

## International Congress on Zookeeping 2012 Rengasamy Marimuthu\*

The fourth International Congress on Zookeeping was held in Singapore from 9-13 September 2012 hosted by Wildlife Reserves Singapore in conjunction with ICZ. The theme of the conference was **"Many Voices, One Calling"** with the hope to bring together keepers and zoo professionals around the world for the objectives of enhancing the professionalism of zookeepers and welfare of the wild animals in their care.

Two hundred and fifty delegates from 32 countries attended the Congress. The programme included presentation of papers, workshops and poster presentations. The programme sessions were held both in Jurong Bird Park and Singapore Zoo. The events started with registration at Jurong Bird Park in the evening of 09 September 2012 followed by an Icebreaker. On 10 September the opening ceremony was held at Jurong Bird Park with cultural programmes. The Guest of honour was Ms. Claire Chiang, Wildlife Reserves, Singapore. Professor Leo Tan, Director (Special Projects), Faculty of Science, NUS gave a keynote address.

After that one more keynote address on "Connecting with our audience" was given by Steve Martin, Natural Encounters Inc. Australia in the afternoon. The delegates were taken to the Night Safari in the evening. Again on 11 September he gave another keynote address on "The SECRET of Animal Training". There were number of poster presentations and workshops were held. In the night a silent auction was held in order to raise funds for ICZ. Delegates brought many items for auction. On 12 September, presentations and workshops were held. At night a gala dinner was arranged.

On 13 September, presentations went on until the closing ceremony. Mr. Sebastian Schorr, Zoo Leipzig, host of the 2015 ICZ Conference gave a presentation about Leipzig Zoo. After this, the conference was summed up and closed.

Two papers and one poster were presented from India. In this conference, I represented as a sponsored delegate and presented a paper on "Role of Zoo Keepers in



**Amphibian and reptiles workshop at the Singapore Zoo**



**Animal welfare training workshop by Graeme Phipps**

Conservation Education" which was co-authored by Ms. Sally Walker. While I talked about the keeper's role in education, I also shared the information about South Asian Zoos and the problems the region's zookeepers. I also highlighted their positive aspects and how ICZ chapters could assist in improving their professional skills (*see the full article in following pages*). The presentation was well received by the audience and several extended their support on the spot. Thanks to ICZ for the sponsorship and Wildlife Reserves Singapore for hospitality.



**One of posters presented by Mumbai Zoo Veterinarian**