

Exhibit Starts for Flagship Conservation Animal – the Giant Pandas

Construction of the Special Exhibit House, built using social resources dedicated to the Giant Panda's conservation and exhibition, was completed in December 2008. Giant Pandas "Tuan Tuan" and "Yuan Yuan" arrived on December 23 and entered the House began quarantine. Exhibit started on January 26, 2009 (Chinese lunar January 1). A total of 3,056,275 visitors came to see the special exhibit in the year.

The Giant Panda is listed as endangered in the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Animals. Taipei Zoo's purported introduction of this species was subjected to cross-strait relation issues as well as related Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species administrative procedures. Not only was the level of complication never before seen, this historical breakthrough generated extremely high medial attention globally too, and produced non-stop coverage and follow-ups on both international and domestic fronts (Asahi Shimbun, Reuters, MASTV, AFP, China Post, Deutsche Presse Agentur, etc.)

Aside from providing animal management and care in accordance to international conservation protocols, as well as promoting conservation education and researches, in order to highlight the conservational significance introducing the Giant Pandas to Taiwan the Zoo had to assure visitors appropriate services and educational information too. In light that the Panda Exhibit was opened during the peak Chinese New Year's holiday period, strategies included the Giant Panda in Taipei website (online since December 5, 2008), digital Panda imagery, limit time-periods via a ticketing system, real-time Internet updates and promotions, and traffic control around the WenShan District were implemented to remedy the pressure of huge crowds pouring into the zoo all at once, relieve congestions around the Zoo, and to lessen the negative impact expected with service quality. These related measures ensured visitors a more pleasant experience on the whole for they arrived at different time schedules, and therefore reduced queuing time waiting to see the special exhibit. (According to the 2009 Taipei Zoo Visitor's Satisfaction Survey, less than 10-minute wait-time at the Special Exhibit was 54% (February), and 88% (September).

Moreover, signs bearing different Panda images were designed into various conservation educational activities for identification purposes, so that the public may have an easier time recognizing the animals, and could relate to the contents better. The educational activities and special minority-benefit events the Zoo coordinated as tie-ins to the Giant Panda Exhibit included: "Design a Postcard for Giant Panda Conservation" (2008), "100 Peoples, 100 Drawings of Bears Exhibit" (2008), "Donation Ceremony of the Shin Kong



Panda House and Special Preview Benefit Night” (2009), and “Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan – Dream Come True Journey”. The Zoo also gave guided tours to primary and middle schools as well as to group reservations, conveying conservation issues currently confronting the Giant Pandas, so as to enhance the efficacy of conservation education. Integration of digital information was also completed, thus improved viewing quality and information content about conservation for the public.

Taipei Zoo also developed Animal Adoption Project, a practice commonly employed by zoo parks worldwide

to pool social resources to promote conservation and research works. After the Giant Pandas were introduced, sixteen enterprises such as the Yulon Nissan Motors and Chunghua Telecom became corporate sponsors this year through their involvements making this happen, dedicating their resources in the advancement of endemic wildlife conservation actions. With the backing and support received from Animal Adoption, the Zoo was able to organize the 2009 International Symposium on Conservation of the Asiatic Black Bear (attended by experts and scholars from 15 countries and 250 attendees).



Construction and Renovation

1. Repair and Maintenance of Animal Enclosures

Completed the reinforcement project of protective hexmesh jacket surrounding the vertical column inside the Big Bird Cage, and improved tears in the existing hexmesh so as to prevent birds from escaping. Completed the improvement of ironworks inside the Shin Kong Special Exhibit House, reinforced facility safety, increased animal activity space, enhanced animal benefits and reproductive rate, strengthened the display environment, and improved the service quality in the exhibit. The project to replace and repair piano wires inside the Asia Tropical Rainforest Area and the Bird World was finished; sporadic repairs and miscellaneous works, systemic renovation of old enclosures and damaged facilities, exhibit safety and landscaping-quality maintenances, also were carried out inside the African Animal Area.

2. Planning and Renovation of Exhibits

To improve the quality of exhibit facilities and to provide

more quality services, multiple planning and designs as well as construction projects began during the year in many exhibits and display areas. Projects on-gong include: “Asian Tropical Rainforest Area construction project”, “renovation project of the Hippopotamus Exhibit”, “renovation of wire nettings at the Big Bird Cage inside the Bird and around the Aquatic Bird Pond”. Projects completed included: “renovation project for the Cervidae Exhibit at the Formosan Animal Area”, “renovation project of the Gorilla Exhibit”, and the “renovation project of rock-wall fence around the Lion Exhibit”.

● Renovation Project for the Cervidae Exhibit at the Formosan Animal Area

The old semi-open Formosan Sika Deer Exhibit and Formosan Reeve’s Muntjac Exhibit at the Formosan Animal Area used ditches to separate animals from the public. Often animals hid inside the ditches as far away from the visitors as possible, which made observation difficult. Completed in December 2009, the renovated Cervidae



Exhibit harmonized human, animal, humanity and art factors into one, to create a display environment agreeable to all. The improved enclosure also better met animal welfare standards too. This new exhibit aims to bring the public a brand new visual experience. The new Muntjac Exhibit is now set up to display the entire life history of the Cervidae Family, for instance courtship, breeding, reproduction, rearing, and feeding as a herd. The small paths inside give animals the freedom to choose if they want up-close contact with the public or not, at the same time allow visitors quiet appreciation of animal behaviors in leisure to bolster the concept of wildlife conservation. The display area and observation environment inside the Sika Deer Exhibit have designs incorporating aboriginal architecture and humanity elements with animal factors as a complete presentation. The Siraya-style dwelling inside the exhibit permits the public to see the animals intimately through the glass panes and to observe Sika Deer behaviors and lifestyle with minimum distance. This dwelling has been slatted to become the future “Taiwan’s Cervidae Species and Aboriginal Culture”, and “Taipei Zoo’s Participation in the Kenting National Park’s

Reintroduction Plan” Educational Facility, serving to remind the public to take actions protecting endemic animals.

● Renovation Project of the Chimpanzee Exhibit

This project aimed to meet the needs of the chimpanzees. One large outdoors activity area and 4 spacious indoor chamber houses were added to the work area inside the exhibit not opened to the public. In addition to the new open outdoors activity area (more than eight meters tall), which sharply increased the physical and spatial space to the animals, the addition was purposely annexed to the existing enclosure so as to expand the overall space usable to the 19 Chimpanzees. By doing so, the Chimpanzees’ display schedule became more flexible, and both animal welfare and display rotation were enhanced.

● Project to Replace Air Conditioning Unit at the Penguin House

The old air conditioning unit inside the Penguin House had been in use for eleven years. Not only was the unit performing poorly, it couldn’t effectively control the temperature (the lowest the unit could go was $14^{\circ}\text{C}\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$). This engineering project installed a brine chiller with improved air conditioning performance and better temperature control as well as energy efficient. The new system allowed routine temperature to be set at $10^{\circ}\text{C}\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ (5°C at the lowest), a temperature much closer to the ideal 7°C according to literatures about Emperor Penguins in captivity.

3. Construction of Universal Accessibility

As the Taipei Zoo is situated on hilly land, a project directed at the visitor’s observation walkway was carried out to improve disable accessibility. Improvements to the ground and facilities were done in accordance to the “Design Specifications of Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities” of the Construction and Planning Agency of the Ministry of the Interiors, to provide visitors a safer, more pleasant recreational environment. Major improvements performed in the year were as follows:

- Improved a portion of the observation footpath to below 1:15 in slope gradient, even reaching a gentle 1:20 in some areas (the Design Specifications of Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities required 1:15).
- A portion of the surface of the observation walkway was renovated to improve walking safety.

