

Book Review : A Journey Together: The Establishment and Development of The South-East Asian Zoos' Association (SEAZA)

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General D. Ashari, Dr. Richard Tenaza and Pat Irving have put together a very detailed and systematic, interesting book documenting the formation and conduct of SEAZA, the South East Asian Zoo Association.

The book was published by the Indonesian Zoological Park's Association (PKBSI), on behalf of the South-East Asian Zoos' Association (SEAZA) April, 2005. The book has been dedicated to Dr. Ulysses S. Seal about whom the authors say :

"Since his first encounter with SEAZA in the 90's, his impressive personality, his mastery of innovative and inspirational advice, has always been very valuable to SEAZA's progress, mastering every subject presented in an eloquently fascinating manner and full of humour. It has always been a privilege to know this extraordinary man."

The book goes on to state that the fifth General Assembly in 1995 declared Ulysses S. Seal as an honorary member of SEAZA, recognising his valuable contribution to the advancement of the Association.

The book begins with a Preface by General D. Ashari, Founding President, SEAZA and its vitality throughout its history. There is a section on Acknowledgements in which Gen. Ashari lists people who have been helpful and meaningful to SEAZA throughout the years.

A whole bevy of important people in the South East Asian zoo world have written introductions, such as Pisit na Patalung, Immediate Past President, SEAZA Jansen Manansang, SEAZA's Fourth President Dr. Robert Lacy, Chairman, IUCN/SSC CBSG Ed McAlister, President, WAZA

After this come a series of essays by others, entitled Increasing the Relevance of Zoos for Conservation by Peter Dollinger, Executive Director of WAZA

Brief History of PKBSI by Lukito Daryadi, former Chairman, PKBSI

An Anecdotal Personal History of SEAZA by Richard Tenaza

Chapters continue to tell the story of SEAZA : Nature's starting point, Separate paths, similar goals, Signposts, Milestones, Fellow travellers, Setbacks and new beginnings and the way ahead.

SEAZA has created a document which is a genuine handbook of the organisation. The Appendices include the Constitution and Bylaws of SEAZA, the various Executive Boards of SEAZA, Relevant resolution, South-East Asian Zoos' Meeting, Malaysia, Relevant Proceedings and Post Conference Discussion, South-East Asia Zoo Meeting, Singapore, a Summary of the Meeting on the Proposed Establishment of the ASEAN Zoos Association and copies of all the Communiques throughout the 12 years of SEAZA

meetings which took place in 1990 in Indonesia; 1991, Thailand; 1993, Indonesia; 1994, Hong Kong; 1995, Taiwan; 1996, Malaysia; 1997, Singapore; 1999, Vietnam; 2001, Philippines; 2001, Malaysia; 2002, Singapore; 2003, Indonesia; 2004, Hong Kong

The book concludes with Authors' Biodata, a Bibliography and a scrapbook of SEAZA Photographs of conferences, training, and workshops. This book makes it unlikely that the history of SEAZA will be forgotten.

The book was released in a simple ceremony at the Joint SEAZA /ARAZPA meeting. Books were presented to individuals who had been important in some way or other to SEAZA's history. Also the Executive Board and General Assembly of SEAZA presented the first Lifetime Achievement Award to Lt. General (ret'd) Danudirdjo Ashari for initiating and encouraging the formation of the association and for ongoing services to the organisation. The award "recognises his significant contribution, unfailing dedication, exemplary leadership and continuing wise counsel". These qualities have led SEAZA to where it is today and he has also provided a vital sense of future direction for the association.

