



## ASIAN ELEPHANT S U P P O R T

Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!

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### FOKMAS - Mahout Workshop 2013

The Sumatran Mahout Communication Forum (FOKMAS) was established in 2006 and was the first time Indonesian mahouts have organized as a professional entity. The goal of FOKMAS is to improve communications and provide ongoing training via various modules during the annual mahout workshops. These workshops are supported by the Indonesian government and various NGOs, including AES. They have increased the capacity of its membership to participate and provide meaningful data for Sumatra wildlife conservation, habitat protection efforts, and improved the care of the captive elephants.



*Workshop participants posing with the elephants*

The 6<sup>th</sup> mahout workshop was held from November 26 – 28 at the Elephant Conservation Center in Tangkahan, Sumatra and was attended by approximately 40 mahouts from around Indonesia. Director April Yoder was able to attend as a representative of AES.

There were presentations on various topics followed by hands-on demonstrations. The demonstrations included GPS training, the use of an ultrasound, footwork, obtaining field measurements to estimate the weight of an elephant, and actually weighing the elephants on a portable scale (donated by AES). These people are on the front lines of conservation in Indonesia, and it was wonderful to see, first-hand, the level of enthusiasm and participation by the mahouts.



*Hands-on demonstration*



*Kan modeling our bumper sticker*

Along with support for the workshop, AES also provided funding for a man named Sounthone Phitsamone (Kan), from the Elephant Conservation Center in Laos, PDR to attend this workshop. AES has supported the Center on various projects over the last couple of years. We felt it would be helpful for Kan to attend this workshop to gain valuable knowledge from the mahouts in Indonesia. In turn, he would share this information with the mahouts in Laos. Watch for the January newsletter where we will highlight Kan's trip to Indonesia.

## **A Success Story from India**

Every day there are more reports of human-elephant conflict (HEC) in Asia. In the Paneri tea estate in the Udalguri district of Assam, India, there is a herd of approximately 200 elephants. The elephants' natural habitat has been completely destroyed so they take refuge in the tea estates during the day and descend on the farmers' paddy fields and orchards at sunset. On August 28, 2013, a young bull elephant (approximately 18 years old) was electrocuted by live wires that had been left on the ground in the tea estate. In most cases of electrocution, the elephant dies, but luckily, this bull was still alive. Dr. Kushal Sarma, our veterinary partner in Assam, was immediately notified of the incident. He was able to send local vets to the site to provide initial treatment until he could arrive. Once he arrived, Dr. Sarma administered additional medications, including IV fluids.

By the time the bull was beginning to show signs of improvement, approximately 2000 people had gathered around the elephant. Dr. Sarma had to remove the onlookers and bring in a back hoe to help

get the bull to his feet. At first, the bull stumbled a little, but quickly regained his balance and walked off to join a herd of elephants about 400 meters away. Dr. Sarma said, "He stood and threw a rare glance of gratitude towards me and walked away towards the herd . . ." Follow up reports from the tea estate manager state that the bull appears to be fine and is not showing any permanent effects from his close call.

This case confirms the talent and dedication of Dr. Sarma, and AES is very pleased to be working with such an extraordinary individual. Thank you Dr. Sarma for sharing this case history and thank you to our supporters for making it possible for AES to support dedicated people working to help elephants and their mahouts throughout Asia.



## AES T-Shirts

Asian Elephant Support is delighted to offer our official logo t-shirt for \$25 (postage and handling within the United States included). We appreciate the interest so many of you have expressed in the design and meaning of our AES logo. By wearing an AES shirt you will also be helping to fund programs we support on behalf of Asian elephants! Adult sizes are available in S, M, L, XL and XXL in dark brown.

Please note that ordering instructions have been updated. To order a t-shirt, make your \$25 payment per t-shirt via [PayPal](#). In PayPal, select "Add special instructions to the seller" and provide the number and size of shirt(s) you desire, and the shipping address if it is different than your billing address. Shirts will be mailed promptly on receipt of order, so there is still time for them to be part of your holiday shopping!



*Megan Furlong modeling the shirt*



# Holiday and End of the Year Giving

Life is often more chaotic and busy around the holidays and trying to find thoughtful gifts can be a challenge. To make your holiday shopping easier, consider donating in a loved one's honor and sending them an accompanying e-card. There are a variety of images to choose from, and you can even personalize your message.

Most people want to make a difference in this world. Certainly, there are people in your lives who would be happy to know that a donation made in their name helped support the care and conservation of elephants in Asian range countries.

The process is easy! All you have to do is visit <http://asianelephantsupport.org/donate.asp>, go to the "Gift Giving" page and follow the simple instructions. You will be asked to make a secure PayPal donation and then you can create an e-card that will be e-mailed to your friend or loved one. (Whew! That's one less thing on your 'to-do' list!)

Also, please consider making an end of the year donation to AES. It is through such donations that we can continue to improve the lives of Asian elephants. Thank you for considering AES for your holiday gift giving!

*Happy Holidays! Wishing you, and those dear to your heart, both the peace of this holiday season and the warmth of a safe and secure place to call home.*

## 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](http://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**

[www.asianelephantsupport.org](http://www.asianelephantsupport.org)

4764 Brookton Way, St. Louis, MO 63128 USA

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