

## The Science Express Biodiversity Special: a CEE Teaching Innovation

Meena Nareshwar\*



The (Indian) *Science Express Biodiversity Special* (SEBS) is a genuine train but it doesn't haul coal or wood or any solid products. Instead, its product is education, conveyed through its exhibition displayed in 8 coaches. It is a unique initiative aimed at creating awareness of the rich and varied biodiversity of India to the masses, especially the students and youth.

Lakhs of people, from young to old, many of them students, have visited this unique mobile exhibition on Indian Biodiversity while passing through train stations spread throughout India. The exhibitions have been designed, developed, fabricated and installed by CEE, Centre for Environmental Education, India.

In addition to the exhibits in the train, a series of biodiversity education, awareness, etc. are also organized for students and youth. These included a painting competition for students, the 'save biodiversity pledge' and teachers' workshop on Biodiversity education. Other youth registered themselves to be part of UNEP's South Asia Youth Environment Network, the secretariat of which is hosted by CEE India.

Highlighting the significant role that microbial biodiversity plays the train is featuring a campaign on 'vote for national microbe'. Several visitors cast their votes for the national microbe.

\*Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Email: [meena.nareshwar@ceeindia.org](mailto:meena.nareshwar@ceeindia.org), [www.ceeindia.org](http://www.ceeindia.org)



The Brain Train of the Center for Environmental Education. (ALL photos courtesy of CEE)



Colourful and cleverly drawn graphics line all the walls of the brain-train. There are also animal models or taxidermy figures perched on appropriate and naturalistic plinths. Children and adults get immense pleasure and delight while at the same time learning many facts about the natural world.

Don't miss the  
**22nd Biennial Conference I.Z.E.A.**  
**International Zoo Educators Association**  
Sept. 2 to 6, 2014  
Hosted by Hong Kong Ocean Park

Education in zoos and aquaria, what does success look like and how do you measure it? The Conference will bring together zoo educators from all over the World to share their experiences, through workshop sessions, case studies, and out-door sessions.

2014 Conference Host: Suzanne Gendron (Ocean Park Hong Kong)  
Email: [suzanne.gendron@oceanpark.com.hk](mailto:suzanne.gendron@oceanpark.com.hk)



## MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL ZOO EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

As a member of the International Zoo Educators Association, you will be joining educators from across the globe dedicated to expanding the educational impact of wildlife conservation. With members spanning 6 continents and over 50 countries/regions, a world of education resources awaits. Become an IZE member, and bring the world of conservation education to your institution today! Membership valid January 1 - December 31.

The benefits of membership in the IZE include:

- opportunities for international networking and professional development;
- subscriptions to the 'Journal of the International Association of Zoo Educators,' which includes conference proceedings and papers, as well as an informal newsletter;
- access to the latest information on educational techniques;
- updates on geographical region activities;
- special wildlife and cultural tours planned just for IZE conference participants;
- opportunities for sponsored membership and limited financial aid for conferences



Ecosystems

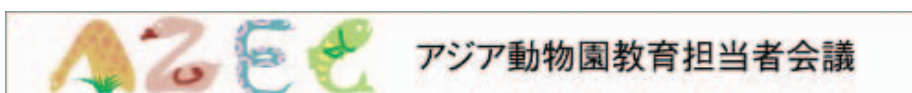
Interactives

## Asian Zoo Educators Conference (AZEC)

The Asian Zoo Educators Conference is upcoming in December 9-13, 2013. The conference theme is *Educational Cooperation between Museums for Humanities and Sciences - A message of generating new life through new linkages*.

Japanese Zoos and Aquariums (and museums too!) educators have a long history of network and collaboration. This is a great opportunity to meet and learn from them at Marine World Umino-nakamichi!

Website: <http://www.azec2013.jp/english/>



If you would like to become a member, fill complete the application on the IZE website. <http://www.izea.net/membership/become.htm>. The individual membership fees for zoos of South Asia is only US\$ 25 and institutional membership is US\$ 500

