

“Dance for Kindness to Elephants and Wildlife” Event Engages Youth and Public in Ha Noi, Viet Nam

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“Dance for Kindness to Elephants and Wildlife” took place on November 24th 2019 in Ly Thai To Square by Hoan Kiem Lake in Ha Noi—which serves as both a tourist destination and a favourite place for locals to take a stroll. This event celebrated Viet Nam’s wildlife and educated people as to how they can get involved in protecting wild animals, particularly elephants.

Five thousand students, ranging from primary school to university students, participated in the large-scale Freezemob and Flashmob called “Dance for Kindness to Elephants and Wildlife.” During the Flashmob dance performance, the participants tried to show animals being wild, free and happy, while during the Freezemob (no or very slow movement) a series of stressed, sad, unhappy, depressed, hopeless, angry and aggressive faces illustrated animals facing challenges by human activities.

During the dance, celebrity MC Phan Anh and leaders from both the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment presented the importance of wildlife and ecosystems as well as the threats they face, and importantly,

how young people can change their behaviour and take meaningful actions to protect wildlife.

“Kindness to Elephants and Other Wild Animals” was another remarkable activity that was part of the event where attendees could admire photographs of wild animals taken by wildlife photographers or biologists, which were displayed along Nguyen Xi street. Sixty photographs of elephants and other wild animals were selected for display from about 100 submitted to a national competition. The photographs focused on four main themes, including: (i) the hidden beauty of nature and the role of wildlife in the ecosystem; (ii) reconciliation between human and wildlife; (iii) human activities causing wildlife losses and extinction and (iv) suggested activities that young people can do in order to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade, thus saving the remaining elephants and other threatened species in Viet Nam for future generations.

After participating in the first two parts, attendees had the opportunity to demonstrate their feelings and commitments toward wildlife protection by engaging in a drawing competition and signing the “Wildlife Protection: Our Commitment





and Responsibility” pledge. By the end of the event, 50 photographs of event participants were taken, to be used for subsequent communication strategies, while thousands of people signed the pledge to help wildlife and say “NO” to wildlife products.

The event comes as species throughout the country face increasing population declines. The last Javan rhino was found dead in Cat Tien National Park in Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam in April 2010. In the last two years, conservationists have warned that wild tigers are functionally extinct in Viet Nam while the elephant population is believed to be as low as less than 200 individuals, living in fragmented and poor habitats across the country. As such, this inspiring event encouraged people to appreciate the beauty of wild animals and act to protect them in their natural environment.

This event was co-organized by the Communication Center of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), the Viet Nam Youth Link Club, the Viet Nam Administration



of Forestry (VN FOREST) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), LOTTE Viet Nam and other organizations. Through partnership with the VN FOREST in implementing ‘Humane Human Elephant Conflict Management’ in Dong Nai, Humane Society International provided technical support for this meaningful event.



Video clips for your reference

<https://www.facebook.com/danceforkindness.vn/>
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=526451688199406>

