

Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN FUNDRAISER

Asian Elephant Support is gearing up for our 'national' California Pizza Kitchen fundraising event in April 2012. Invite your friends and family to enjoy a wonderful meal and help support Asian elephants!

Not in the mood for pizza? California Pizza Kitchen has a wide variety of choices from salads and tacos to pasta and soups. They even have gluten-free and vegetarian menus!

The number of locations continues to grow with fundraisers at 23 CPK restaurants in Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. For your convenience, we have attached the list of locations and dates plus the flyers for you to bring. Please also visit our website at www.asianelephantsupport.org/ and look under [Ways to Help](#).

All you have to do is print out a flyer, present it to your server on the event day(s) and 20% of your bill will be donated to AES. It's that easy!!

Need more reasons?? Here are a few....

1. A night away from the kitchen. Always a good idea!
2. A weekday 'date' with a spouse--something that usually doesn't happen during a busy work week.
3. Dinner with the entire family. You can sit and visit and not have worry about who is going to do the dishes!
4. An opportunity to invite a friend to catch up and share a good time.
5. Combine dinner with a show--or shopping!
6. How about inviting the work crew to have lunch at CPK?

Whether you dine in or carry out, you can help Asian Elephant Support continue our work to conserve elephants in Asian range countries.

If you have questions about the fundraiser, you can email us at info@asianelephantsupport.org.

ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

One of the greatest threats to wildlife in Indonesia and Malaysia is the loss of forests for the production of palm oil plantations. Every year 4.9 million acres are cleared for the expansion of the palm oil industry. This has devastating effects on thousands of species, including Asian elephants that live in these forests. Palm oil is the world's leading oil crop making up 40 million tonnes and 85 percent of the palm oil is grown in Indonesia and Malaysia.

As a result of increased pressure for the production of sustainable palm oil, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) began developing the idea of a Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) in 2001. WWF, along with Aarhus United UK Ltd, Golden Hope Plantations Berhad, Migros, Malaysian Palm Oil Association, Sainsbury's, and Unilever were the members of the Organizing Committee. Two initial meetings were held in 2002 to organize the first Roundtable meeting and prepare the foundation for the organizational and governing structure of the RSPO. In August 2003, the first meeting of the RSPO was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and was attended by 200 participants from 16 countries. A major achievement of this meeting was the adoption of the non-legally binding expression of support referred to as a Statement of Intent or SOI.



On April 8, 2004, the "Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil," was formally established under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code with the objective of "promoting the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders". Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) has been defined as palm oil that comes from a plantation that has made a commitment to produce palm oil in a way that minimizes its impact on wildlife, indigenous people, and the planet.

The RSPO is non-profit organization that is managed by an Executive Board of 16 members that are appointed by the General Assembly to serve a two year term. The General Assembly is made up of stakeholders from all seven sectors of the palm oil industry. This includes producers, traders, manufactures, retailers, banks and investors, environmental or nature NGO's, and social or developmental NGO's. The idea of a 'roundtable' was taken from the Arthurian legend of the Knights of the Roundtable in Camelot. The roundtable has no 'head' or 'sides' so all of the participants are considered equals with an equal voice in all matters.

The mission of the RSPO is:

- To advance the production, procurement, finance, and use of sustainable palm oil products;
- To develop, implement, verify, assure and periodically review credible global standards for the entire supply chain of sustainable palm oil;
- To monitor and evaluate the economic, environmental and social impacts of the uptake of sustainable palm oil in the market;
- To engage and commit all stakeholders throughout the supply chain, including governments and consumers.

As consumers, we really can make a difference for thousands of species that are half-way around the world. Palm oil is found in 50 percent of all consumer products. By purchasing from companies that are members of the RSPO, we can increase the demand for certified sustainable palm oil. We are beginning to see a change as the demand for CSPO had increased from 25.3 percent in 2009 to 46.2 percent in 2010. To find more information on the RSPO and a complete list of members, visit www.rspo.org.



Photo courtesy Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

THINK ELEPHANTS INTERNATIONAL

Think Elephants International (TEI) is a new non-profit organization that aims to conserve Asian elephants through scientific research and education programs. TEI's founder, Joshua Plotnik, PhD, has been studying elephant cognition for the past few years. Two of his most notable studies scientifically prove that elephants can self-recognize, and are capable of complex cooperation. Last year, TEI started an after school club for middle school students in New York City that taught students the scientific research process, as well as the importance of environmental conservation. Through the use of Skype, these students saw what life was like for elephants and their mahouts (caretakers) in Thailand. This club also had several guest speakers, and took a field trip to the National Zoo to get an up close and personal experience with the elephants.

Because this was such a success, TEI is looking to expand their program globally. They will especially focus on implementing the program in Thai schools, as young Thais have great potential for conserving their elephants and their environment. These students will get a full understanding of the complex situation that many Asian countries are facing by focusing on topics ranging from culture and language, to perceptions of animal welfare and conservation interests. Through this experience and education, these students will be better prepared to deal with the issues surrounding Thailand and its environment when it is their turn to make the decisions.

We are pleased to announce that AES has awarded TEI \$2,000 for the purchase of an Apple computer and a television that will be used in Thai schools to help educate students about the importance of elephant conservation. Part of AES's mission statement is to increase awareness of the needs and future of the Asian elephant, as well as to provide educational opportunities to those persons who care for captive Asian elephants in range countries. We are very excited by the potential TEI has to positively shape the future of captive and wild elephants and the people with whom they share land.

For more information regarding TEI, please visit their website at: www.thinkelephants.com.

THANK YOU

We at AES 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.

ASIAN ELEPHANT SUPPORT

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