

## **SAZARC Business meeting, Friday, December 5 2003**

### **2004 Annual Meeting**

Md. Tariq Ayub extended an invitation to the participants to Pakistan next year pending permission from government and also that certain of the funding could be taken care of, such as accommodation and international transportation. He most cordially promised to do his best for the success of the meeting at Lahore. It was decided that the dates for the meeting would be informed after discussion between Pakistan members, outgoing President, Sally Walker and Sanjay Molur. Subsequently they met and fixed the date for around the first week December

### **Committee Reports :**

#### **Training Committee, R. K. Sahu, Chairman Training Report**

I. Looking to the training aspects of all zoo team including Directors, for India every year the Central Zoo Authority of India is organizing training / zoo management course for Directors and Deputy Directors. If we can find funds and have Central Zoo Authority's permission, CZA can perhaps accommodate some South Asian zoo personnel for this 15 days course to Directors/Deputy Directors from SAZARC.

II. For supervisors and animal keepers' training, India has selected regionwise. Our zoo, Ahmedabad Zoo also running Animal Keeper programme every year with the help of Central Zoo Authority. If any supervisor or animal keepers are interested to join this 10 days training programme we get the permission of Central Zoo Authority and arrange lodging, boarding facilities. Their governments or SAZARC or some other organisation has to fund for their transportation

III. We also have options for zoo visits and on-site training to all levels including veterinarians but funds must be provided for transportation at the least.

#### **Nutrition, Jayanthi Alahakoon, Chairman**

Jayanthi Alahakoon reported that she had collected diet charts and handed them over to Sally and to Ellen Dierenfeld. These charts were reproduced in the briefing book.

Note: There was a general feeling that work had only just begun with Ellen Dierenfeld with all these projects and a mere "taste" of her nutritional wisdom. It is planned to have Ellen again with us for the 5th SAZARC meeting in Pakistan.

#### **Constitution**

No report from the Constitution Committee

#### **Veterinary committee, Chair, Ganesh Dubey**

Ganesh Dubey gave a report on some commercial companies which is included in the CD Report.

#### **Core Committee, Chair, Current President**

No report from the Core Committee. R. K. Shreshta called for a Steering Committee in SAZARC. Sally Walker said since SAZARC was not registered it didn't matter what the Committee was called and actually the "Core Committee"

was intended to do the work of a Steering Committee. Since the first meeting, various members of the Core Committee had dropped out on transfer, etc. The important issue is to have one person from every country represent the country in decision making which affects the whole of SAZARC.

#### **Sustainability Committee, Chair, R. K. Shreshta**

R. K. Shreshta gave his sustainability Report which is appended at the end of this document. There was discussion on how to make SAZARC self sufficient but no solution to the problem of funds for attending the meetings could be realized.

Another important issue was that of registration of the Society. The region is a little problematical in that there are political tensions in so many of the countries that selecting a country for registering the association is very difficult. It was thought that the association might not be sufficiently mature or evolved to know what country could best host the registered body. Shreshta asked Sally Walker if she thought the association should be registered. She said it was crucial that it be registered as membership in the World Zoo and Aquarium Association was contingent on being registered or closely associated with a registered body. It was noted that there were only two such registered bodies associated with the members and those were the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation KMTNC, Nepal and the Zoo Outreach Organisation. Participants were asked for comments. It was noted that Zoo Outreach Organisation is already a member of WAZA. R. K. Shreshta said the best may be Zoo Outreach Organisation. President Perera asked Sally Walker whether Zoo Outreach Organisation would be willing to do it. She said ZOO would be willing for a limited time until the association could find its feet, create a constitution and decide on the best possible venue for the registration. She said she would investigate the possibility of SAZARC becoming a member as an associate of ZOO for the time being and this was much approved by participants.

#### **Conservation Committee, Sally Walker, Conservation Coordinator**

##### **SAZARC Conservation Report**

This year the Conservation Coordinator go the list of threatened species in South Asian Zoos updated and included in the Briefing Book just before the basic "stock lists". With this list a beginning can be made in considering prioritizing species for conservation breeding programmes.

Conservation Coordinator attended two meetings of the Committee for Inter-Regional Cooperation in Conservation and represented SAZARC, communicating problems of South Asian Zoos in the meetings to find some solutions for these problems. A presentation on this topic was delivered at the WAZA Annual meeting.

Conservation Coordinator attended a meeting of ADISK and reviewed the status of records in South Asian Zoos. SAZARC received an invitation from ADISK to join and have our zoos represented as they plan the new software systems. The letter is reproduced on the following page.

Conservation Coordinator received a round letter through the Director of WAZA which was an offer from the Association of Zoo Registrars to sponsor some zoos for ISIS and ARKS software. This will be followed up in March.

Conservation Coordinator selected the best articles in conservaton from the years international publications for inclusion in Volume V of the Briefing Book.

Conservation Coordinator is working on a long term "Master Plan" for SAZARC to join the global conservation community which would provide linkage with zoos of the world and help with some of the problems in this region.

#### **Education Report, Uzma Khan, Chair Education and Welfare Committee**

SAZARC members have contributed articles, notes and reports to ARNIZE, the Newsletter of the Asian Regional Network of the International Zoo Educator Association.

In June the Central Zoo Nepal conducted their first "Teacher Training Workshop" with special packets provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation. Subsequently twelve zoo personnel from Bangladesh underwent their first zoo education training at Dhaka Zoo, also conducted by ZOO. ZOO conducted a short zoo educator training session in Sri Lanka in March 2003.

The Zoo Outreach Organisation has designed simple, inexpensive educational packets on various themes such as Bears (funded by Alertis Foundation, Netherlands), Primates (funded by zoos in UK, Europe and USA), Bats (funded by zoos in UK and USA), Daily Life Wildlife Welfare, Teacher Training and Visitor behaviour (funded by the Universities Federation of Animal Welfare) and Tigers (funded by Wildlife Conservation Society and US Fish and Wildlife Service). These packets are offered to zoos, NGOs, universities and wildlife departments free during special events.

Chair of this committee constructed tables of Environmental Enrichment techniques for important zoo animals such as primates, big cats, elephants and circulated them via email to all SAZARC members. These were subsequently published in ZOOS' PRINT and in the SAZARC Briefing Book.

A variety of packets, booklets and other materials are being distributed throughout South Asia and many dozens of programmes arranged in universities, zoos, schools, and NGOs. See Table. A special "post - CAMP" methodology has been developed for three major target groups over three stages which utilizes the information and management recommendations from the CAMP to educate all levels, from children to policy makers. This education programme has resulted in changes in national legislation for bats and other small mammals.

Three Asian members participated in the IZE Conference in Vienna last year, having been sponsored by zoos throughout the world in a special programme organised by I.Z.E. Geetha Shreshta from South Asia was one of the sponsored candidates.

#### **New posts:**

Dr. Sahu made several suggestions : a) that we have a post of Chairman, which would be a person of some experience and could contribute to the running of the association; he could interact closely with the Administrator and take the role of mature leader. He suggested that the President move to this post since for the whole term of his Presidency he was taken up with organizing a conference and had had not time to contribute to the growth and development of the association. Dr. Sahu nominated Brig H.A.N.T. Perera as Chairperson since he would be handing over his Presidency in this meeting. The assembled group agreed to this and Hant Perera indicated his willingness to continue in this post.

Dr. Sahu commented that since Pakistan was organizing the SAZARC conference next year it was traditional for a Pakistan member to become the President. He nominated Abdul Qadir Mahal, Director of Zoos of Pakistan for the Presidency and participants endorsed this.

Finally Dr. Sahu mentioned that Sally Walker's title was not actually correct and was also misunderstood by people from western countries, with whom she has to work in her role of coordinating SAZARC. He said that she was doing the job of the head or director of an Association or Federation and should be called Hon. Director instead of Administrator or Patron.

This was also agreed. Later, Mr Tariq Ayub said that the term "Patron" better described this post in Asian culture and thought that this title should remain. Sally Walker said that she could retain the Patron title in Asia and use Hon. Director title in dealing with western countries.

So SAZARC elected / appointed / reconfirmed officials for the year are :

Chairman	H.A.N.T. Perera
President	A. Qadir Mahal
Director /Patron	Sally Walker

Other officials may be found necessary by this group and appointed on an ad hoc basis, as new Committees and their initial Chairs can be formed by the Chairman, President and Director by asking a "no objections" from the membership via email.

**A great deal of research and data compilation was done to prepare for the SAZARC meeting including updating the list of threatened animals, the list of zoos and their stock, compiling the most useful articles on conservation, education, and research, etc. Instead of one unweildy briefing book, five handy books were compiled on the following topics: SAZARC Business and data, Draft World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy, Important articles through the year, World Zoo and Aquarium Association material and Training.**

**The following zoos and Associations contributed funds for preparation of such materials and also for the travel and accomodation of SAZARC staff.**

**Association of British Wild Animal Keepers  
Skan Sen - Akvariet, Stockholm, Sweden  
Thrigby Hall Wildlife Park, U.K  
Alertis, Netherlands;  
St. Louis Zoo, Missouri;  
Twycross Zoo, U. K.**