

South Asian Zoo Association becomes a member of WAZA

The Administrative Office of the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation SAZARC which is based at Zoo Outreach Organisation is happy to announce that SAZARC is now a full member of the World Association for Zoos and Aquaria WAZA. This has been an objective of SAZARC since its founding in 2000 in Central Zoo, Kathmandu, Nepal. SAZARC has conducted four annual conferences and trainings in 2000, Central Zoo Nepal, 2001, Taiping Zoo, Malaysia (we were guests of SEAZA), 2002, Dhaka Zoo, Bangladesh and 2003 National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka. The 2004 conference is planned for Lahore Zoo, Pakistan.



SAZARC was nominated for membership by (first nominator) David Morgan, Director of the Pan African Zoo Association and (second nominator) Dr. Miranda Stevenson, Director of the Zoo Federation of Great Britain and Ireland on the occasion of the WAZA mid-year meeting held in Berne, Switzerland. The nomination had to be voted on by the general membership.

On 13 July 2004 we received our invitation from WAZA Director, Peter Dollinger, followed by a letter from the President of WAZA, Ed McAlister.

Now, South Asia has four members of WAZA. 1) the South Asian Zoo Association, a full association member, 2) the National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka, an institutional member, and 3) Central Zoo Authority and 4) Zoo Outreach Organisation, which are affiliate members.

Obtaining membership in WAZA is not very easy, but keeping membership will be even more difficult for SAZARC. SAZARC's primary objective has been to provide a venue for South Asian zoo personnel to gather and work on common problems which are standing in the way of the ethics and excellence of their facilities. This has been done by arranging a relatively long annual meeting with the following components:

1. Training : Education, Welfare & Ethics, Zoo Cooperation, Nutrition and Zoo Design, and for this year Nutrition II and Zoo Population Management.
2. Discussion and distribution of documentation : for encouraging of key activities such as national zoo legislation and national level zoo associations.
3. Participation in WAZA activities such as the reviewing of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy
4. Committees : for organising projects through the year, such as Education and Welfare, Constitution, Conservation, Veterinary medicine, etc.
5. Fellowship : for facilitating zoo directors, senior officers involved in zoo work, and zoo personnel to get together, discuss problems and potential, learn together, and with the small amount of time remaining in the day, have a nice time together.

So far Bangladesh has begun work (since their conference in 2002) on a national zoo association and national zoo legislation. We have learned that the national zoo legislation is in the government and moving steadily with hope of emerging as living genuine legislation soon. Pakistan also began work (since 2003) on a national association and national legislation which have been approved in principle by their government. We have hopes that by their conference in December there will be something solid to report. Government has approved the concept of having legislation and a committee formed for the purpose of creating it has to move.

This step of full membership in WAZA as a regional member takes South Asian into the 21st Century of zoo policy and management. We now have a standard to reach for but have a very long way to go to actually achieve it. WAZA will provide all the technical expertise we required. We have to provide the willingness and the work. Thanks to all WAZA members who voted for SAZARC's membership.





World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)
UNITED FOR CONSERVATION

From **WAZA Executive Office**
The Director, Peter Dollinger DVM PhD
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To: **SAZARC Executive Office**
Sally Walker, Director
c/o Z.O.O.29 First Cross Bharati Colony POBox 1063 Peelamedu, Coimbatore 641 004 India

Date : 13 July 2004

Concerns: **Welcome to WAZA**

Dear Colleagues :

Yesterday the ballot on the accession of new members was completed and we could count the votes. In total, 83 % of our members had participated in the vote. I am very pleased to inform you that SAZARC has been elected a new Association Member of WAZA with 171 votes in favour, 5 votes against and 3 abstentions.

I am very glad that SAZARC has joined the club and am looking forward to further expanding my cooperation with you. I hope that you and the president of SAZARC will be able to attend our forthcoming Annual Conference in Taipei, Taiwan (for details and registration see on www.waza.org under News and Events).

You will receive a Membership Certificate for SAZARC but as this is a bit unwieldy for being posted, I will hand it over to you when we will meet next time.

Under separate covers you will also receive an official welcome letter from our President.

Kind regards

**WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS**
The Executive Director

Peter Dollinger DVM PhD

Copy to: Ed McAlister, WAZA President

WAZA COUNCIL

Ed McAlister, Adelaide (Australia) – President
Karen Sausman, Palm Desert (U.S.A.) - President elect
Alex Rübel, Zurich (Switzerland) – Past President
Bill Denmier, Toledo (U.S.A.)
Gordon McGregor Reid, Chester (U.K.)

Henning Juul – Aalborg (Denmark)
Yolanda Matamoros – San José (Costa Rica)
Laura Mumaw – Parkville-Melbourne (Australia)
Mark C. Reed – Wichita (U.S.A.)
Esteve Tomás – Barcelona (Spain)

WAZA EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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26 July 2004

Sally Walker
SAZARC Executive Office
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Peelamedu, Coimbatore
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INDIA**

Dear Sally,

I am delighted to learn that the recent ballot which we recently conducted has resulted in your organisation being elected to membership of the WAZA. Please accept my sincere congratulations on this success and on the decision which prompted you to apply in the first instance. I believe that both your organisation and this one will benefit from close ties with each other and, together we can do more for conservation than we could singly.

I look forward to working with you in the coming months and years in this new position and I look forward to seeing you in Taipei at the WAZA Conference.

Once again, my congratulations.

Yours sincerely,

EJ McALISTER, AO
PRESIDENT

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Ph: 08) 8267 3255

cc Members of Council of WAZA

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COUNCIL:	Ed McAlister, AO - President (Australia)	Mark Reed, Sedgewick County (USA)
	Karen Sausman, Palm Desert (USA) - President-Elect	Esteve Tomás, Barcelona (Spain)
	Alex Rubel (Switzerland) - Immediate Past President	Laura Mumaw, Melbourne (Australia)
	Gordon McGregor Reid, Chester (UK)	Henning Julin, Aalborg (Denmark)
	Bill Dennler, Toledo (USA)	Yolanda Matamoros (Costa Rica)

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