

Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!

Can you smell the pizza????

Help us celebrate Asian elephants with a Thai chicken pizza (one of our favorites)!

Asian Elephant Support's second annual 'national' **California Pizza Kitchen** fundraiser is only days away!

The event kicks off in Seattle, Washington. Check out our website for flyers and a complete list of dates and locations:

<http://www.asianelephantsupport.org/california-pizza-kitchen.asp>

We cannot hand out flyers at the restaurants so please remember to bring your flyer! Present it to your server and **California Pizza Kitchen** will donate 20% of your bill to **Asian Elephant Support!**

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

We want to THANK YOU for your support and we look forward to seeing you this week at your local **California Pizza Kitchen!**

Regional Asian Elephant Veterinary Workshop

Banda Aceh, Sumatra-Indonesia

March 27 – 30, 2012

Report by Asian Elephant Support President on her recent trip to Sumatra-Indonesia:

On March 27- 30, 2012, I attended the Regional Asian Elephant Veterinary Workshop in Banda Aceh, Sumatra, as a representative of Asian Elephant Support (AES). In 2011 AES received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Asian Elephant Conservation Fund to support this important educational opportunity for veterinarians from Asian elephant range countries. Traveling with our international advisor, Heidi Riddle, we arrived a few days early to meet with the Veterinarian Society for Sumatran Wildlife Conservation (Vesswic) staff. It was a great opportunity to get caught up on the status of their work and the challenges and opportunities that are an everyday part of working to conserve Sumatra's elephant population, and AES is proud to support their activities.

The day before the workshop, I had the opportunity to visit some of the very visible and poignant reminders of the 2004 tsunami that devastated this region. We saw the massive generator ship the tsunami drove 5 kilometers inland, the mosque that was spared the force of the water while everything around it was destroyed, and some of the serene, park-like mass graves

That evening all of the workshop attendees enjoyed dinner on the beach in a beautiful cove that was not spared by the tsunami. Wherever we live, we will always remember this event. My visit here was also an opportunity to witness and appreciate the resilience and character of a country that has picked up the pieces and moved on in spite of the memories and sorrows their hearts must endure.

Dinner on the beach: Dr. Arun (India), Linda (US), Dr. Yaduraj (India) and Dr. Raja (Sri Lanka)

Thirty-five veterinarians representing the Asian elephant range countries of India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Laos, Nepal, Myanmar, Malaysia (Sabah) and Indonesia attended this four day workshop. Veterinarians from Germany, Japan, and Singapore also participated. The goals of the workshop are to provide in-country veterinarians with a unique opportunity for building their own capacity by sharing experiences and gaining valuable knowledge about the health and well-being of Asian elephants. Most importantly, the workshop provides an opportunity to network with others in the region to ensure continued collaborations long after everyone has returned home.

Regional Asian Veterinarian Workshop
Banda Aceh, 27 - 30 March 2012

Dr. Kushal Sarma with some of our participating elephants and their mahouts

The first day of the workshop was a full day of presentations. The topics included status and health care management of elephants in Myanmar, Providing care to elephants in Lao PDR, and Health management of captive elephants in Sumatra.

The second day began with a presentation followed by hands-on ultrasound demonstrations with six elephants, at the campus of the Syiah Kuala University. Workshop attendees were given an opportunity to ultrasound either a male or female elephant, and better understand the interpretation of the anatomical images. In addition to the workshop attendees, veterinary students from the University's Veterinary College also participated in this unique learning session.

Dr. Imke Lueders demonstrating the ultrasound to veterinarians attending the workshop

Day three was one to celebrate. We have all attended conferences where the attendees seem to fade with the passing days of papers, especially the long days of presentations. Not at this workshop! The presentations began at 8 a.m. and concluded at 7 p.m. and everyone was as alert and tuned in at 7 p.m. as they were when the day started. The presenters included veterinarians that AES has supported in various projects, such as Dr. Christopher Stremme from Sumatra-Indonesia, and Drs. Arun Zachariah and Kushal Sarma from India. These veterinarians have substantial experience with elephants and they understand the importance of sharing information with their peers. It was a wonderful opportunity to visit in person with Drs. Stremme, Zachariah, and Sarma and hear the progress of their work.

Dr. Arun Zachariah

An elephant demonstrating one of the scales
AES donated to VESSWIC

The fourth and final day of the workshop was another hands-on demonstration with the elephants at the University campus. This session covered foot care, methods of weighing (including a demonstration with one of the scales donated by AES), conducting a thorough general examination, and injection protocols. Once again the University veterinary students also participated.

Overall, the workshop was a success and was appreciated by all of the attendees. It was also a wonderful opportunity to meet veterinarians who are representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations from the various Asian elephant range countries. I am sure this workshop will lead to further collaborative opportunities in the future, as we are most effective when we work together for the same objective of helping Asian elephants survive the challenges they face every day.

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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Asian Elephant Support is a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization; donations are tax-deductible.