

Editorial

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This current issue completes 30 years of successfully publishing *Gajah*. The first *Gajah* – at that time the journal was still called *Asian Elephants Specialist Newsletter* – was published in 1986. Existing for so many years definitely marks *Gajah* as an old and well-established journal.

Gajah 45 includes one peer-reviewed article, three research articles and three short communications. Three articles are about elephants in India and the other four articles are from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia.

The *Peer-reviewed Research Article* by Vanitha Ponnusamy *et al.* presents the opinion of 359 farmers on electric fences in their neighbourhood. The study also revealed a relatively low tolerance towards elephants in Peninsular Malaysia.

All three *Research Articles* deal with aspects of human-elephant conflict. Md. Abdul Aziz and co-authors studied human-elephant conflict in Northern Bangladesh where they estimate that 70–80 elephants regularly cross the border into India. Rohini *et al.* present interview data of 239 residents of two Forest Divisions in Kerala, India. About two thirds of them have a positive attitude towards elephants but consider human-elephant conflict management a responsibility of the Forest Department. Mabeluanga *et al.* interviewed people living around the Bannerghatta National Park (India), where also human-elephant conflict is a major problem.

In *Short Communications*, T.G.S.L. Prakash *et al.* report three incidents of foreign tourists getting hurt by wild elephants. The good news of zero elephant poaching for the last 10 years in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape is provided by Thomas Gray *et al.* Arindam Kishore Pachoni *et al.* describe how they successfully treated a gunshot injury of a wild juvenile elephant.

The *News and Briefs* section reports on a workshop conducted in Myanmar to train mahouts of the newly set up Elephant Emergency Response Units. We also hear from a workshop held in Kerala to build local and regional capacity in veterinary care for elephants and tigers. There is an overview of the International Elephant & Rhino Conservation and Research Symposium held in Singapore this year, where 90 talks were well received by the numerous audience. Recent publications on Asian elephants include 66 abstracts and the news briefs present 21 news items.

Vivek Menon, the chair of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group, talks about three important meetings held in the last few months. The Asian Elephant Specialist Group members who could not attend the meeting in Assam will find his note particularly interesting.

During the Asian Elephant Specialist Group Meeting the ‘Mandate for *Gajah*’ was also discussed by the members. It was felt that it would be useful for *Gajah* to give authors the opportunity to present a second abstract in their local language – if they wish to do so. It was also decided that if an editorial board member is working with the authors to improve their manuscript, (s)he should be acknowledged with the notation of ‘Manuscript Editor’ in a footnote on the front page of the article.

I would like to thank the authors who contributed articles to this issue of *Gajah*. I am most grateful to the editorial team for their help with paper editing and working with the authors to improve the manuscripts. I also appreciate the effort of the reviewers of the peer-reviewed paper. Thanks to the financial support from the Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group this *Gajah* can be printed and mailed out free, to all its readers.