

HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands honours two AESG members at Soestdijk Palace



HRH Prince Bernhard (right) talking to the recipients of the Order of the Golden Ark, Mr Widodo Sukohadi Ramono (left) and Prof. Yang Yuan Chang (centre) at the Soestdijk Palace in the Netherlands. (Photo: Charles Santiapillai/WWF).

On the 14 th December 1991, at a ceremony held at the Soestdijk Palace in the Netherlands, HRH Prince Bernhard awarded the prestigious Order of the Golden Ark to two of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group Members, Mr Widodo Sukohadi Ramono from Indonesia and Prof. Yang Yuan Chang from China for their long and unstinted contribution to nature conservation and wildlife management.

This prestigious award is given annually by HRH Prince Bernhard to a very few outstanding conservationists whose contributions have had a significant impact on nature conservation. It is therefore not only a personal tribute to the two members of the AESG but more importantly a great honour to Indonesia and China as well.

Mr Widodo is the Chief of Species Conservation in the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA) in Indonesia and has devoted more than two decades in promoting the conservation of large mammals especially the Sumatran elephant and the Javan rhino. Prof. Yang Yuan Chang has been actively involved in the promotion of elephant and other large mammal conservation in the Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve in the southern part of Yunnan Province.

The AESG is proud to congratulate Mr Widodo and Prof. Yang on their achievement. Well done and well deserved.