

## Reports to WAZA from Asian Zoo Associations : Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA) Activity Report 2008-2009 for WAZA conference

### Membership

Current Membership as of April 1, 2009 is as follows: 156 Members consisting of 79 zoos and 67 aquariums. Total 156. The zoos and aquariums in JAZA welcomed about 74 million visitors in 2008.

### Mutual Relationships

JAZA is an association member of WAZA. Among JAZA members only 5 zoos and 2 aquariums are registered members of WAZA, both WAZA and JAZA are in need of increasing further institutional enrollment in WAZA. Also JAZA takes part in those organizations' activities as IUCN, CBSG, & SEAZA.

### 2009 Annual Meeting of Directors

The meeting of Japanese zoo directors was held in Akita from 28-29 May, 2009, attended by 90 directors and member institutions. Five resolutions were adopted.

1. value of life and harmonious coexistence with the global environment, recognizing exhibition and *ex-situ* conservation in zoos and aquariums in JAZA.
2. exhibition of wildlife based on high ethics and expert management.
3. encouraging research, EE, and conservation in cooperation with other wildlife organizations.
4. developing a rich culture bringing goodness in zoos and aquarium in our country.
5. working with government to review the animal welfare act and regulations.

### Ethics committee

The Committee of Ethics and Welfare was held three times during 2008-2009. End January 2009, the committee passed a resolution that a Zoo should be punished for flaunting the rules of husbandry and exhibit standard, by removing it from the association.

### The Species Survival Committee of Japan (SSCJ) Meeting

Main subjects of discussion of both August and November meetings were;

- (1) report from the taxon groups
- (2) basic policy the joint meetings,
- (3) review of regulation of SSCJ,
- (4) supportive measures for prioritized species for conservation breeding
- (5) studbook keeping,
- (6) Amphibian Ark related activities,
- (7) website renewal,
- (8) *ex-situ* conservation model projects in collaboration with Japan's Environment Ministry.

### Joint meeting of taxon groups

For the purpose of filling blank between biennial SSCJ meeting, JAZA initiated, from 2008, a Joint meeting of taxon groups attended by leaders/coordinators of each taxon group. The first meeting discussions centered around (1) review of regulation of SSCJ, (2) drafting the guidelines to financially support prioritized species for breeding, (3) report of recent CBSG and WAZA conferences, (4) report from the taxon groups, and (5) discussing 15th SSCJ meeting to be held in Kyoto.

### Studbook keeping

In order to avoid inbreeding and retain genetic diversity, JAZA decided in 2008, to keep studbooks on 145 highly endangered animals. JAZA intends to promote a long-term breeding plan on the basis of the studbook and those specific breeding projects except fish. JAZA is responsible for maintaining the International Studbook for 5 species: the Japanese serow, Red-crowned crane, Oriental white stork, White-naped crane, and Hooded crane.

### 2009 Technical Workshop

JAZA held workshops for zoo and aquarium technicians and zoo educators, and other workshops for JAZA member staff.

### Qualifying examination for senior keeper

On the 13th Feb. 2009, the examination to qualify for husbandry management was performed with 270 candidates, and 238 keepers were certified as Senior Keepers.

### Publications

Journal of JAZA, Annual Report, Overview of Operations, & Handbook for Captive Management

### Activity Related to CITES

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry entrusted about 1,123 animals confiscated to JAZA member institutions.

### Fund-raising Activities for Wildlife Conservation

A penguin shaped collection box is set up at each institution, and the collection is used for various wildlife conservation activities. This year JAZA financially assisted six projects/activities applied from among the members and university researchers. Those granted projects/activities include studies on such endangered species as Cheetah, Elephant and others.

### Awarding for animal reproduction

In cases where a member institution sets a precedent for breeding a certain species, JAZA awards a prize. In 2008, Ueno Zoo bred Celebes Tarsier (*Tarsius spectrum*) and another 16 members (28 cases) were granted award. This scheme of 1956 encourages members to develop breeding techniques.

### Koga award

This prize is in memory of Dr. Koga Tadamichi (1903-86), past chairman of JAZA and his private donation is used as seed money to run it. The prize gives honour and recognition of outstanding breeding achievements. Prize of the year 2008 went to Tama Zoo which had successive breeding of Ibises.

### Year of the Frog

42 member institutions took part in YOTF international campaign i. itinerant exhibitions, ii. presentation of promotion video and songs, (3) special frog forum and iv. special festival/program. JAZA contributed to AArk JPY one million to be used for global amphibian rescue programs. Doc.64.19.15