

Establishing a WAZA/IZE Education Committee

by **Laura Mumaw** WAZA EDUCATION COMMITTEE LIAISON | MELBOURNE-PARKVILLE | AUSTRALIA

Laura with a wombat.



At the WAZA meeting in 2006 in Leipzig, IZE President Chris Peters and I discussed making changes to the structure of the WAZA Education Committee, which we then discussed at the Committee meeting. These changes were to reflect the role of IZE in representing zoo educators worldwide, the role of WAZA in globally uniting zoos, aquaria, and like-minded organisations to live sustainably and conserve biodiversity, the partnership between the IZE and WAZA, and the challenges of maintaining momentum on our shared objectives through the year.

A draft charter setting out the function and membership of a new, joint WAZA/IZE Committee was presented at the IZE Pretoria meeting for further input and then to WAZA Council at the WAZA Council 2007 mid-year meeting.

Like the IZE Board, the WAZA Board welcomed the Charter as a means of clarifying the nature of the IZE/WAZA relationship and identifying specific areas of shared activity.

We are now in a position to finalise the Charter (see highlighted box) in discussion with the IZE Board and establish our first WAZA/IZE Education Committee.

A specific recommendation from the WAZA Board was that we better describe what we mean by “education”, in the broad sense we understand it to be, in the preamble of the Charter.

I look forward to finalising the draft Charter soon with IZE Board members. Education is arguably the strongest strand of our efforts to create a sustainable future rich with life and diversity. Establishing the WAZA/IZE Education Committee is another powerful step in effectively harnessing our efforts and securing continuity and momentum to achieve our shared vision.

The Children’s Zoo in Chiba Zoological Park

by **Hiroyuki Takahashi** REGISTRAR AND KEEPER | CHIBA ZOOLOGICAL PARK | JAPAN

Chiba Zoological Park was established in 1985. It is 33 hectare, and the collection of animals is about 150 species and 780 specimens. The Children’s Zoo of Chiba Zoo was renewed in 2002. The theme of our Children’s Zoo is “Let’s feel it – the connection with life –”. This area is about 7,500m². It has about 30 species including domestic animals such as horses, donkeys, miniature-pigs, goats, sheep, mice and guinea-pigs, and wildlife such as Humboldt penguins, capybaras, macaws, Aldabra giant tortoises and prairie-dogs.

The features of the Children’s Zoo are:

1. A school program: the elementary school, kindergarten, nursery school and the school of handicapped children use this area as contact with animals. This program is very popular with pupils and infants.
2. A hands-on exhibit: “the comparison of animal’s babies sizes”, “the comparison of animal’s footprints”, and “the comparison of characteristics of animal’s bodies”. The children enjoy touching and turning over the panels, so this type of hands-on exhibit is really fun for them.