

South Asian Zoo Personnel attend ZIMS Data Standards Development Workshop, Rotterdam

Two senior zoo personnel from South Asia represented the region at the ZIMS Data Standards Development Workshop in Rotterdam, Netherlands from 14-18 March 2005. This was Dr. R. K. Sahu, President of the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation and Mr. Raja Mohammed Javed, Director of Lahore Zoo, Pakistan and host of the very successful SAZARC meeting held in his zoo last December. We hope for a Report from both of them in due course.

ISIS is working with zoo and aquarium experts worldwide to build the Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS), a new web-based software application for managing animals in zoos and aquariums worldwide. With the help of international and regional user committees (IADISC and ADISC) and other professional organizations ZIMS has engaged almost 500 experts from zoos and aquariums so far.

The ZIMS Data Standards Workshops are designed to help our software developer (CGI) define the rules for recording information in ZIMS so that this information is valuable to all users. (For example, when ISIS software users input the sex of an animal, data standards determine the choices you have to describe that animal's sex.)

The workshop was divided into three sessions. The first

two days (14-15 March) focused on the topics related to animal management, animal inventory, population management, enclosure management, taxonomy, group management, and institution management.

Wednesday, 16 March was a combined day-long session of both groups. The last two days (17-18 March) was focused on clinical medicine, drug inventory, necropsy, pathology, nutrition, preventative healthcare, protocol management, sampling, and scheduling.

Our participation in the ZIMS data standards development process is extremely important. Dr. Bob Lacy, as shown in the previous article, took time to give the entire background of ZIMS in a presentation to SAZARC participants. Dr. Lacy also developed a form which all the participants of SAZARC filled out. The collected information about zoo records in the zoos presented in SAZARC this year has been included in this special report on ZIMS on subsequent pages. You may find more information about ISIS at www.isis.org, on the ZIMS Project at <https://zims.isis.org/> and on IADISC and ADISC at <http://www.iadisc.org>.

In the words of Dr. Hans Keller ZIMS Workshop Manager & Chief Technology Officer, National Aquarium in Baltimore. . . "Together we can build ZIMS!"

The ZIMS Project ... from the World Wide Web: <https://zims.isis.org/>

Ed. Note : This material was pulled off the internet where you can find almost everything you want to know at one of these sites ISIS at www.isis.org, on the ZIMS Project at <https://zims.isis.org/> and on IADISC and ADISC at <http://www.iadisc.org>. We have reproduced it here because not all our readers have access to the web and some of them don't have time to check out every site suggested to them. We hope this will help everyone connected with the zoo community

Almost 500 volunteers from almost 200 zoos, aquariums and related institutions across the globe are working on the Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) Project. When complete, ZIMS will be a global animal management system that will serve as the central location for accurate and comprehensive information on 2 million animals in more than 70 countries

The ZIMS Project is one of the largest, international Web based projects of its kind. We have estimated that the first phase of this project will cost US \$10 million. Encouragingly, ISIS has already raised commitments for US \$ 5.5 million through Building ZIMS: The Campaign for ISIS, which is supported by the worldwide zoo and aquarium community, governmental organizations and corporations.

The ISIS Data Quality Campaign

We launched our Data Quality Campaign three years ago. While ISIS members have made substantial progress on one data quality target (linking), progress has been slow on

the very important institution/studbook data reconciliation effort.

Because of the importance of accurate information to the zoological community, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) has adopted a resolution calling on everyone to reconcile their data in the ISIS database. The Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks & Aquaria (ARAZPA) has hired an intern to help their studbook keepers work on reconciliation and set a goal of 100/- accuracy. Laurie Bingaman Lackey, ISIS SPARKS/studbook keeper support (and a studbook keeper herself), has received requests for training and help with the studbook/institutional data reconciliation tool from studbook keepers around the world.

Let's not lose this momentum! It will take all of our efforts to assure that the data in the ISIS system is ready for ZIMS. If you need help in reconciling your data, please contact ISIS support (support@isis.org; +1.651.209.9250). If you have recently updated your studbook, remember to send a current SPARKS backup file to Laurie Bingaman Lackey (laurie@isis.org).

ZIMS Data Standards Workshops

To help our software developer CGI determine the necessary standards for recording each type of data in ZIMS, we are holding ZIMS Data Standards Workshops.