

The next IZE biennial conference will be held at Adelaide in Australia. John Gardner of Adelaide zoo gave a presentation about the facilities at the Adelaide for hosting this conference in 2008. The closing address was given by Stephen McKeown, the new president.

South Asian Network participation

R. Marimuthu, Education Officer, Zoo Outreach Organisation, India sponsored by IZE.

Gawsia W. Chowdhury, Programme Officer, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh sponsored by IZE

Arun Narsingh Rana, Education Assistant, Central Zoo, Nepal sponsored by IZE

Dammika Malsinghe, Deputy Director, National Zoo, Sri Lanka sponsored by ZOO and SAZARC.

Sally Walker, Zoo Outreach Organisation, sponsored by Columbus Zoological Gardens, Ohio.

All of them individually presented papers on their work which are abridged below:

Sally Walker presented a paper on "The Role of IZE and Zoo Educators in the WAZA initiative to engage poorly maintained Zoos". She talked about how poorly maintained zoos contribute to extinction rather than conservation in the long term. She related issues that were discussed by a working group at CBSG and WAZA meetings for the last two years. She discussed role of IZE and zoo educators in this WAZA issue calling on educators to address the issue in such a way as to create understanding and right action to assist these zoos to improve on the part of public and the zoo themselves. In the next day the topic was discussed in the workshop session which is printed later in this issue.

Marimuthu presented a paper on "Teachers for Tiger follow-ups in India and Bangladesh". It is a collaborative project of Zoo Outreach Organisation and Wildlife Conservation Society, USA. In his presentation he gave an overview about "Teachers for Tigers" programme in India and Bangladesh. The total number of workshops and number of participants were attended in these workshops in both countries. In continuation to these he talked about the evaluations-materials and methods which he used and the outcomes. Also he talked about the refresher courses conducted for these participants in different places. Further he continued with how he linked school curriculum with Teachers for Tigers manual with some examples.

Gawsia Chowdhury presented a paper on "Teachers for Tigers: a training programme for educators". She talked about Bangladesh Teachers for Tigers programme which was organised by Zoo Outreach Organisation with the collaboration Wildlife Conservation Society and her organisation Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, three workshops were held one at the Dhaka Zoo, one at Dhaka City and another one at Sunderbans. 100 participants took part in these three workshops. She mentioned how the workshop helped among Bangladesh participants. She talked very extensively about the refresher course which was held at Dhaka zoo for the participants of the three workshops.

Dammika Malsinghe

Dammika presented a paper on "Mobile exhibition units in Department of Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka. She talked

about various ongoing education activities at her zoo and Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage. She explained about her two mobile exhibition units and it consists of variety of educational devices such as skeletons, horns, preserved animals, guides on feather, shell, nutrition, egg & insect, information boards. Generally, graduates and well trained zoo staffs are go with these mobile units to give lecture on various animal related topics and also to explain about the education items on the mobile unit.

Arun Narsingh Rana

Arun has presented a paper on "Central Zoo: A platform for conservation education". In this he highlighted the conservation education activities of the Central Zoo, Nepal and how they use the zoo as a platform for conservation education programmes. He further talked about King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC)-a NGO and autonomous environmental organisation which manages the Nepal zoo. The zoo has two types of education programs. They are membership - based programs and visitors - on - demand programs. The membership - based programs has 17,000 Friends of Zoo (FOZ) members which includes school students. They network 150 in Kathmandu and have established 40 eco clubs in the schools.

Distribution of education materials

Zoo Outreach Organization's education materials are very popular among conservation educators around the world now-a-days. The director and other staffs always carry lot of educational items for distribution wherever they go to attend some meetings, conferences etc., For the IZE conference we carried about 25 kgs of different education items to supply to the delegates. The materials were displayed during the conference and items enthusiastically picked up by participants.

Personal experience of IZE Conference by some participants from South Asia

Rengasamy Marimuthu, Education officer, Zoo Outreach Organisation, India

I first came to know about International zoo educator's conference from the Taronga zoo conference in 1992. After that I learned a lot about IZE activities, their regional organizations through our organization as we were the Regional Representative for Asia (ARNIZE) and now for South Asian Region (SANIZE). In the beginning, there was little representation from developing countries because it involves so much of money to attend this conference. But now, because of IZE sponsorship more members are participating in all IZE conferences. It was my long time wish to participate in any one of the IZE conference. But it came true because of my Director, Ms. Sally Walker, who nominated me and supports me all the times.

In June 2006, when I was attending Conservation Educator's Fellowship program at the Bronx Zoo, USA, Tom Naiman, informed me my application for grant was accepted by the IZE board. Really I was flabbergasted on hearing this news. After that the same day when I saw the mail from Chris Peter the joy burgeoned again. When I saw the list of 12 sponsored delegates from different developing countries, I thought that really IZE was doing a great job for these countries with the intention to show their hard work in the International arena and ultimately get recognition for their work.

In 1988, I started my career as a Biologist at the Chennai Zoo and at that same time did small kind of education activities in an unorganized way. After I joined Zoo Outreach Organisation in 1990, I learned many things about zoo education from our Director Ms. Sally Walker, from literatures, other national and international trainings. But this IZE conference is totally different from the all above in the sense meeting and hearing different intellectuals who are full time educators working in the zoo, aquarium, natural reserves, animal welfare organizations etc., Again the conference was a platform to know their work, sharing our work with them. The paper presentations, workshops, open space sessions and poster presentation were very good. From these I understood the various methods they apply in educating people; Sharing ideas and topics. It was totally a new experience for me and this is first time I heard so many presentations and also the first ever big education conference I attended.

Five most important experiences during the Conference;

1. First of all I met about 130 educators from 30 more countries-learned and shared views.
2. The variety of presentations - 48 presentations, 5 workshops, two days open space session and poster presentations.
3. Wherever I go, I am interested to see zoos. During this trip I was able to see National Zoological Gardens, Pretoria and Emerald Casino Safari and Zoo. Really the National Zoo is one of the better zoos.
4. This was my first visit to one of the country in the African continent. I enjoyed very much the food, the culture, folk dances and hospitality of host organization.
5. Attended the IZE board meeting.

One of the benefit of the IZE Conference is self development. On attending this conference it really augmented my knowledge on world's present conservation education trends. Whatever I learned out of this conference which may be new methodology or anything I shall use for my own development and then this information will be shared among likeminded people in this region.

I am the Education Officer at Zoo Outreach Organisation and am involved in South Asian Network of International Zoo Educators (SANIZE) and conduct many education activities in South Asia. I hope I can use this conference experiences in my future education activities. Now I know many educators around the world and it will definitely help me in sharing ideas and learning from each other.

Dammike Malasinghe, Assistant Director, National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka -- What I gained from IZE conference

Once the Department of National Zoological Gardens had opened the gateway for 24 science graduates as a policy decision of the government, we faced a critical problem of how to utilize the man power which we wished for and were blessed with ultimately. Most science graduates qualified with the basic degrees but specialized in various other fields. Some of them have completed their post graduate studies. They were attached into various sections such as education, research, nutrition etc., but utilization of their capacities was not up to the satisfactory level. It was understood that the human power we received could be used more efficiently for the benefit of the department as well as the country. As the in charge of the education sections of Dehiwala Zoo and the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, it was important for me to find out more and more avenues to engage them in work.

Eventually IZE came to my mind as a place from where I can light a candle. Learning of some little new things may lead to vast differences. Since the government has restricted all government spending tours the only way for me to attend the conference of IZE

which was going to be held in 9 – 14th October 2006 in National Zoological Gardens of South Africa, Pretoria, was to win a sponsorship. I got the details from the web site and came to know that scholarships are possible if do a presentation and the presentation should have to be recommended by regional representative.

I started to communicate with Ms. Sally Walker, the Regional Representative for South Asian and Director of Zoo Outreach Organization which ultimately came forward to sponsor me. On the 8th October 2006 I flew to Johannesburg via Mumbai, India and was welcomed at Johannesburg by Kellie and Anjelina at the airport. The whole team at the Joburg Zoo were very hospitable and helpful.

I came across many interesting informations at the conference but most striking feature for me was the way the speakers presented their presentations. Some presentations were done in a very professional way but some were weak and did not create any interest in the viewers. Any how, I could learn various ways of educating people, the methodologies adopted, zoo outreach programmes using school children and using school teachers, conservative programmes etc., Completely new ideas also were learnt, such as 'WCS wildlife theatre: Sustainable development through drama by Robert J Sikora, Central Park Zoo USA. After the sessions I could speak with Ephantus Mugo of Laikipia Wildlife Forum, and there he described further more about his presentation' using environmental education to promote sustainable livelihoods and long term conservation success in Laikipia district, Kenya'. He described how they use chilies as a barrier to stop elephants entering private property. Some times it might be applicable to our country and I thought to discuss that with our department of wildlife conservation.

I attended one workshop on 'Effective exhibit design 101' conducted by the team, Joyce, the education manager and young Christine and Terence came from Ocean Park Academy, Hong Kong and fascinated by the way they conducted it. By seeing that I understood even the young people like our new education and research assistants might perform well if they receive an opportunity. Bangladesh girl, Gawsia, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, who conducts teachers for Tigers programme in Bangladesh on the guidance of Zoo Outreach Organization, also did her presentation in a professional manner. Unfortunately I couldn't go to see the presentations done by Marimuttu from Zoo Outreach Organization and Arun Narasingh Rana from Central Zoo, Nepal who made a good companionship with us during the conference period.

Open space sessions were also fruitful. There we could share our ideas and it was a good opportunity to recognize each other. The arrangements made to entertain the participants were done in a remarkable way. I may never forget the Emerald Safari Resort where we stayed for three nights and the party in cold night.

Most wonderful person I met was Chris Peters, the ex president of IZE. I understood that he was an example for all human kind. Though he is disabled physically his personality and understanding of responsibility was in very high level and it shows the physical strength is immaterial for leadership.

Lawrence Tshogohle, an educationist of Johannesburg zoo invited us to stay at his home after the conference and he was kind enough to show us the Philansburg Park and Sun City at Johannesburg. From all of these, personally I could gain lot of experience and those helped me to improve my personality. My ambition for attending the meeting was successful. I got many clues on how to utilize new graduates in education section. The

praise for all the achievements I have obtained should go to Ms. Sally Walker, without whom this opportunity would have been difficult.

Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh.

I represented the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh in the International Zoo Educators Association's 18th Biennial Conference. Sally Walker had proposed my name. I submitted an abstract, filled in the form for the IZE Grant which was accepted. I was delighted to know that I would be the first Bangladeshi who would participate in such a meaningful conference of the IZEA.

I think the most important role of IZE lies in assisting the educators from developing countries, to inspire them, to help perform well as an Educator for a developing nation, for a better future. All the delegates got opportunities to hear keynote speakers, paper presentations, attend poster presentations, 5 workshops and visit various interesting animal displays. There were some Education Toolkits as sample that had been provided by different zoos and organizations such as Zoo Outreach Organization, India, and Ocean Park, Hong Kong. It was indeed a learning place, to share various ideas and themes. It gave the participants to communicate conservation education potentials and problems. Participants got an opportunity to know each other and learn what was happening all over the world for conservation education.

Five most important experiences during the IZE Conference

1. I benefited from a presentation titled 'The role of IZE and Zoo Educators in the WAZA initiative to engage Poorly Maintained Zoos' by Sally Walker. I could learn more on this from a workshop titled 'The WAZA Initiative to Engage Poorly Maintained Zoos, Part 2: A Discussion of IZE's Role' by Sally Walker. For me it was an opportunity to know how people think and how the thoughts could be translated into action while we work and think together. It helped me think that I should try to improve the status of the zoos of Bangladesh. The workshop had important messages for the poorly maintained zoos.

2. It was good to know about the role of conservation educators. About 180 educators from more than 30 or 50 countries participated in the workshop and it gave me a great opportunity to interact with many of them and to learn about their activities. I now can foresee what I have got to do in near future.

3. My presentation session was the most exciting event for me. I felt honoured to have an opportunity to represent my country and to say what we have been doing. I was deeply touched when Ms. Sally Walker and Mr. Tom Naiman appreciated our activities. I was truly encouraged and indeed overwhelmed.

4. I visited the National Zoological Garden of South Africa and it was so good to experience how various messages on conservation education have been written on bill boards and other sign boards. I had an opportunity to learn how the animals were kept and how *ex-situ* conservation could help our threatened animals, and what messages be passed to visitors and how.

5. I attended the pre-conference workshop titled 'Enrichment as a Tool for Zoo Educators: Environmental Enrichment and Animal Training Workshop'. This workshop aimed to learn about the concepts and theories of environmental enrichment and help to create, administer, evaluate and interpret enrichment activities. A full day was devoted to the basics of operant conditioning and incorporating live, tractable animals into educational programmes. For me it was an opportunity to understand the subject like Environmental Enrichment.

Benefit of the IZE Conference for my own development
I was amazed and delighted to seeing, hearing, feeling and experiencing what was happening throughout the world with a communication tool like conservation education.

For me it was an opportunity to share conservation education potentials and problems with other participants. It seems I was bestowed upon a responsibility to go a long way with zoo education in my country where people are still unaware of the fact that zoo has an important role to play in conserving all life forms including humans.

Future planning to do with these experiences and in the IZE network afterwards I plan to 1. share my conference experiences with the zoo educators in Bangladesh; 2. create awareness among zoo visitors by preparing leaflets, posters, bill boards, etc; 3. organise talks for students and others; and 4. organise zoo visits for disabled students and others. In addition to these activities, I would like to represent International Zoo Educators Association in Bangladesh and get in touch with other zoo personnel of the world through IZE. On behalf of the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh I would like to organize workshops for the zoo educators in Bangladesh where I may expect resource persons from the IZEA.

Erratum

Hippo Shifting - A Dhaka Zoo First Case Study

The author names were missed in the original publication of Zoos' Print Vol: XXI, No. 22-23, P. 20.

Article - Hippo shifting Pp. 22-23; please replace " Ziaur Rahman, A and Syed Ali Ahasan" by Ahasan S A, Azam S, Rahman M and Salim I ".

Corrections on Pp 22-23

1. In introduction read first word " While " instead of " White ".
2. Delete " and " in page 22, middle column on line before last line.
3. Delete "s" from "Drs." In the line just before the last line in column 3 on page 22 and from 5th line of 6th paragraph on page 23.
4. In table replace question mark by 'M' (for male) and 'F' (for female) chronologically.

Status of Bengal Tigers (*Panthera tigris tigris*) in Dhaka Zoo, Ziaur Rahman, A & Syed Ali Ahasan

2) Page no. 13.

In the table 1 below the underline and space by marking * only y=year and m=month will be there.

In the box sketch of "Bengal tiger's shed in Dhaka Zoo" the upper arrow sign should be in left direction.

Status of Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibious*) Herd in Dhaka Zoo, Ziaur Rahman, A & Syed Ali Ahasan

Page no. 20

In the third line of first para read as "1986" instead of "1992" and instead of "one female" read as "two females". Then instead of "the male was alone for 8 years", read as "the male was alone for 3 years.

In the map, for no. 8 = public path, 1 boundary line besides the hard and concrete boundary (no.4) keeping some space will be there.