

The International Congress of Zookeepers



Next time you get on a computer check out the site of the International Congress of Zookeepers ICS at <www.iczoo.org>. If you are curious to know more and perhaps would like to get involved with an international zookeeper initiative or send a zookeeper to a conference, you could subscribe to ICZ_News by writing to the following address: <ICZ_News-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>.

Geoff Underwood an Australian zookeeper is currently Chairperson of ICZ and International Liaison Officer, of the Australian Association of Zoo Keepers. His mail is <tidbinbilla_n_r@bigpond.com>

I got in touch with Geoff because I am raising funds for SAZARC and the U.S. and U.K. zookeeper associations have been supporting the meeting with travel grants for South Asian members. I wrote to ask if the Australian or the international group would be interested also in contributing. They are not in a position to contribute financially but are VERY interested in establishing links with zoo organisations in this part of the world, particularly in the area of that part of zoo staff tasked with actually looking after the day to day care of the animals.

The Australian Society of Zoo Keeping Committee is keen to explore other ways in which they can support efforts to improve the training and expertise of Zoo Keepers from within this region.

At a recent Annual Meeting of the International Congress of Zookeepers (ICZ), Geoff again discussed the South Asian Zoo community. ICZ is a recently formed "umbrella group" with representatives from the American, British, Australian, Spanish, German, Dutch and French professional Zoo Keeper Associations, and held its first conference in The Netherlands in 2003. They are currently working on organising their second conference in Australia in 2006. They are also working towards getting the ICZ formally incorporated. The Steering Group of the ICZ is also very interested to develop links South Asia and would like to explore opportunities which would enable the sponsorship of Zoo Keepers from this region to attend the 2nd International Congress on Zookeeping in 2006. Geoff believes that both the ASZK and ICZ could work together

with the zoo organisations in South Asia to further the training and development of Zoo Keepers from this region. The Statement of Purpose of the ICZ is below and on the following page is a report of the first International Congress of Zookeepers, held in Netherlands last year, and a call for papers for the next Congress. If you have zookeepers who speak some minimal English and an interest in furthering their training and professional expertise, perhaps you could nominate them for a grant for attending this unique international congress. If so, write to Geoff at the email given above or to me (S Walker) at <zooreach@vsnl.com>

International Congress of Zookeepers Statement of Purpose

- 1.1 To promote the development of global networks amongst Zoo Keepers and other professionals in the field of captive wildlife care, husbandry and wild conservation.
- 1.2 To promote the development and application of professional animal welfare and husbandry techniques amongst Zookeepers at an International level.
- 1.3 To promote awareness and actions that will contribute to the conservation and preservation of wildlife everywhere.
- 1.4 To improve the professionalism of Zoo Keepers globally for the benefit of the wild animals under their care.
- 1.5 To provide a resource and a forum of continuing education for the animal care professional and to support Zoo Keepers roles as animal care givers, scientific researchers, public educators and conservationists at an international level.
- 1.6 To hold periodic meetings, publish reports and undertake other activities as may be desirable for furthering the objectives of the Council.
- 1.7 To support the development and expand the coverage of regional Zoo Keeper associations to enable all Keepers globally to have access to a professional organisation and developmental opportunities.