan and Nvshan, the Yangtze River, Nushan Lake, the hot springs in Bantang and Tangchi. Such instances are too numerous to enumerate. These precious geological relics are the result of the geological processes, which is the natural heritage that the mother earth left us. Geological relics provide an important scientific basis for the study of the earth, but also create a precious natural resources for the development of tourism. That's the reason that it is necessary to be protected.

Geopark is a natural park with its geological significance and its unique geological landscape as the main and integration of natural landscape and cultural landscape. The purpose of the establishment of the geopark are protecting the geological heritage resources, popularizing the knowledge of Earth Science and promoting the sustainable development of social economy. Geopark is in accordance with the principle of "developing in protection and protecting in development". So far, Anhui has established 16 geoparks. Among them, Huangshan and Tianzhushan are world geoparks, eleven of them, Jiuhuashan, Dabieshan, Qiyunshan, Fushan, Guniujiang, Bagongshan, Fengyangshan, Taijidong, Yashan, Marenshan, Qingyunshan, are national geoparks, three of them, karst cave group in Shitai, Nushan and Dashushan in Hefei are provincial geological parks..

