

Peter's Travel Diary - Indonesia

Peter Dickinson*

Zoos and Collections visited in Indonesia

Ragunan Zoo (Jakarta)
Schmutzer Primate Center
Seaworld Indonesia
Taman Safari Indonesia
Bandung Zoo
Baturraden Zoo
Banjarnegara Zoo
Gembira Loka Zoo (Yogyakarta)
Solo Zoo
Semarang Zoo
Surabaya Zoo

Thursday 15th June 2006

Jakarta is a huge great city, massive, noisy and polluted. The Ragunan Zoo is right next to the bus station. Big impressive entrance with more than one ticket booth. Inside there are numerous paths and roads. Most are in good repair. There is a mix of well-maintained gardens and rough forest. The cages and enclosures are well spaced within a huge area. There is so much more that could be built without straining land resources. Most of the cages have green, hand painted signs. Most of these are correct, or nearly so. On the whole a complete overhaul of the signage is needed. Ideal opportunity to add maps, colour and a bit more information.

There are a lot of old cages which have seen better days but are still in use. I daresay they may have held different species in the past. Those for the leopards are faced with heavy 'prison' bars. Inside there is a moat cum swimming pool and a sloping rock back. I thought these were quite good. A bit of tarring up and glass to replace the bars and they could be very nice indeed.

The reptile house was quite good and the aquarium too. A bit more planting up on the aquarium backs would really make them better. An assessment of the available reptile house space is called for. The soft shell turtle is in a hopelessly inadequate enclosure. The Reticulated Python here is the biggest I have seen anywhere. It could swallow me whole. The signage in this area was much better though there was some incorrect spelling and information. The old primate cages were very old fashioned. They were definitely built to last and don't look to be going to fall down soon. Lots of single monkeys amongst which there was Proboscis, Silver leaf, De Brazza, *Macaca tonkeana*, *Macaca heckii*, *Macaca brunesceri* and more.

I had only spent a couple of hours in the zoo before I called on Ulrike Freifrau von Mengden. This remarkable elderly Prussian lady has been living in a small cottage in the centre of the zoo for more than fifty years. During this time she has been caring for Orangutans and a multitude of other creatures. Her companions today are two dogs, numerous cats, a free ranging Black Hornbill and a parrot so bald as to be species unrecognisable! Oh and yes, seventeen or so Orangutans. These are lovingly maintained in the most horrific accommodation. Some are incapable of standing to full height or stretching out. All are in beautiful,

even outstanding condition. Their bleak accommodation is spotlessly clean and their diet is good but this is no life. Some have been housed like this for seven years! And there is no end in site for this purgatory. Ulla is naturally very frustrated and angry....and very stressed at the situation she finds her animals in. She needs help, she wants help and worries constantly as to what will happen when she is no longer there.

Ulla is trying her best for her animals. She supports them with her own cash, she even has her own small team of keepers without whom she could never manage. Ulla's zoo is a zoo within a zoo. The public do not get to see the miserable conditions in which her animals live. No, the public see the Orangutans in the 'Schmutzer Primate Center' (the other zoo within the zoo - more on this later) which must have amongst the very best Orangutan enclosures in the world. I have seen none better anywhere. Ulla believes her animals should be here or in broadly similar accommodation. She also believes that when her close friend Mrs Schmutzer donated the millions for the Primate Center that a percentage was intended specifically for this purpose. It doesn't look like it is going to happen anytime soon if ever. I don't pretend to understand the politics involved here or the potential or actual clash of personalities.

What I do know and do understand as a zoo man of thirty eight years standing is that these animals should not, must not remain in these totally inadequate conditions. Ulla needs money, she needs help through a charity. I know members of numerous animal charities and other organisations including , BOS, IPPL, Born Free Foundation, WSPSA, WildAid read this digest. So dig in, don't believe me, investigate for yourselves, contact Ulla, do something. Don't leave these unfortunate creatures in this appalling accommodation.

Any zoos listening? What about the multitude of other animal charities? If anybody has any ideas about returning these animals to the wild, forget it. The wild is disappearing at a rate of knots and there must be over a thousand Orangutans dotted around Indonesia in rescue facilities, the famous 'sanctuaries'. Some of these I am told are housing 'their' animals in conditions similar to those of the animals kept by Ulla. They certainly don't need more animals dumping on them. Its rather like this stupid protest in Thailand against elephants being shipped to Australia. I mean what is better, the cushy caring zoo or a Thai forestry camp, the wild is out of the question. I know which I would go for.

Apart from a couple of brief tours of various bits of the zoo with Ulla in her golfcart I spent the afternoon with her at her cottage. We were joined later by her friend Barbara and had a late lunch cum tea together. It was starting to get dark when I took my leave of Ulla and Barbara.

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Friday 16th June 2006

I got to the zoo just before nine and started initially to move through it logically but soon realised a zig zag approach was going to cover more ground quicker. There really is so much to see. Can you imagine 29 Cassowaries of 3 species, or was it four or even five? It is at such times I wish I had a decent camera and that the birds would actually stand still. What about a herd of 21 Babirusa Fantastic to watch. I do hope that there is some breeding management going on. Wasted otherwise. There were big herds of deer too. *Axis kuhli*, *Cervus timorensis moluccensis*, Sumatran Sambar and at least another four species. Held separately, some in paddocks which you could fit some British zoos into. Lots of bear pits. All horrible though it was obvious that a lot of effort had been put into keeping them occupied.

The area covered by the zoo is immense and yet there is still plenty of space available, lots of it. If some serious collection planning was implemented then there could be more. This place could really make a serious and important contribution to breeding programmes.

Right now it isn't, it is all willy nilly. They really don't need, the world does not need, more unmanaged tigers of uncertain parents (or any white tigers at all). The same goes for the deer and much else. Serious management could halve or even quarter food bills and other costs and make everything so much better. Why am I going on about this. Well to me it looks like this wonderful collection is just starting down that steep decline and if I am wrong then sorry but it won't be long.

There appear to be whole families living within the zoo. Lots of 'private' food and drink vendors. There were people fishing in the moats. Not with lines but with cast nets. There is a most unuseable purpose built football pitch with permanent goals. It has a large tree growing in the middle of it.

There was a separate charge to gain entry to the Schmutzer Primate Center, the other zoo within the zoo. In terms of difference it was like venturing onto another planet. This was big, beautiful, impressive, wonderful, super and yet it was unfinished and has been unfinished for a while. At the same time the finished bits are starting to deteriorate. Plastic and polystyrene rubbish lying, dangerously, about and yet there were more staff, security and otherwise at the gate area of this complex than some western zoos have as their entire staff. Much as I was impressed by this place I feel that millions, many millions were wasted on the entrance and a restaurant that doesn't look like it ever gets used (it was closed anyhow). The signage was brilliant, the thought, the planning, the presentation, the construction of the enclosures, top marks. There was evidence of enrichment devices, though not recently used and a bit of the gloss was going. Peeping through the doors to the inside enclosures was interesting. Looked a bit lab like to me. Outsides were good though. These small enclosures held species like the Javan ebony langur (*Trachypithecus auratus*), Kloss's gibbon (*Hylobates klossii*), Mitred leaf monkey (*Presbytis melalophos*). The best enclosure though, perhaps the best enclosure in the world was that for the Gorillas. It was stunning, magnificent! Is there a better one anywhere? I doubt it. I

was in awe. The gorillas looked great. Really happy. This is as all enclosures should be. Not very far behind in terms of wonderfulness were the Orangutan enclosures. I am uncertain about the value of the 'Ghost tunnel' approach to viewing. There must have been forethought to its construction. I would have liked to monitor and assess the visitors reactions but there were so very few about. I found a wallet on one of the paths so there was somebody somewhere. In the 'ghost tunnel' there was a horrific and very graphic hand painted poster depicting the threats to Orangutans. I'm all for shock tactics but this startled me. Skulls, logging, pickled babies, circuses, vivisection, men having sex with Orangutans! What? I must have been leading a very sheltered life. I suppose I was as much surprised to see the depiction as having to entertain the obscene thought even for a microsecond. I looked at the scene several times to see if I was seeing what I thought I was seeing. I was. The Orangutan enclosures contained very happy busy active animals. They were the best I have seen for the species. The whole set up is complemented by its excellent gardens and labelled trees, security and education centre. This is great, interesting and fun. Apart from the graphics there are numerous life size individually garishly painted Orangutans. I would love to own one. If I had somewhere to keep it, that is. Whilst I was in the centre I saw Dr. Willie Smits but I didn't know it was him till after the event (I had been told he was on Kalimantan) so I didn't introduce myself. If I consider the centre to be separate zoo to Ragunan (and I think I should) then it rates very highly with me. It is outstanding in many ways and is amongst the best all round primate collections I have ever seen. Now, if they could only finish it!

And then I am out of the gate and back into Ragunan zoo and its mix of good, bad and indifferent. Here (after seeing the Fishing Cat heaven in Singapore zoo) you will find fishing cat hell....though I have seen them housed in worse. So what about the zoo? Using the 'Palm Civet' gauge I found that some were badly off and others were okay (some had branches placed vertically and others horizontally). So that about sums the zoo up. Good in parts. It is an immense collection spread over a huge fragmented area. I saw something in the region of 30 Komodo Dragons in nine enclosures in three different areas of the zoo. Twelve elephants in four differently managed enclosures, one held separately. Tigers? They were all over the place. Again in a variety of set ups of wide size fluctuation. Some of the better ones were built by funds from the 'Schmutzer group dan John Aspinall' in 21 April 1995. Actually there are a few Aspinall mentions around the place and of course that is where the gorillas originated. Lions too. Nice enclosure on one side of the zoo and a poor one on the other side. There was an animal show taking place. I didn't go and see it, I didn't have to, there was a board with photographs on it. Would you put your baby...baby! in the coils of a massive python. Looking at the faces of some of these tiny infants they were absolutely terrified. Sicko's!!!!

I had promised Ulla I would visit her again today at around noon. We had lunch together and she told me something of her fascinating life history. She then introduced me to some more of the Orangutans which only served to emphasise to me how critical it was to get these poor

animals rehoused. I then took my leave of Ulla. I don't know if I ever meet her again but I found her to be a lovely woman. Straight talking, doesn't mince her words. Speaks as she sees it. At the same time dedicated to her animals on whom she showers an endless affection and love. I made my way round the zoo again, checking the map as I went I felt fairly satisfied that I had missed nothing. Nothing apart from the multitude of Gibbons that I could hear whooping in off show areas.

Saturday 17th June 2006

This morning I had intended to visit the bird park at Taman mini Indonesia but going with the flow meant I ended up at the Jakarta bird market. I had expected the bird market to be something of a nightmare. As it happened, it wasn't (maybe I am becoming hardened). At the same time it was unpleasant and I felt decidedly sorry for the occupants of the cages. There were numerous shrikes for some odd reason but there was an abundant amount of live food available in the form of giant (very very big) mealworms, normal sized ones and crickets. I saw six species of lorries, three species of woodpecker and probably representatives of all the small birds of Asia. Nothing much bigger than a pigeon though, and there were several real beauties. As well as the wild there was every type of domestic and their colour mutations. One of the most striking birds I saw was a jet black domestic cockerel. There wasn't anything about him that wasn't black including his comb. He was quite magnificent. And this is praise indeed from someone who doesn't like colour morphs. Apart from the birds there were the inevitable rats and rabbits. Bats (two species) for boiling up to cure chest complaints, soft shell turtles (for soup I suppose) and one tiny unfortunate leucistic Three-Striped Palm Civet (at least I think that is what it was, never seen one that colour before) which was going to die before the end of the day unless rehydrated. I explained this to the seller but he was not interested.

Sunday 18th June 2006

First visit today was to Seaworld Indonesia, located on the coast about fifty minutes from Jakarta central.

Actually I liked Seaworld... well most of it. It was well laid out with excellent educational signage supplemented by regular talks and available staff. They plugged all aspects of conservation and the importance of the people of Indonesia understanding their natural heritage. There was even a reasonably well stocked small library upstairs with supervised public access. The living specimens were supplemented by a small museum and some differently displayed deep sea fishes. There were three touch pools. One contained a dozen or so Hawksbill Turtles and another around 15 Black Tipped Reef Sharks. Now this was definitely different. I am steadily increasing my appreciation of the genuine importance of 'hands on' for the public but....well there is the stress factor to consider. They looked fine, they were supervised, but I thought the water too shallow. I was concerned. Perhaps they all go across to a deep tank every night. These touch tanks were also the only ones without a signboard. I thought here it was probably more important here than anywhere else. Staying on the concern of size I believe that the pool containing the

Salt water crocodiles was far too crowded. It was impressive to look at and very clean but had about twenty more animals in it than it should have. The Arapaima too were in the wrong tank. I would be the first to agree that it looked impressive. It looked great...but it was wrong. It was just a glass tube, a specimen jar, a goldfish bowl for a giant fish, or rather giant fishes. Some of these did not look too happy so I thought there may be some bullying going on if there was no way to get away. It may only be physiological bullying but none the less stressful for that.

The main tank was busy and impressive. The moving floor in the glass tunnel seemed slower than many I have been in, but I thought it was actually the right pace. There was no substrate? Why is this? I have noticed a movement away from this in large tanks of late. Is there some problem I am not aware of? The big tank measured 24 x 38 metres and varied in depth from 4.5 to 6 metres and contained 5 million litres. Some nice fish in there. The majority of the sharks were kept in a nearby large circular tank with a painted back. This too was impressive. It was busy and very watchable. My two favourites were the Dugong and Reef tank 11. This tank was a veritable garden of colours. It was active and attractive. It held several spectacular Indian Threadfish (*Alectis indicus*) which I don't recollect having seen before. If I have they were not memorable specimens.

The Dugong was a single young animal which we saw being bottle fed (with commentary) before being allowed to graze. The graphics and information about the species were good but I would have liked to have known more about the history of this particular animal. I believe Dugong have been held here before. Where are they now? Actually the Indonesians have a good record with this species. One specimen lived in Surabaya zoo for thirty years!

Next door to Seaworld was a Dolphinarium featuring Dolphin, Sealion and variety animal shows as well as marine and freshwater aquariums and an Arapaima pool which I did not visit.

Tuesday 20th June 2006

I caught a lift over to the zoological museum, which was interesting. A lot of sadly preserved specimens but included a full skeleton of a Blue Whale. There was also a quite well mounted specimen of a 'Javan' rhino which, as the last survivor of its species in a certain region had been shot and preserved rather than let it be poached and "lost to science". It struck me that there a lot of species which will be lost to science if PETA and its ilk have their way. Short of a dramatic decrease in the worlds human population, the wild places are going to go.

Outside someone was selling a couple of palm civets which were in a tiny cramped cage with scarcely room to turn. Looked at from this perspective the worst palm civet accommodation I have seen in zoos was luxury by comparison. From here I moved round to the Botanical Gardens. They are particularly attractive because they are set right in the middle of the city. A city, sadly, which has more than its fair share of rubbish and poverty. As such the gardens are a sea of calm.

At one edge of the park is an area set aside for deer, in this case *Axis axis*. It is probably the biggest herd of deer I have seen anywhere, including farms. They looked in very good condition. The place they are in looked very much like an estate at a country house in the UK. I wondered though, why Axis? True, they are amongst the prettiest of deer, but there are Indonesian species which need attention. There were yet more 'Peter in' photos on the walk back to my hotel. Total strangers who engaged me in conversation who, minutes later wanted to be photographed with me. It is a funny old world.

Wednesday 21st June 2006

Rodger picked me up from the hotel as arranged and I spent today in the Taman Safari Indonesia <http://www.tamansafari.com>. This is located on the site of an old tea plantation half way up a dormant volcano on the outskirts of Cisarua, near to Bogor. Being at an elevation it is much cooler and pleasant than Jakarta and the plains below. At the same time it is distinctly tropical and covered in thick vegetation. This is credit to the founders of the park who some twenty years ago planted all the now established trees and foliage you can see today. Nature has provided an attractive, and clean, stream which bubbles through the site. The Ewoks have helped to improve the general appearance with the construction of artificial trees, rocks and lianas. Some are good, some are very good. Some have been in place for so long that real plants are growing on them giving life and looks. These Ewoks were very good at their work indeed, credit to them. Fine job.

Initially I went round the Safari trail in the park alone. Then I met up with Rodger again and we progressed around the widely dispersed collection and amusements partly by jeep and foot. The safari trail was nice in parts. I thought the ground was 'tired' in most due to overgrazing/overstocking. Perhaps this problem will be eliminated when the new park opens in Bali and animals are moved there. There was an abundance of Hippos. This seems to be the case practically everywhere I go. They breed so well and are hardy. There does need to be some overall serious management of the captive population before welfare issues arise.

When I first started work in UK zoos there were still Chimpanzee tea parties, Elephant rides, Dolphin shows, Parrot shows and the like. I myself took Elephants to petrol stations, Lions to model shoots, Bears to birthday parties and Camels to fun days and more. I have worked directly or indirectly with dolphins, killer whale, sealions, bears, birds of prey, penguins and more in show settings. Today some things have changed, some remain the same. We have moved on. It is a different world. I am not sorry, I am pleased. At the same time I don't regret the experiences I have had. What it does do is give me a far better perspective on animals in 'show' settings than your average Joe. I can see both sides of the coin. So why am I rambling on about this? Simply because today I watched animal shows of a certain genre for the first time in many years. I saw animals (tigers, orangutans etc) available for photograph sessions and didn't like it. Whether I liked it or not is irrelevant though because I am in a different country with different laws, different culture and a different

background. What is acceptable here, now, was acceptable in the UK thirty plus years ago. It is no longer the case. This isn't the UK though. This isn't the US or Spain, or Egypt or India. This is Indonesia. Taman Safari is in the genre of Flamingoland and Chessington World of Adventures. A commercial zoo exploring many avenues of entertainment, some of which are innovative and interesting.

I can see a need for and accept certain forms of positive reinforcement training of captive animals being essential from the point of view of management and also as enrichment for an active mind. If this is tied to an educational presentation then I see nothing wrong and would even encourage it. There are certain species for which it is acceptable and some where it is definitely not. Anything which humiliates animals by making them appear as funny little humans or exhibit abnormal behavior for human laughs is, to me, completely and totally unacceptable. Anything which is achieved by negative reinforcement is also definitely a no no. So the mixed animal show I saw here today I did not like. I won't dispute that the training is clever but Orangutans dancing? Degrading! Dogs dancing? Horrible! I know the public loved it, of course they did, they know no better. What do you expect? The world is being brought up on low intellect TV programmes like the 'World's Funniest Animals' and its ilk. Now I know for a fact that the behaviors exhibited can be brought about by positive reinforcement but I would question whether this was in use here. The dogs were not 'happy' and neither were the orangutans.

I took an interested study of the elephant 'show'. It was well presented and put together. It was actually teaching! And people were learning. The behaviors shown were not demanding and just the sort of thing to keep an intelligent mind active. The girls presenting the show were excellent and I have to admire their use of English in the shows. How many UK collections use another language in tandem? The elephant show eventually lost me when it reached circus type yoga. Sorry not my taste at all. It did however set me thinking. None of the positions (apart from standing on hind legs) are something that I have not seen elephants go into at their own behest at one time or another. So as part of a daily 'show' yoga exercise routine could this be beneficial for long term health? Surely the answer is yes. That said I don't like elephant shows. Far better to have them in well managed family groups doing what comes naturally. I would far rather see elephants doing 'shows' of a certain type than chained/ restrained unable to do very much at all as in some of the other Asian Zoos I have visited.

The sea lion show was well put together, but again a very circussy presentation. Far better to introduce and condition behaviours which will be of long term animal/species benefit. Nothing would be lost but so much gained. I thought the pool too much of an 'arena' too. But then so few zoos provide Sealions with what could be considered 'naturalistic settings. The male sealion here had the longest whiskers I have seen in any of this species. Very impressive.

The subterranean reptile and nocturnal house was clean, pleasant and well presented. I thought some of the exhibits were too small. Why keep three large pythons in a too small

exhibit when the next much larger one held a single freaky mutation? Perhaps because it was a mutation. There was a single bull Stellers Sea Lion. A gift from a Japanese zoo. Nice looking animal but it brought this whole question of 'gifting' surplus to the fore in my mind. It is so very very wrong. An ability to deal with the real solutions to surplus which remain breeding prevention and euthanasia is something zoos must accept. It is not solving the problem just to dump it on someone else. Sorry, did I say 'dump'? I meant 'gift' of course.

Off public view is a remarkable holding station for Sumatran Tigers, a valuable genetic bank. These are all wild animals which have killed and had to be removed from the areas they inhabit or be killed themselves.

Also off show is a truly brilliant Leopard enclosure. This holds a few animals which have visited by night and killed stock within the park. To begin with these were trapped and taken many miles away before being released. They returned time and again. Rather than kill them they have been placed here. Lucky leopards for it is a great set up. The provision for the zoo leopards is mainly good too. The cage for the Black Leopards in the Safari area is very nice indeed and my first fleeting impression put it in my number one spot for Leopard enclosures. Sadly this was not my opinion of the Amur Leopard pen. A beautiful specimen in cramped conditions. Very poor show.

On the whole I thought the collection to be quite nice. It was clean, neat and tidy with next to no rubbish seen, on site. Excellent toilets and catering facilities. A good atmosphere. The signage was good too. I was interested to note that they provide heating for their Komodo Dragons and actually keep their Red Pandas outdoors. There was an unusual mixed enclosure with Orangutans, Gibbon and Sambar. Seemed to be working well.

In my tour of the collection I was introduced to many members of staff. It struck me how happy they all were. These are people who are being looked after by their employer. I was also interested to learn that the zoo maintenance department has taken schools in the surrounding area under its wing. Repairs are expensive and sometimes impossible, but the zoo sorts them in a trice. I think that's admirable. The zoo, as far as is possible use just local produce to feed the animals. Public feeding is allowed, but just with certain items. There are numerous stalls leading up to the park selling these. Meat for the carnivores is imported from Australia and this is all Kangaroo.

This remarkable company has its irons in many fires. They have another collection close to Surabaya and are opening another one soon in Bali. All the more remarkable when you consider that less than ten years ago the collection was begging for assistance as the animals were starving. What a comeback! Taman Safari is certainly popular. On the day of my visit it was very crowded. There is probably no collection in a better position in Indonesia to re-educate Joe Public. This would not mean reducing the number of shows or even the 'tricks', but rather to replace them with 'behaviours' which do not degrade, humanise or give the false impression. Just my opinion.

Friday 23rd June 2006

Bandung Zoo cost 8 Rupiya (roughly fifty pence). Situated on the edge of the city it is built up all around. The site is very pretty with some large trees and well kept gardens. In fact it would be worth visiting just to see the trees. There are practically no modern cages at all. Most are of old and poor design. It was heartening to see signs on several empty cages saying 'closed for renovation'. Some of the aviaries, though probably as old as the surrounding mammal exhibits they had established growth. I liked that for the birds of prey in particular. The birds actually looked 'happy' in there. The occupants included Serpent Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Brahminy Kite amongst others. The nearby mixed aviary was just as good. Big, lush growth, active and interesting.

Barriers throughout the zoo were poor to non existent. It surprises me that there has not been more accidents. Or perhaps there has and I just don't know about it. I could with no effort put my arm into lions and tigers. I didn't, but they were affable animals, and there were groups of small unsupervised boys wandering about.

The reptile 'house' wasn't bad. This was two rows of reasonable sized inside/out type terrariums. Sadly they were neglected. Neither the inside nor the outside had been cleaned properly in a while. A few branches, rocks and living plants could transform them. Lighter coloured flooring could really enhance appearance. The rows of reptile cases faced a large rectangular outside walled pit. A small watered moat ran around the base creating an island. This was well planted with bushes and small sturdy trees. This was a mixed exhibit and contained, 3 large Water Monitor, 4 Green Iguana, 2 King Cobra, 1 Mangrove Snake, a single massive Python molorus, several other unidentified snakes and a small flotilla of ducks (food).

There was a single Hippo and a single Pygmy Hippo in an adjoining enclosure. Whoopee! I can hear Asian zoo directors shouting (get rid of our surplus). "We will present them with animals to pair up". Forget it! The facilities even for these hardy animals are basic at best. I am sure that they do the best they can with the facilities available. Extra animals would compromise the health and welfare of the animals presently held. There was also a single boney giraffe. No sign of branches or any simple enrichment.

There were also a lot of single primates like the Maroon leaf monkey (*Presbytis rubicunda*), Javan langur (*Trachypitecus auratus auratus*) and then little split up groups of Silver leaf monkeys (*Trachypitecus cristata*). I had been getting depressed by the boring little menagerie like cages with the token poorly located branch, chain or tyre or rope. Though the cages were clean and the food looked good. Then suddenly out of the blue there is a mini cargo net hanging up in the Gibbon (*Hylobates agilis*), in the same block which houses three sets of Siamang and a pair of Celebes macaques, the branching is better, there are cross rubber ropes (could it be bungee?), a chain has suspended a branch. It is swinging. Someone has been reading, learning or someone has spent time here. Who? It is simple but effective. I'm impressed. I was thinking. Dangerous I know, But I get a lot of time for it when I am ill. What is worse than no behavioural enrichment? Quite

simply it is discontinuing enrichment because of lack of time, money or change of staff. Better not to know what you are missing! Further thoughts on enrichment!! As much as public feeding is frowned upon in the West it is often the 'only' enrichment that some animals in Asian zoos get. Bad? Almost certainly but looked at from another angle it is the 'only' enrichment that some animals in zoos in the West don't get. As some Western zoos do not have an enrichment programme or it is disjointed, haphazard or only exists on paper it means in a way that the Asian zoo animals are more enriched than those in some zoos the West. Its all food though and it is, and very important for all that. Consider this. If you are a non career keeper just doing your job. What incentive is there to increase your workload by introducing an such an alien concept as enrichment? If it could be shown to ease the workload then I am sure it would be jumped at.

A little further on are three juvenile Grizzled leaf monkey (*Presbytis comata*) and more in a 'special' cage set up in a hidden location near to the Orangutans. This again showed that someone was aware of the inadequacies of what was generally available. The Orangutan enclosure itself was not too bad. I do hate these deep drop moats though, though in fairness the water was shallow. Close to the Orangutan enclosure was a sign. It wasn't recent. It read:

"Bandung International School working in collaboration with Yayasan Margasatwa Tamansari Bandung to improve the environment of the Orangutan." I wondered if these same people were the ones involved in the other little projects I had seen around the zoo. I thank them.

The quality of food around the place looked good. Not too sure about the diets though. The Proboscis monkeys had whole carrots, whole bananas and green beans. There may well have been other items given that they had already consumed but I didn't see these. This was the closest I have ever got to this species and really magnificent specimens they were too, the male in particular.

Close by were Pale-thighed leaf monkeys (*Presbytis siamensis paenulata*). There really were some primate gems here. I haven't mentioned the half of them. I was especially pleased to see Moor macaques (*Macaca maura*) which I worked with donkeys years ago but have rarely seen since.

There were four reasonable (actually typical) Cassowary pens containing five birds of, I think, three species and then a little further on there were another seven pens, each holding a single double wattled cassowary. I admit to total confusion on these birds. The internet is not a great help with so many mis-named photos. I remember reading about thirty years ago that someone had visited over twenty islands and found different cassowaries on each. I'm assuming we are talking sub-species here, or are we? The books seem to recognise Single-wattled, Double-wattled and Bennetts but I must have seen at least another two in all the collections overall which don't seem to fit with any of those. I admit I am no expert and I may have been seeing especially dull or bright animals or some sort of eclipse juvenile plumage. And what of the lowly Palm Civet? Well the cage was too small, old fashioned and totally

inadequate which fits exactly into the gauge. The zoo was the same for most species held.

The signage in the zoo was sponsored by Samsung which I thought was a nice gesture. It was basic though and in many cases wrong. I can't speak for the Bahasa Indonesia because that may well have been all correct. It just seems to me that if you are getting your signs paid for it is worth getting them correct. Though I do like the idea of a "Black Handed Ibis" and the "Giffins cackatoo" sounded cute.

Though some of the aviaries were nice others were a complete contradiction in thinking. Why oh why would anyone put four turkeys in four times larger space than that given to 14 pelicans and assorted herons?

They had the biggest group of porcupines I have seen. Twenty that I could count...and nothing to chew. Such very simple basic husbandry.

There was a single Javan Warty Pig hidden away in a small back concrete pen behind the Babirusa small concrete pens. I didn't get a really good look but I reckon that's what it was.

There was a horrific tiny boring concrete Sun Bear pit with scarcely enough room for one let alone ten. Their were five 5 outside and 5 locked in. I was curious to how the group were managed and what their future would be. If the space was not, in my opinion, big enough for a Sun Bear then I really felt for the single Brown Bear in the next enclosure. Perhaps more sorry because this unfortunate creature was on its own. It looked thin, senile and aged but then it may have only been two years old, its condition caused by its environment.

I don't know where all the Agile Wallabies are coming from but it seems they are the macropod species I see most of. There are 5 here. My question is were they purchased or donated? In whatever case the supplier is a criminal and should be driven out of business. To me to send animals somewhere like this is exactly the same as passing your children onto someone who may or may not be a pedophile. You just wouldn't without checking out first. Would you? (I could never run a pet shop....change that to I would never run a pet shop). There was one other kangaroo here, a Lumholtz's tree kangaroo which was crammed away in totally inadequate housing at the side of the elephant house.

Of all the animals here it was the elephants I felt most sorry for. The house must have been built by Noah way back then, and on a bad day. It is scarcely possible to imagine a time when this building was ever suitable for this species. At one end were two bulls. They both had their front feet tightly shackled together. One was chained from front to floor and the other rear to floor. They were both thin. Their skin was good. The barrier was useless. So what do you do? If these beasts were not chained as they were they would be out in a jiffy, and I wouldn't blame them for a second. There was nowhere else in the zoo they could go. At the other end of the same building was a larger bull chained in a similar fashion. Further across the zoo were riding cows and another huge bull. Not a place for elephants!