From the IZE President, Rachel Lowry:

2016 has been another rewarding year to be President of the International Zoo Educators Association. Once again we broke a new record in securing the highest number of institutional memberships ever to support IZE. As such, I must thank our members, it’s because of you that IZE is well positioned to progress our mission and help boost the capacity and impact of zoo-based education globally. This journal is yet another testament to the fact that zoos and aquariums around the world are doing great work in connecting our visitors to wildlife and inspiring conservation actions.

The IZE Board are very excited to be working with the talented team of educators at Fundación Temaikên to deliver the 2016 IZE conference with a focus on Crafting Effective Narratives. I believe that the conference theme is a fitting description of the challenge that we face as zoo and aquarium educators. Educators are storytellers. At a time when we are losing more species to human-driven threats than ever before, our wildlife and wild places need zoos to lend their voice to tell their stories. However, the challenge is immense, as we need these stories to motivate social movements that go on to help alleviate threats to wildlife. To do this, we will need to be strategic with what stories we tell, how we tell them and of course how we evaluate them. With the continued support of the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria, and of course our incredible membership, I have no doubt that we’ll rise to this challenge.

Once again, I must thank the authors of our papers for sharing your brilliant work, the IZE Board for driving progress against our mission and ensuring that IZE is the strongest association it has ever been, and of course Stephen Woollard, our IZE Journal Editor who once again has delivered a terrific journal.

I hope that you enjoy the 2016 edition of the IZE journal. I, along with the IZE Board, are very much looking forward to working with you all to further transition zoos towards being powerful conservation organizations.

Onwards!

Rachel Lowry, President of IZE (2012-2016)
Director of Wildlife Conservation and Science, Zoos Victoria, Australia

Welcome to the next IZE President, Isabel Li

Isabel is currently the Education Director at Ocean Park, Hong Kong. Isabel’s passion for the environment started in her teenage years when she was the Student Environmental Protection Ambassador for her secondary school. Since then, she has engaged and organized various environmental education events. She joined Ocean Park as an educator in 1999 and became the Education Manager in 2008. Her academic background includes a MSc in Environmental Science and Technology and a BSc in Environmental Science. Her interest is in studying visitors’ behavior in the zoo/aquarium and how the experience impacts them and creates positive behavior change. Her life goal is to influence the Hong Kong public to live a sustainable life, especially not to consume shark fins anymore.

Isabel takes up the President’s role on conclusion of the IZE conference in Argentina in October.