

SAZARC : Sixth Annual Conference Coimbatore 2006 -- correspondence afterwards



Thanks from participants

Dear Colleagues at SAZARC & ZOO: — I reached Karachi safely, I am sorry, I could not write you earlier due to the sickness of my parents and children; they are well now.

I congratulate you, Dr. Sahu, Sanjay, Daniel and all staff for so beautifully arranging the conference and workshops at Coimbatore which provided me opportunity to learn more things especially in data management and primate taxonomy. The resource persons Mike Jordan, Karin Schwartz, Dave Morgan, Brendan Whittington Jones, Asim Turk & Sanjay Molur dealt with all of us so nicely that I will never forget.

Presentations at both the workshops and conference were very informative and useful for all of us. The arrangements for lodging, food, transport were praiseworthy. I was very much impressed by the hospitality extended by the Indian colleagues at Coimbatore, Chennai and Delhi. My special thanks goes to Mr. and Mrs. Rangaswamy for providing care and attention for two days and providing us delicious and memorable dinners.

In addition to the conference and workshop I am very much obliged for the experience for visiting Coimbatore Botanical Garden Coimbatore Zoo, Chennai Zoo, Madras Crocodile Bank & Delhi Zoo. I had been dreaming since 1999 to see the Madras Crocodile Bank which has become true with your great efforts. After visiting the Madras Crocodile Bank I will be in a position to further improve my reptile enclosures, while the visit to Chennai Zoo and Delhi Zoo will help me improve moated enclosures at Karachi Zoo. Visit of Zoo Outreach and such a huge collection on wildlife impressed me very much. I am grateful to Latha, Manju, Marimuthu, Ravi and all of the staff at Zoo Outreach who gave their maximum help and cooperation during my stay. I am heartily grateful to you for your train journey from Coimbatore to Chennai and dinner at an outstanding hotel and all other arrangements. And company of Dave Morgan and Brendan Whittington Jones was also a pleasure for me. If possible kindly let me know their email addresses so that I may also contact them and convey my gratitude. I am also thankful to the donors & sponsors of the conference whose contribution made the event a success & presented us opportunity to learn more about wildlife conservation. I am also thankful to Dr. Sahu the president of SAZARC who amused all the participants with his jokes. Once again I thank you and all others for their hospitality and praiseworthy cooperation during my stay in India.

Muhammad Mansoor Qazi, Wassalam
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Dear Madam, — I would like to thank you for inviting me for the "SAZARC" conference which was held recently at Karl Kubel Institute, Coimbatore. Since I enter this zoo field very recently, the SAZARC meeting was very useful to know lot of new things which I haven't heard before about the zoo management. I was able to interact with so many people from South Asian countries as well as from other countries and learned lot of new things from them. The record keeping training and all the group discussions were very very useful to me. Suppose If I had missed this great

opportunity, it would have been a great loss to my present career. Though I am very late to thank you, once again thank you for all. **Dr. S.Thirukumar, B.V.Sc, Director, VOC Park Zoo, Coimbatore, TN, 641018 India**

Dear Sally and ZOO Crew — Congratulations for the successful completion of the 6th SAZARC Annual meeting which we found very informative and useful. We are highly occupied in preparation of celebration therefore not in position to write you in detail. Thanks for the wonderful hospitality extended to us during our stay. Please pass our regards to Daniel and Sanjay. Regards from **RK Shrestha, Director, KMTNC / Central Zoo, Lalithpur, Nepal**

Dear ZOO and SAZARC : — The 6th Annual SAZARC conference held at Annaikatti, Coimbatore, India was the continuation of the last conferences. The two candidates from King Mahendra Trust For Nature Conservation, Central Zoo, Nepal Mr. R.K Shrestha, Director and Ms. Rachana Shah, Conservation Education Officer were sponsored to participate in the conference. The theme of this year's conference: ISIS ZIMS – computerized records management and South Asian primate taxonomy was very useful and informative. The record keeping system of the overall aspect of the zoo collection as well as the display of the sign and labels of the animals of the South Asian Zoos are very primitive and traditional. The adaptation of the computerized system like ISIS ZIMS and eye catching and informative signs and labels will help in the better management of the zoo collection records as well as the more conservation education and awareness amongst the public visitors.

Besides its main theme, the workshop has been very useful in developing network between the individuals and the organizations working in the similar field. This will definitely help in the conservation efforts of the region.

The lecture and presentation on the South Asian Primate taxonomy has provided all the participants with the latest information about the different subspecies of the primates of this region which were not taken into consideration earlier. The presentation by representative of different zoos helped us to get acquainted with the zoos of the region and their efforts for the betterment of reach the World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA) standard. The KMTNC, Central Zoo is looking forward to acquire the ISIS system to improve its database to meet up the International level of standard. At last we would like to thanks a lot to the organizing committee, Sally and her team, Zoo Outreach Organization for their big effort and hard work to bring together the Zoos from South Asian region. Our special thanks go to the sponsors without their support we couldn't have been able got this opportunity. **Ms. Rachana Shah, Conservation Education Officer, Central Zoo, Nepal.**

Dear Madam Sally, — I would like to thank formally for having opportunity to gain experiences in this conference. I have got more than what I expected. The place and service

everything was excellent. For the first time I am satisfied about myself what I have learned. I will send mail separately to zoo staffs saying thanks. Sincerely yours,
Azharul, Dhaka Zoo

Dear Madam Sally, — Hope you are well. We all from Bangladesh are well and arrived in Bangladesh safely. Everybody asserted aspiration out of the arrangement you and your crews made for the participants there in SAZARC Conference. Hoping your good health. Looking forward to hearing from you. With best regards, **Dr. Syed Ali Ahasan , DVM, Scientific Officer, Dhaka Zoo, Mirpur, Bangladesh**

Dear All : — Just returned from the SAZARC conference, which despite the lack of actual Afghans, bolstered the interest in the Kabul Zoo project. Actually there was far more interest from the South Asian zoo community than I imagined there would be. The organization of Sally and her team was excellent and every aspect of the trip and conference ran smoothly. Zoo Outreach and SAZARC can be of enormous benefit I believe, provided of course the management of Kabul Zoo make some effort. It is unfortunate that last minute arrangements hampered Azizgul and Akbhary getting a visa.

Sally and I talked a fair bit about future steps for SAZARC involvement in Kabul zoo and have come up with 2 future trips which could be of benefit to the Kabul folks.....and perhaps be simpler and more effective than the attempts to get them to the conference. The only Pakistani representative to the conference was Muhammad Qazi, director of the Karachi zoo, who is a very pleasant man who seems to have some good ideas, and by accounts from Sally, has made very positive changes at his zoo.. He appears genuinely interested in helping the Kabul Zoo.

Sally and I felt that if we can get Azizgul and Akbahry across to Karachi (perhaps January next year) for a very brief (maybe 3 or 4 days) visit just to get a picture of management etc of another zoo would provide an effective boost and start some co-operation. Based on the effect of this visit on the attitudes/mindset, then perhaps we could organize a fairly brief visit a few months later to some of the better Indian facilities around Chennai/Coimbatore. Sally has several staff members who could be excellent escorts for a brief trip. I believe that shorter visits, apart from being more cost effective, will focus the visitors on the issue at hand and get them back to Kabul with the information gained fresh in their minds. Other individuals at the conference expressed keen interest in assisting Kabul Zoo. So all round a very worth-while exercise and it has left me extremely impressed at the organization Sally has put together, and support she has generated for co-operation with Kabul. Now we just have to try implementing it in Afghanistan. **Brendan Whittington Jones, Consultant, South Africa**

Dear Sally and ZOO Crew,
We had very good time in Coimbatore. Everybody from all countries were happy and enjoyed they have also learned many new things from this conference, campus is also very good, Your team-work was excellent. I want to congratulate each and every member of Z.O.O. team. With best regards to every one, **R.K.Sahu, Ahmedabad Zoo, Pres., SAZARC**

Hi Sally and ZOO Crew : — Thank you for the brilliant workshop! I really got a lot out of it and a whole new perspective on a lot of things. Please do keep in touch. Best wishes, **Kadambari, Wildlife Trust of India, New Delhi**

Dear Madam and the ZOO Crew: — After a long break I'm writing to you after the conference. By this time, officially I've put forward 22 points for animal welfare and development of Dhaka Zoo, and to provide airfare for SEAZA Conference to my Government. Obviously I'm trying to upgrade my activities to a desired level. I've achieved my target of educating at least 500 graduates of different institutions (not enumerated) guided and lectured in subjects of Animal Welfare, Biodiversity Conservation, etc. The remaining 500 graduates will be completed by next 6 month under my coordination. **Dr. Syed Ali Ahasan, DVM, Scientific Officer, Dhaka Zoo, Bangladesh.**

Dear Sally and ZOO Crew: — First of all, I would like to thank Zoo Outreach Organization as well as Sally Walker for raising financial support and necessary communications that I have been able to attend the CBSG and SAZARC conference for all the sessions. For the first time I attended the CBSG/RSG and SAZARC conference which was very important and worthwhile for me. I was very thrilled that the venue selected for the conference was so natural and wonderful that was beyond of my expectation. It was an ideal training institute comprising accommodation, dining, food, conference room, audio-visual facilities and other necessary technical things was just as desired. The "zoo crew" were very kind and helpful to whatever and whenever we need. I would also like to thank Mike Jordan, Karin Schwartz, Dave Morgan, Brendan Whittington-Jones and Sanjay Molur to deliver their valuable lessons. Finally, it was a precious and rightly guided successful conference.

Certainly, this conference is useful amongst the SAARC countries inspiring me that we are not separated, but interlinked for achieving same goal of wildlife conservation, which is very important for perception. The main training theme for the conference was ISIS ZIMS computerized record management and South Asian Primate Taxonomy. I was very interested for the ZIMS and I had been trying to learn as much as possible from the sessions. I think this modern computerized system of record keeping is very essential for every zoo. Hence, I am trying to lobby and convince the authority of Dhaka Zoo to implement the ZIMS. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Retd. Director General of DLS is also informing the administration its utility. I believe it will come into reality within this year. Soon Dhaka Zoo will start communication with ISIS to purchase the software. It was really unknown to me that so many species are included in the primates in the South Asia. In some cases, there were very minor and keen differences in the primates, which make me very curious. To put in the correct taxonomy we will send photographs of some primates of Dhaka Zoo to the ZOO office. The CBSG meeting was very lively, and lots of presentations from different participants were very interesting and significant for activities in conservation. I think my participation in this conference has been prolific for me as well as Dhaka Zoo. Sincerely yours, **Md. Azharul Islam, Officer-in-Charge Museum, Dhaka Zoo, Bangladesh.**

Dear Colleagues : — My recent visit of SAZARC in India was first of its kind in my professional life. The training component, which was about Primate Taxonomy, ARKS (Animal Records Keeping Systems), ZIMS (Zoological Information Management Systems) etc., linked nicely to my DVM (Doctor of veterinary Medicine) and will be really helpful for maintaining bio-diversity in such tough times. We had a great times over there in Coimbatore with training sessions and seminars all the day, visiting couple of forests and the most cheerful one was catching snakes with Mr. Dave (who is working for PAAZAB) at midnight in the deep forest of Coimbatore, India.

I think this type of cooperation from regional and international organization will boost up overall zoo performance all over the world. Especially if I think of from my perspective it really helped me a lot.

To develop Chittagong Zoo from bad one (I should say bad one obviously at its present condition) to a good one this type of association, training session will surely a give a helping hand for those Zoo Curators like me. Thanks a Lot SAZARC ! **Dr. Md. Mongur Morshed Chowdhury, Curator, Chittagong Zoo, Bangladesh**

Dear Colleagues — Innumerable windows have been opened for me on attending the 6th SAZARC conference. As a Zoo Educator and Zoo Veterinarian, I'm lucky enough to have the opportunity of exchanging views and ideas with so many learned resource person of different parts of the planet. Obviously ARKS training was unique to learn a very important animal keeping tool of the time and future. I've come to know some of the fine points of very important and relevant zoo and wild animal issue like transportation, reintroduction, rehabilitation, conservation and breeding. Overall, how a very simple but disciplined conference can materialize such a great job which was carried out by Zoo Outreach Organization, the Coimbatore industrial community and others is amazing. Simply it is not possible to assert all I learned at SAZARC in a short paragraph. Many thanks. **Dr. Syed Ali Ahasan , DVM, Scientific Officer, Dhaka Zoo, Bangladesh.**

Letters from sponsors and associates :

Dear Sally, — On behalf of both myself personally and also the African Association of Zoos and Aquaria (PAAZAB) I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to you and to your President R.K. Sahu for your kind invitation to attend, and facilitation of my attendance of the 6th annual meeting of SAZARC in Coimbatore in December. I greatly enjoyed the session of the meeting and especially found the workshops pertaining to the Zoo improvement Project of WAZA to be particularly useful in developing ideas and approaches for our own region here in Africa. I would also to express my specific thanks to Latha, Sanjay, Payal, Daniel and Marimuthu who absolutely went out of their way to ensure my comfort and well-being. You have a great team over there. Best wishes for 2006. Yours sincerely,
Dave Morgan, Ex. Director, PAAZAB, African Association of Zoos and Aquaria, POB 60187, South Africa.

Dear Sally, — Thanks a lot for sending a good summary of just finished confrence from Coimbatore. I am really excited to read this mail. Though it was my bad luck, not to avail

this conference but it is good to hear every news from you. It is also good that you all have intention to rehabilitate Kabul zoo. I hope Kabul Zoo will be benefited after deputing SAZARC zoo experts periodically. Thanks again.

With best wishes. **Salim Iqbal, Veterinary Officer, Dhaka Zoo, Bangladesh**

Greetings from Pune: — Many thanks for constantly informing about the happenings of the SAZARC meet. Unfortunately, I could not make to attend the same at Coimbatore. Do keep in touch so that in future, I could plan in advance and be in the crew. Thank you so much. **Anil Khaire, Director, Pune Zoo.**

Dear Sally — Well done! I would like to congratulate you and all the participants and even those who could not attend these meetings. I feel we all have our little contributions in making this successful. Our cooperation is key in making our cause achievable. The smiles on all the participants ensure that they enjoyed the meeting and learnt from it, like always. It was great seeing Qazi and Dr. Sahu together yet again, they prove that Pakistan and India are good friends. **Uzma Khan, Conservation Biologist, WWF, Pakistan, Lahore, Pakistan.**

Hi Sally, Sanjay, and all of ZOO Crew, — Congratulations on another great meeting! It is clear that you continue to do great things to help make a better future for the zoos, wildlife, and people of South Asia. Karin sent a report on her work in helping you provide records training to SAZARC. I know that they really valued her contributions. My thanks also to Milwaukee (Zoo and Society) for sponsoring her participation in the meetings. For me, this is a great example of CBSG working: responding to requests for capacity building and sharing of ideas, tapping into our network of colleagues to provide expertise, relying on our zoos to provide key funding and backing, and making a difference for the people, the zoos, and in the long-term for the animals. I am sorry that I couldn't join you this year — it has been too long since I last enjoyed the Annapoorna Restaurant!, Best regards, **Robert C. Lacy, Chair, IUCN/ SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group**

Hi ZOO : Thanks so much for inviting Karin. It was our pleasure to support this effort and look forward to it in the future. **Dr. Robert (Bert) Davis, President & CEO, Zoological Society of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Dear Sally — Thank you for your message! I am so pleased to hear of the progress you are making with SAZARC - we do realize how much this is doing for conservation ... Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you next year. Yours, **Suzanne Boardman BVMS MRCVS, Executive Director, Twycross Zoo - East Midlands Zool Society, UK**

Dear ZOO: — Thanks so much for the update Sally, be sure to send us along some materials and images from the meeting when you can. Sincere wishes from all of us here for a warm and joyous holiday ! Sincerely, **Kym Parr, Assoc. Conservation Curator, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**

Sally and ZOO — Thanks for the update on what sounds like a very successful meeting. We, too, are glad that Karin could assist. Congratulations on all that you have done. **Bruce Bomke, Curator, Milwaukee Zoo, Wisconsin**