



ZOO NEGARA
Malaysian Zoological Society

KANCIL GAZETTE

ZN/EDU/12/2011/JAN

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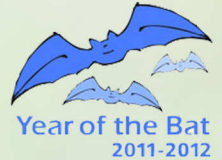
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KEEPER PROFILE



Riffa Mulyati Binti Rosley
From Negeri Sembilan, joined the
zoo in June 2010.

This cheerful lady completed her Bachelor of Science in Zoology at University Sarawak of Malaysia. As a Zoology officer, Riffa is responsible for overall management of Section 3 (hooves, flying foxes, bears, otters and pademelons), including animal husbandry. An interesting job, with many responsibilities, for a very able person indeed!



The United Nations Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Population of European Bats (EUROBATS) have joined together to celebrate the Year of The Bat. World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) is the official partner for this campaign. As a member of WAZA, Kancil Gazette will focus on bats for this first issue of 2011.

Bats are the only flying mammals in the world. These evening creatures are often misunderstood due to human ignorance and popular folklore which cast them in a negative light. Now, they are greatly endangered.

Bats play an essential role in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem in the tropical rainforest. For example, fruit and nectar-eating bats are specially known as 'the farmers of the forest' because they help regenerate the whole forest and plant most of our favourite local fruits: durians, langsat, figs, coconuts, mangoes and bananas through pollination and seed dispersal. If the bats could talk, they would tell us this: 'I eat a fruit but plant a tree'. Bats also act as biological control agents. Insectivorous bats feed on mosquitoes and thus play a very important role in places where Malaysians suffer from Dengue fever, a disease transmitted by these insects. They also help to reduce agricultural pests on plants.

Did you know that many bats species are at the brink of extinction due to humans' irresponsible actions?

Habitat loss and hunting have been identified as the primary threats for the bats. Deforestation poses a major threat for bats as the forests provide them with food and roosting sites. The bat is a prized food item for some ethnic groups who believe that its flesh has healing properties. These beliefs encourage illegal international trade to meet the black market demand. Fruit-eating bats are often hunted by orchard farmers and this has contributed to the decline in bat populations.

Since human actions are to blame for the plight of the bats, it is not too late to start saving the bats species. In fact, one of the solution is to raise awareness in people about these flying mammals!

Thanks to the 'Year of the Bat' awareness campaign, we are starting to take notice of these nocturnal animals. As we learn more about bats in general and how they co-exist with humans, we can start to discard the idea that bats are evil spirits and begin protecting them.



CONGRATULATIONS, DR MOHAMAD NGAH!



Our director, Dr Mohamad Ngah, has been voted as the Secretary of South East Asian Zoos Association (SEAZA) in November 2010!

Year end 2010 Snapshot events

MAYBANK SPONSORSHIP

21 November was the month when Maybank held simultaneous global CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) project, as part of the company's 50th anniversary celebration.

Risk Management team from Maybank Headquarters joined the Zoo's volunteer program focusing on environment and education, two of the five key areas of Maybank's CSR efforts. The team also contributed their own funds to sponsor Environmental Education in the zoo.

We would like to thank Ms Audrey Gan and team for choosing Zoo Negara as their volunteer location and for contributing their energy and support. We look forward to seeing you again!



ORANGUTAN AWARENESS WEEK



Orangutan Awareness Week (OAW) is a world event held every year from 7th -14th November. This event unites people to learn about the importance of orangutans and rainforests to build a balanced ecosystem.

In conjunction with this worldwide event, the Great Orangutan Project from Way Out Experiences (WOX) and Taylor's University collaborated to create a new mural which incorporated a life-sized orangutan nest. The mural was designed and painted by both the teachers and Semester 1 students of the Design School at Taylor's.

Zoo-wide treasure hunt, making toys for the orangutans (or 'enrichment' in zoo terminology), colouring contests and playing orangutan-theme games were some of the activities held during the OAW at Zoo Negara.

We would like to give thanks to Ms Fareea Ma and team from Way Our Experiences (M) Sdn Bhd, Mr Charles Sharma Naidu and students from The Design School at Taylor's and Air Asia Junior Jet Club for their involvement and effort in making this event a success!



PETRONAS CSR PROGRAMME IN NATIONAL ZOO



A group of dedicated Petronas staff facilitators collaborated with the Education Department of Zoo Negara to organize a fun-filled zoo tour and treasure hunt for Program Bakti Pendidikan students on 20th November 2010. This educational trip was a reward for SRJK (C) Kampung Baru, Ampang students for scoring excellent results in their UPSR exam. We would like to specifically mention Ms Selena Zahiruddin and team for making this enjoyable experience for everyone.

MAZPA-EDU CONFERENCE

The Education Department of Zoo Negara organized the first MAZPA-EDU (Malaysian Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria) Conference for zoo educators in Malaysia on 30 December 2010. Educators from seven organizations, Zoo Taiping & Night Safari, Department of Wildlife & National Parks (National Institute of Biodiversity, Pahang), Zoo Melaka, Zoo Johor, Underwater World Langkawi and Sunway Wildlife Park, participated in this conference to share their ideas and knowledge to deliver effective message to the public and to form a platform on conservation education and environmental issue. During this meeting, AMAZed or 'All Malaysian Zoo Educators' was selected as a new name to replace MAZPE-EDU. We would like to convey our appreciation to Ms Anu Arun from Way Out Experiences Sdn. Bhd as our guest speaker and all participants for attending this eye-opening conference.



2011 New Year Begin

CELEBRATING YEAR OF THE BAT



On 15 January 2011, Dr.Mohamad Ngah, Director of Zoo Negara and Secretary of SEAZA launched the "Year of The Bat" making Zoo Negara the first zoo in Malaysia to participate in the 'Year of the Bat' campaign. We would like to acknowledge ANIMAS for the surprise appearance of our local hero, Keluang Man, and Professor Dr Zubaid Akbar Mukhtar Ahmad from Malaysia National University for giving an insightful talk about his bats' research to both the public and staffs. A big thank you to all the zoo staff who were involved in this wonderful occasion. A million thanks to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), Department of Wildlife and National Parks(DWNP), Krau Wildlife Reserve(KWR), Forest Research Institute Malaysia(FRIM), Department of Environment Malaysia(DOE), Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia(FDPM) and Animation Society of Malaysia(ANIMAS) for their time and effort in working together to educate the public about the one and only flying mammal in the world!

CONFERENCES

2010 was a very busy year for Mr Junaidi Omar, Head Department of Education. Apart from managing the department, he also attended a few conferences around Malaysia.

7th MAZPA FIELD TRAINING COURSE

Date: 11th – 20th October 2010
Location: Zoo Taiping and Night Safari,
Perak



7th MAZPA
Keeper Field Training Course
2010

ZOO TAIPING & NIGHT SAFARI
Junaidi



This 10-day course covered aspects in daily animal management which includes biology, husbandry, management and enrichments.

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS CONFERENCE

'Effective Environmental Education For Biodiversity Conservation'

Date: 8th – 10th November 2010

Location: Kuching, Sarawak

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) organized this 3-day conference to highlight the importance of environmental education (EE) in biodiversity conservation, to discuss the progress in environmental education and to share examples and lessons learnt in EE practice.



2nd MALAYSIAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Date: 29th November – 2nd December 2010

Location: Rainforest Discovery Centre, Sepilok (Sandakan, Sabah)

A 4-day conference was organized by members of Sabah Environmental Education Network (SEEN) to share knowledge, skills and experiences on environmental education (EE) activities in various organizations at different sectors. Participants were exposed to efficient techniques and new ideas to promote conservation awareness through EE.



3th WETLAND LINK ASIA CONFERENCE

Date: 22nd – 25th November 2010

Location: Paya Indah Wetland, Selangor

50 participants from across the region met up in Malaysia to make contacts between wetland centres, to update on Wetland Link International (WLI) progress and generate ideas for education and networking purposes. Three themes were highlighted during the conference:

1. People and wetlands – importance of involving and engaging local groups (particularly indigenous people) and the community.
2. Science and wetlands- the importance of education and engagement for wetlands.
3. Wetland centres - Mr Herman Bernard the Zoo's assistant curator, gave an inspiring talk on how the aquarium has been transformed to show life along a native river, focusing on wetlands.



CALENDAR OF EVENT 2011

Check out our website at www.zoonegaramalaysia.my for more information regarding the zoo's events throughout the year!!

Month

Activities

Jan (Welcoming 2011)

Year of the Bat

Feb

Rabbit Week

Mar

Rain water & River

Apr

Earth Day & Easter Day

May

Walk of Life

Jun

World Environmental Day

Jul

Feathers Festival

Aug

Elephant Week

Sept

Lantern Festival –Night Critters

Oct

Orangutan Awareness Week &
Celebrating Malaysian Wildlife

Nov

Kancil Camp

Dec

Zoo Art & Craft

* All activities are subject to change without prior notice.

WHAT'S
NEXT ... ???



QUOTE OF THE MONTH....!!!

"A morning-glory at my window satisfies me more
than the metaphysics of books."

Walt Whitman

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EDUCATION DEPT
ZOO NEGARA