

More on the Philippines

THE NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN ZOOS ASSOCIATION, **ZOOS SEA**

Gulmbal, Iloilo, 8-10 January 2001

Sally Walker



Council of SEAZA and dignitaries on the dias of the Inauguration of the SEAZA meeting.

It seems that India is increasingly associating with ASEAN -- so ever conscious of government policy -- we are running more about the 9th Conference of South East Asian Zoos and some of the work being done by South East Asian zoo and wildlife personnel. The SEAZA conferences are more like CBSG meetings than a proper zoo conference as they invite people from CITES, from the wildlife community, from the academic community, etc. It is a good mixture of people who need to know one another. Please refer the abstracts of papers presented at the conference to see the variety or diversity of subject matter presented at this regional conference.

For the SAZARC meetings (this is the regional equivalent of SEAZA except SAZARC is just an infant while SEAZA is almost fully developed) we attach a meeting of CBSG, South Asia to which such persons from all fields and disciplines associated with zoo and wildlife science are invited so that there is a short zoo meeting of about one or two days and then a two-day CBSG meeting as well.

I particularly liked the inaugural speech given by then Secretary of Environment, so have reproduced it here. Also, SEAZA has several standing committees and some of these meet at the SEAZA meeting. The report of those committees may be useful to give an idea of the kinds of projects in which this region is engaged.

Finally, SEAZA plays a lot at their conferences with fun-filled icebreakers, dinners and tours. There is a lot of laughter and relaxation which heals breeches, forges links and generally attracts more attendees. This doesn't interfere with the work as tired participants from the 9th conference will tell you -- most of them got an average of 3 hours sleep every night.

Anyway, here is more about SEAZA.

Keynote Address by Secretary to Government

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning. The Philippines is rich in natural resources and has one of the highest biodiversity in the world on a per unit area basis. Exploitation, however, and loss of habitat has decimated wildlife populations in our country. This has even resulted in one of the first recorded wildlife extinction in modern history, that of *Dobsonia chapmani*, the Philippine Bare-backed Fruit Bat. This

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bat disappeared sometime in the mid-1980's when the last forest of Negros below 800 meters disappeared. We, however, are not giving up our efforts to save our wildlife species from all forms of exploitation and extinction.

Just recently, I signed a DENR Administrative Order for the establishment of wildlife rescue centers attached to the different DENR Regional Offices in the Philippines. It aims to institutionalize wild animal shelters, to serve as a repository and rehabilitation center for confiscated wildlife so they may be utilized later on; for conservation education and wild fauna research. We need to undertake the latter especially because of the dearth of information we have on the management of wildlife in captivity. These rescue centers are also envisioned to venture on conservation breeding programs to alleviate pressure on wild populations and shall implement a program for releasing wildlife back into their habitat. In November of the past year, we launched Lungsod Kalikasan, a wildlife conservation center in Quezon City. Cages were constructed to closely simulate or approximate the natural habitat of the wildlife we have on hand. It is also a venue for environment education and appreciation as well as training and research. We owe this to the Filipino people.

We are honored that the Philippines is hosting the 9th Annual SEAZA Conference. I understand that SEAZA upholds the three basic principles of the World Zoo Conservation Strategy, which are:

- 1) Actively support conservation of populations of endangered species and their habitats;
- 2) Promote an increased public awareness of conservation needs;
- 3) Support and facilitate the increase of scientific knowledge that will benefit conservation

I encourage each and everyone to adhere to these principles for conservation to ensue.

I subscribe to one of the missions of SEAZA, which is, to commit to team work and share expertise and experience with SEAZA members, and with other regional or national zoo associations. I see this as an opportunity for the Philippines to learn and benefit from SEAZA. This is a much awaited event where experts in their own respective fields will share their experiences and knowledge in zoo management, animal welfare and enrichment and the latest research outputs. I congratulate SEAZA for organizing this important occasion. I wish you all a fruitful conference and workshop.

SEAZA Committee Working Group Workshop Reports

SEAZA ETHICS / WELFARE COMMITTEE WORKSHOP REPORT

Representative countries attending: Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Philippines, USA, New Zealand

1. During 2001 the committee will evaluate 5 zoos in Indonesia
2. Safe handling of animals during transportation guidelines will be prepared by Martin Darcy and Ratna Kumar
3. Basic standards of health and sanitation guidelines -- Alan Mootnick

4. Ethics/welfare Committee's representative must attend CITES Animal Committee's meetings as an observer. And Local CITES Expert group (ASEAN) – to discuss problems related to confiscated and endangered species.

5. By 2005 the Committee must evaluate as many zoos as possible and draft guidelines for various issues

6. Manila Zoo/Cebu Zoo have requested the Committee for assistance to improve standards of animal welfare/enrichment etc. and will invite us officially with the next few months.

CONSERVATION WORKSHOP REPORT

Group Members : Subash Chandran – Chair, Tan Kit Sun – Co-chair Richard Tenaza – Scribe, Mundita S. Lim, Warren Johnson, Cheng Li Yi Lin Ling, Sally Walker, Emilia Sandig

EXPECTATIONS

1. ID actions that are feasible by late 2001; Mechanism for use in Singapore; Zoo Conservation fund should be made clear to members
2. Small bodied species for consideration in conservation programmes



3. Identify SEAZA expertise
4. Identify new field projects and gaps in on-going field projects where SEAZA expertise could be offered
5. How to facilitate movement of confiscated species. C/o zoo conservation programmes
6. Preparation--WAZA June conservation planning meeting in Thailand

- ID Project Managers and Wildlife Offices *in-situ* – Mundita
- List of emergency/ IUCN critically endangered species
- Critically endangered species found in Zoos in SEA- KIT
- List Priority Species (Working group) Philippine Eagle, Bushy-tailed Cloud Rat, Tamaraw, Tarsier, Warty Pig, Slow loris, Hornbill, Clouded leopard, Flores giant rat

ID expertise : Training – veterinary, restraint; Survey and census; PHVA; Education and awareness; Total Quality Management (TQM)

Recommendations: -- To facilitate PHVA and CAMP workshops, funding may be requested from the consortium of the Nature Conservancy, WWF, and The World Resources Institute, for a Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project (already done in India and Brazil)

Recommendations: -- Stud books – Who will be in-charge?; sharing/cooperation with other countries ; Suggestions: AZA has training courses for Stud book keepers and species coordinators; Incentives could be built to encourage attendance to the trainings; Come up with at least one model stud book

Recommendations:

Consider critically endangered small bodied species, not just the charismatic ones, for conservation priorities identify threatened and endangered species from neglected groups of animals, (e.g. amphibians, reptiles, bats, rodents, etc.) for which a rational conservation program can make an immediate and recognizable contribution to the survival of the species and populations Handbook for identification, for animals that are problematic to their country for use of CITES Authorities Network of WRCs be revived (Moorthy, to provide data base)

Recommendations:

SEAZA adopts a piece of land to be converted to a wildlife sanctuary, e.g. Sinakak Isl., Indonesia and potential field projects will be listed down by Richard T.

Recommendations:

- Each country to come up with a list of critically endangered FS species by Taiping Conference, including one for SEAZA
- Each facility should list its conservation achievements (incl. Research and education) and send to website coordinator
- Recommend award for conservation efforts at SEAZA

Obstacles to movement of confiscated species:

CITES regulations

Ignorance of What's What, What's Where, and Where from? Finance

Lack of Communication

Suggestion : Contact airlines, invite wildlife agencies to attend SEAZA (Subash)

Health requirements and lack of adequate quarantine facility

SEAZA COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP REPORT

Attending persons : Dr. Kevin Lazarus – Chair, Dr. Romulo Bernardo-Manila Zoo, Ci Wen Yang-Taipei Zoo, Jun Binan-J.K. Mercado Crocodile Farm, Dr. Wong Hon Mun-Jurong Birdpark, Kathy Chua-My Zoo Volunteer Group Foundation

Communication occurs : - Within Zoo Personnel; - Between Zoos ; - With the Public; - With Authorities; - Private Sector; - Within Zoo Organization.

(General) Problems are : Information dissemination from the decision makers to the people; - implementing programs, and vice versa; - Job awareness; - Chain of command; - Making decisions in emergencies; - Within Zoo Organization. **Solutions** could be ERP; - meetings; - memos; - e-mails; - newsletters bulletins; - Public Address System; - direct communications (- personal, -two way radio; -hand phone, -pagers)

(Between Zoos) Problems are : Misunderstanding, lack of cooperation, limited contacts (friends); Lack of information; Lack of access to information (-Zoo design, -Enclosure design, -Diet, - Veterinary care, -Capture experience, -Breeding, -Husbandry, - Educational programs. **Solutions** between Zoos : Conferences, Meetings, Email, Websites; Telephone/ Fax, Letters, Newsletters, Visits, Training, Direct communications

(With the Public) Problems : Different age/target groups for educational programs, Complaints (to look into it/ Feedback/ action taking ? Short term and long term plans, Do's and don'ts at zoo - lack of understanding attitude with the public. **Solutions** -- Graphics design (Signages) to cater to the different age groups, publications, suggestion box, guestbooks, prepared forms, call-in, surveys, e-mail forms, visitor education programs

(With Authorities) Problems : Not aware of relevant regulations; Not complying with regulations; Lack of support. **Solutions:** Make

an effort to know all the regulations and comply; Develop stronger ties with authorities

(Private Sector) Problems : Funding (You don't ask, they won't give) **Solutions :** Develop marketing strategies to let people know what you need and how they can help

Action Plan -- Better use of SEAZA website:

Submit more information

Make use of forum on website

Hyperlink of members websites -- all members with websites to submit website addresses to Kevin or Kit Sun by end of February 2001: drkevin@zootaiping.gov.my or kitsun@zoo.com.sg

For those who do not have a website should attempt to create one by February 2002. Check email regularly

SEAZA Conference 2001

A presentation was made by the Malaysian delegates, led by the Mayor of Taiping and the Director of Taiping Zoo, on hosting the 10th SEAZA Conference around 7-10 October 2001. The theme for the 10th Conference will be 'Ethics and Welfare in Asian Zoos' and it will be held at Bukit Merah, near Taiping, Perak, Malaysia.

In June 2002, a joint conference of SEAZA and ARAZPA (Australian association) is planned.

It would be very nice indeed if at least one representative of the SAARC countries's zoos, represented by IZDA and SAZARC, could also participate in this event.



News from Singapore :

The following facilities in Singapore have merged into one large company called Singapore Wildlife Reserves

Singapore Zoological Gardens
Night Safari
Jurong Bird Park



Bernard Harrison

**Director,
Singapore Wildlife
Resorts**

**President,
South East Asian
Zoo Association**

**Secretary, World
Association of Zoos
and Aquaria**

Work hard -- then play hard



SEAZA President Bernard Harrison, Council Member and Chairman of the Training Committee and Congressman Oscar clown around at the SEAZA Farewell Dinner which was held on the beach (that is why Kit Sun is dressed like that). It is a hardline tradition that every country which attends the SEAZA conference has to prepare, produce and present a skit (can be a poem, song, dance, story, play, etc.) at the Farewill party. Below is the India contribution to this year's SEAZA meeting.

SEAZA SEAZA — A collection plan by you Should be sung to the tune of "A Bicycle Built for Two"

SEA -ZA, SEA ZA ...takes good care of the zoos
South East As - yan spe-cies stand in a queue
Just for a chance to tarry
and eat free food and marry
A handsome stud
With different blood
Of a collection plan by you.

Ooooooohhhh
SEA-ZA SEA-ZA takes good care of the zoos
South East As - yan spe-cies stand in a queue
They know their numbers are threatened
Their days on earth unreckoned
To live and breed
With Mankind's greed
Is a difficult thing to do

Ooooooohhhh
SEA-ZA SEA-ZA takes good care of the zoos
South East As - yan Spe-cies stand in a queue
You can hear their plaintive voices
Pleading to be the choices
Of Singapore's toast
And our great host
Of Discovery channel too.

Ooooooohhhh
SEA-ZA SEA-ZA takes good care of the zoos
South East As - yan Spe-cies stand in a queue
Their song could go on forever
But I must end this endeavour,
It's getting late
and I can't wait
For I have to go the loo