



ASIAN ELEPHANT S U P P O R T

September 2014

Supporting the care and conservation of elephants in Asian range countries.

AES helps to further a veterinarian's education

Mr. Pham Van Tinh, a veterinarian from the Daklak Elephant Conservation Center in Vietnam, attended the "Asian Elephant Health, Reproduction and Breeding Management" course, which took place in Sri Lanka this summer. This training course was conducted by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science of the University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the Royal Veterinary College of the University of London, UK, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Chiang Mai University, Thailand, and the National Elephant Institute in Lampang, Thailand. The partner institutes were the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC), Sri Lanka, Department of



Hope for elephants in India!

Our collaborative campaign with Hope Elephants, "Partners for Pachyderms", has come to an end and we are thrilled to say it was a success! We surpassed our goal and raised \$2105

National Zoological Gardens (DNZG), Sri Lanka, and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, USA.

The course focused on the management, nutrition, health, reproduction and breeding of Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) with additional discussions on local and regional conservation issues. It had two components: a stand-alone distance learning (online-based) course of 6 weeks duration (12th May – 10th June 2014) that participants completed from their home countries; and a hands-on practical training course of one-week (7th – 11th July 2014) that was conducted on-site in Sri Lanka. The on-site training was conducted at the University of Peradeniya, Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, Elephant Transit Home and Uda-Walawe National Park.



The course was attended by 22 participants from

for Dr. Kushal Sarma's Elephant Healthcare and Emergency Response Program in Assam, India. We are truly grateful to everyone that has made it possible for Dr. Sarma to continue his amazing work for these elephants.



A sad loss for the elephant community

Those of us at AES would like to offer our sincere condolences to the friends and family of Hope Elephants for the loss of their founder, Dr. Jim Laurita. After just working together to raise funds for Dr. Sarma's conservation efforts in India, we realize the impact of his loss will be felt both here at home and abroad.

Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Italy, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam. Asian Elephant Support was proud to sponsor Dr Van Tinh Pham from Vietnam, who works at the Dak Lak Elephant Conservation Center (ECC) in the central highland province of Dak Lak. The ECC aims to protect both wild and domestic elephants in the Dak Lak province, where elephant population numbers are critically low.

The central highlands region is Vietnam's primary elephant habitat. The Dak Lak Elephant Conservation Centre reported that the central highlands region had around 502 captive and more than 550 wild elephants in 1980, but all that are remain now are 49 captive elephants and five herds of wild elephants numbering 60-70 individuals. Shrinking forests, illegal poaching, shortage of food, improper breeding techniques, and overworking have been the cause of deaths of both captive and wild elephants. Experts estimate that the captive elephant population will disappear in 20-30 years if they do not reproduce. According to the Dak Lak ECC, the reproduction rate of captive elephants over the past 30 years has been only 0.6 % per year, and the rate has dropped even further now because of limited opportunity to breed. To boost the captive population there is now an emphasis on reproduction, which was a primary focus in the training course attended by Dr Van Tinh Pham.



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AES Mission

- Provide financial support for the care and conservation of elephants in Asian range countries that meet our criteria for care of captive elephants and for conservation of the species.
- Increase awareness of the needs and future of the Asian elephant.
- Increase awareness of the humane treatment of elephants living in captivity.
- Provide educational opportunities to those persons who care for captive Asian elephants in range countries.



**Like to Make a
Contribution to
AES?**

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2014 World Elephant Day at the Little Rock Zoo

Arkansas and the weatherman provided a lovely resort-weather day for this event on August 12th. The Little Rock Zoo education department and elephant barn offered crafts for the kids, promoted the 96 Elephant Campaign to help African elephants, and invited Asian Elephant Support down to talk with their visitors about our efforts helping elephants in Asian range countries. Saint Louis Zoo docent and AES volunteer, Cynthia Christison, accompanied Linda and helped with our table of information as well as T-shirts and bumper stickers that were available for purchase. And lovely Asian elephant Babe, who likes to paint, had 7 of her masterpieces gobbled up by her admiring public and donated the funds to help her cousins across the ocean. Thank you Little Rock Zoo for a most enjoyable celebration of Asian elephants!

*“For in the end, we will
conserve only what we
love. We will love only
what we understand. We
will understand only what
we are taught.”*

-Baba Dioum



AES President, Linda Reifschneider, at the event



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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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