Editorial

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Gajah 48 presents two research articles, six short communications and three meeting reports. The publications are about wild elephants in India, Malaysia, Bangladesh and captive elephants in Australia, Europe and Myanmar.

The Peer-Reviewed Research Article by E.P. Wong et al. monitored hormones of a GPS-collared translocated elephant in Malaysia. They found that hormone levels changed after the elephant gave birth and crossed a road. The Research Article presents the results from a survey in Northern Bangladesh. A. Palash et al. found people to be tolerant towards elephants, as long as human lives were not threatened.

In Short Communications, A. Saklani et al. present an elephant fence constructed with railway track sections which was more successful than other fences used in the area. H. Dutta et al. looked into human-elephant conflict issues in the Patheria Hills Reserve Forest along the Indo-Bangladesh border. A. Hazarika & H. Dutta conducted an interview survey to study people’s perceptions of human-elephant conflict around the Abhaypur Reserve Forest in northeast India. C. Schiffmann et al. filmed the resting behaviour of an old captive elephant. She rested lying down for nearly eight hours per night, which is unusual for old elephants. C. Holland trained an elephant at Perth Zoo to search for a particular scent. When he found it he was rewarded with food. Z.M. Oo et al. describe how they successfully treated an elephant whose throat got completely blocked by food.

In the News and Briefs section S.K. Tiwari & V. Menon give a detailed overview on the AsESG meeting held in Bangkok this year. A. Sadaula et al. report on the regional Tiger, Asian Rhino and Elephant Veterinary Workshop held in Chitwan, Nepal. There is also a brief summary of the sixth workshop from the Elephant Conservation Group held in Bangkok. Abstracts from 54 publications can be read in “Recent Publications on Asian Elephants” and newspaper clippings about elephants are given in the “News Briefs”.

Vivek Menon, the chair of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group, gives a vote of thanks for the last AsESG meeting, informs us about the progress of the working groups and mentions the China-ASEAN Wildlife Conservation Training Workshop he attended.

During the AsESG meeting in Bangkok we also held a short Gajah editorial board meeting. It is the first time all of us could meet in person (see photo). Alex Rübel has resigned from the editorial board and I would like to thank him for his contributions for Gajah in the last 11 years.

I am grateful to all the authors for taking the time to write up articles about their work for us to read in Gajah. I very much appreciate the editorial team’s help with paper editing and working with the authors to improve their manuscripts. Thanks to the financial support from the Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group we can print hard copies of Gajah and mail them out for free to readers across the globe.

A. Campos-Arceiz, P. Fernando, J. Pastorini, V.R. Goswami, H. Riddle, T.N.C. Vidya