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Greetings from . . .



ASIAN ELEPHANT
S U P P O R T

AES SUPPORTS THE PEOPLE THAT CARE FOR ELEPHANTS

AES is proud to report our direct financial support continues to improve Asian elephant health, welfare and humane treatment by helping to facilitate educational opportunities for people who directly care for elephants in Asian range countries.

Most recently, AES supported the 6th Mahout Workshop at the Elephant Conservation Center (ECC) in Sumatra, Indonesia on November 26 - 29, 2013. There were 40 mahouts from throughout Indonesia in attendance. The goal of the mahout workshop is to provide an opportunity for mahouts throughout Indonesia to communicate and share experiences. This exchange of knowledge improves all aspects of elephant management, care, and conservation by providing information on various topics such as foot care, medical care, human-elephant conflict mitigation, and more. It also provides networking opportunities to allow this exchange of information to continue long after the workshop is over.

AES also provided funding for an elephant caregiver, named Sounthone Phitsamone (Kan), from the Elephant Conservation Center (ECC) in Laos, PDR to attend this workshop. AES president, Linda, met Kan during her last trip to the ECC in Laos and was amazed by Kan's total dedication to elephants. Also notable was that his position provides an opportunity to influence a large number of elephant caregivers and local people.



Kan works at the ECC elephant hospital as an assistant to the veterinarians. Most of the veterinarians speak English and not Laotian (native language of Laos), so Kan also serves as a translator for the veterinarians, mahouts, and owners. Kan impressed Linda with his enthusiasm and passion for the elephants at the ECC and

his English language skills. When Linda returned to the U.S., we began discussing ways to provide additional support to elephants in Laos, and the idea of helping Kan improve his scientific, husbandry, and welfare knowledge by attending the mahout workshop was an obvious choice.

Because elephant healthcare and welfare knowledge in Laos is very limited, the knowledge and networking connections Kan gained at the mahout workshop will significantly benefit the 10 resident ECC elephants and approximately 300 other elephants that are treated by mobile clinics annually. Among the important elephant care issues discussed and demonstrated at the mahout workshop, Kan learned how critical it is for an elephant to be comfortable with being touched by the mahouts and veterinarians. When medical treatment is needed, an elephant that is used to being touched by people will be calmer and more accepting of the medical care. Kan was impressed with how calm, Theo, the male elephant from the Tangkahan ECC was while he had his feet worked on during the footwork demonstration, even though there was a crowd of people around him. Kan learned how to properly take field measurements to estimate weights which will be very useful in determining correct medicine dosages for treating elephants in remote elephant camps where it is not feasible to use the portable scale donated by AES.



Footwork demonstration with Theo



Field measurements

Kan also learned a wealth of useful information for caring for calves. There are currently two calves where Kan works at the ECC in Laos, one of which is an orphan. Kan spoke at length with the mahouts during the breaks and meals to learn about the mahouts' experiences with orphans and discussed his own experiences. They talked about elephant behavior, nutrition, feeding schedules, etc. These discussions will most certainly improve care for orphan elephant calves in both Indonesia and Laos.

Even after the workshop was done for the day, Kan was still actively engaged. Every evening he had a list of additional questions for Dr. Stremme about reproduction, nutrition, training, and more. Kan learned an incredible amount of practical information from Dr. Stremme. Kan repeatedly said he couldn't wait to get back to the ECC in Laos to share this information with veterinarians and mahouts to improve the health and welfare of the elephants in Laos.

It was a pleasure to support Kan. We will continue to communicate with Kan and other participants of the mahout workshop to gain new insights into how AES can more effectively improve Asian elephant health, welfare and humane treatment by facilitating educational opportunities for the people who directly care for elephants in range countries.

VESSWIC 3-Year Commitment (Jan 2014)

AES has been working with the Veterinary Society for Sumatran Wildlife Conservation (VESSWIC) since 2010 to improve the health of the captive population of elephants in Sumatra, Indonesia.

VESSWIC's goal is to contribute to the conservation of Sumatran wildlife by providing various kinds of veterinary expertise and services. To achieve their goal, a wide range of conservation activities, projects, programs, and collaborators are needed. Sustainability of these efforts is critical, and sustainability requires regular and dependable funding.

AES has supported VESSWIC with specific needs for general veterinary care, elephant patrols, veterinary and mahout workshops, and urgent care for orphaned calves.

Now we are pleased to announce that we have made a commitment to VESSWIC of \$5,000 annually for three consecutive years beginning January 2014.



Deworming with medicine donated by AES



Bottle feeding Agam

Sustainability is a key strategic objective for all organizations, and a reliable source of income helps us make long-term commitments to projects such as VESSWIC to produce sustainable change over time. Some examples of welfare and conservation efforts that require long-term commitments include:

- Regular veterinary care requires expertise and regular visits over extended periods.
- Training and professional development can require hands-on and academic learning on an annual basis.
- Care for an orphaned calf may extend years after the initial emergency support.
- Animal hospitals require ongoing operational costs.
- Effective elephant patrol units require skilled mahouts and healthy and well-trained elephants that can patrol regularly to make a difference long term.

Recurring gift giving allows AES and our supporters to make a bigger difference for the causes we care about most. AES offers [Monthly PayPal](#) giving as a convenient option for donors to schedule automated donations.

Benefits of recurring gifts include:

- A steady, predictable source of income that allows budgeting for longer-range planning and decision-making

- Ability to spread the financial impact of giving across the entire year
- Convenience for the donor and easier processing and record keeping for AES
- Automated confirmation receipts for each transaction that occurs

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We appreciate your ongoing support.

AES T-shirts are now available for a donation of \$25



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THANK YOU

We wish to extend a very sincere thank you to each donor who has voted their support with a financial gift. We value that confidence and will always do our best for the animals we all care for so deeply.

Please visit our website (www.asianelephantsupport.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) (Asian Elephant Support). If you have questions, please [contact us](#). We appreciate your support. Please consider a [donation](#) to help Asian elephants and those who care for them.

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