

An Open Letter to the Participants of the 5th Annual SAZARC Conference and to other zoo personnel in South Asia



My Dear Colleagues :

The International Congress of Zookeepers (ICZ) is an International Zoo Keeper body made up of representatives from the;

- **American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK)**
- **Association of British Wild Animal Keepers (ABWAK)**
- **Australasian Society of Zoo Keeping (ASZK)**
- **Asociación Ibérica de Cuidadores de Animales Salvajes (AICAS)**
- **Association Francophone des Soigneurs Animaliers (ASFA)**
- **Berufsverband der Zootierpfleger (BdZ)**
- **Foundation Harpij (De Harpij)**

Currently the ICZ Steering Committee is working towards holding our second conference, which will be held in Australia from the 7th to the 11th May, 2006.

On behalf of the ICZ Steering Committee I would like to extend an invitation to those of you that work in the field of zoo animal husbandry to consider deputing one of your zookeepers to this major event. The success of our first ICZ conference which was held in The Netherlands in 2003, has significantly improved the awareness of Zoo Keepers from around the world as to many of the difficulties that this industry faces, and to the specific difficulties that are faced by different regions, and to develop their skills in the field of wild animal husbandry.

If you are interested in learning more about this event, please visit the ICZ web site at <http://www.iczoo.org>, or for regular updates you can join our list serve by sending a blank e-mail message to ICZ_News-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Alternatively you can contact me at tidbinbilla_n_r@bigpond.com. There are a limited number of scholarships available for zookeepers.

I thank you for your consideration of this matter, and look forward to the possibility of meeting some of your staff in 2006.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Underwood
Chair, International Congress of Zookeepers.

25 September 2004.





The 2nd International Congress on Zookeeping

Gold coast, Queensland, Australia

7th – 11th May 2006

First Call for Papers/Posters and Workshops

After the success of the 1st conference in 2003, a second conference will be held in Australia in 2006 with more than 300 zookeepers from around the world expected to attend.

The conference will cover all areas of Zookeeping.

You are invited to submit an abstract of a paper or presentation you would like to give.

More information and guidelines can be found at www.iczoo.org

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations should be written in English of no more than 600 words

If you want to run a workshop focused on developing zoo keeper skills please send a short description.

These should be sent to: Paul Howse, ICZ Programme Committee at p.howse@chesterzoo.org

Please use RTF or MS word format marked 'ICZ Programme'

Deadline for submissions is 30th September 2005.



Note from SAZARC :

Geoff Underwood has requested me as Director of SAZARC to find a suitable and interested person from this region who could sit on the ICZ "Reference Group". I am currently doing so for lack of a candidate but would like to hand over this pleasant task to a genuine South Asian zookeeper, preferably one who can handle English, who has had some years of experience as a zookeeper and who has access to a computer and email. The time involved is not too much and help will be available if the candidate does not have email and prefers to represent by snail mail. The primary concern of ICZ is for the zoo keepers themselves, no matter what region they come from, or the circumstances they find themselves facing. ICZ wants to assist them all in their endeavours in caring better for their captive charges.

Although ICZ says English or another European language is not the primary requirement of the person to sit on the reference group, it is obvious that a "basic understanding" of English or some European language would facilitate communication. Moreover, the requirement of being a keeper is not paramount (although this is preferred), but anyone that is at least "sympathetic" to the challenges that Zoo Keepers face in our region would be a great ambassador, and provide the rest of the ICZ Steering Committee with some insights into the problems and potential of zookeepers in South Asia. Geoff and colleagues hopes to make this Reference Group fully functional by the end of this year, so please write to Geoff directly or, if you have "local or regional" doubts or fears you can write to me at <zooreach@vsnl.com> and I will try and discuss this in whatever format is possible.

My personal goal is for SAZARC to send one zookeeper from each South Asian country plus Afghanistan to the ICZ conference in 2006 using a combination of ICZ, SAZARC, CZA, IZA, BZA and PZA raised resources.

Sally Walker, Director, SAZARC