



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**LANG SON PROVINCIAL AGENCY FOR
INVESTMENT, TRADE AND TOURISM
PROMOTION**

(Lang Son Province, Viet Nam)

AND

**CAVING ASSOCIATION OF KU LEUVEN
UNIVERSITY**

(Belgium)

ON

CAVING COOPERATION

July 2025

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
**LANG SON PROVINCIAL AGENCY FOR INVESTMENT, TRADE AND
TOURISM PROMOTION**
(Lang Son Province, Viet Nam)
AND
CAVING ASSOCIATION OF KU LEUVEN UNIVERSITY
(Belgium)
ON
CAVING COOPERATION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered on this day, July 9th, 2025 at the office of Lang Son Provincial Agency for Investment, Trade and Tourism Promotion.

Lang Son Provincial Agency for Investment, Trade and Tourism Promotion, Lang Son province, Viet Nam and Caving Association of the KU Leuven University, Belgium, hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Parties” and individually as “the Party”;

PURSUANT to the prevailing laws and regulations in their respective countries as well as the procedures and policies of their respective governments; the two Parties sign this Memorandum of Understanding on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, and no legal binding;

NOW, THEREFORE, Lang Son Provincial Agency for Investment, Trade and Tourism Promotion and Caving Association of the KU Leuven University hereby have reached the following understanding:

1. Objectives

The Parties aims to promote cooperation and experience exchanges on reciprocal basis and further underline the importance of collaboration to promote

international cooperation and experience exchanges of the Parties through this MoU of cooperation based on reciprocity and respect of the independence and equal status of the Parties.

2. Collaborative activities

2.1. Upon signing this MoU, the Parties express their interest to collaborate on the following activities:

- Cooperating in advising on strategies and cave conservation.
- Cooperating to conserve caves and cave environment.
- Cooperate to explore and map some of caves in the Geopark.
- Cooperating to train and improve the quality of human resources in the field of caving conservation and exploration in Lang Son UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Introducing Belgium cavers to do caving in Lang Son UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Cooperating to attend and contribute to working programs, conferences, seminars, and forums on caving and caving tourism.

2.2. The Parties realize that it is not feasible to adequately foresee and address every issue involving the collaborative activities of the Parties herein. Hence the Parties will use their best endeavours in carrying out the steps and measures necessary for furthering their mutual interest under this MoU in accordance with the spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance to uplift the status of Lang Son UNESCO Global Geopark and Caving Association of the KU Leuven University.

3.2. All activities performed by the Caving Association of the KU Leuven University under this MoU will be restricted to caving and cave exploration and will follow the association deontological code to reduce harm to the cave environment.

3. Financial arrangements

Each Party will bear its own cost concerning this MoU and any financial arrangement related to collaborative activities. Any future activity that requires financial and other arrangements, a specific arrangement shall be agreed upon by both parties hereafter.

4. Settlement of differences

4.1. Any differences arising out of the implementation or interpretation of this MoU will be settled amicably through consultation and/or negotiation between the Parties.

4.2. This MoU only represents the intention of cooperation between the Parties and does not constitute any legal obligations of the Parties under domestic and international law and will not give rise to any legal process or create any enforceable obligations, express or implied. The implementation of this MoU will be in accordance with the national laws and regulations of each party.

5. Commencement, duration and termination

5.1 This MoU shall commence on the date of its last signing.

5.2 This MoU will remain in effect unless either Party terminates this MoU by giving one (1) month written notice to the other Party.

6. Notices

6.1. All notices or other communications under this MoU shall be in writing and shall be delivered by email or any other means of electronic transmission as either Party may have notified the sender and shall unless otherwise provided herein, be deemed to be duly given or made when delivered to the recipient at such electronic mail address and/or electronic transmission medium which is duly acknowledged. In case of important decisions affecting

caving and cave exploration, the Geopark will inform Caving Association of the KU Leuven University in timely manner.

(a) For Lang Son Provincial Agency for Investment, Trade and Tourism Promotion: Mrs. Pham Thi Huong

Address: 450 Ba Trieu Street, Vinh Trai Ward, Lang Son province, Vietnam

Email: pthuongdofals@gmail.com

Tel No: +84 358 479 368

(b) For Caving Association of the KU Leuven University: Dr. David Lagrou

Address: Minderbroedersstraat 50, 3000 Leuven

Email: bestuur@spekul.be; David.l.lagrou@gmail.com

Tel No: +32 476 328 282

SIGNED by the parties hereto on July 9th, 2025 written in two original copies in Vietnam and English languages, all text being equally authentic. In case of divergence in the interpretation of this MoU, the English text shall prevail.

SIGNED BY

For and on behalf of
Lang Son Provincial Agency for
Investment, Trade and Tourism
Promotion, Lang Son province, Viet
Nam



Hoang Xuan Thuan

Director

For and on behalf of
Caving Association of KU Leuven
University, Belgium

Dr. David Lagrou

Geologist, speleologist