



## A TAIL OF TWO TIGERS

### SUMATRAN TIGERS DEPART FOR NEW HOMES IN JAPAN

**Wednesday, December 15, 2010:** Toronto Zoo's two female Sumatran tiger sisters, "Kali" and "Indah" have set sail for a significant new beginning in Japan as an important part of the recently established Sumatran Tiger Global Species Management Program (GSMP) of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Female Sumatran tiger "Kali" departed the Toronto Zoo for Japan's Nagoya Higashiyama Zoo on November 17, 2010 – who has since arrived safe and sound and is settling into her new home. On December 14, 2010, "Indah", the second female tiger departed for Ueno Zoological Gardens in Japan. These two tigers will accelerate the establishment of the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (JAZA) Sumatran Tiger Regional Conservation Program whose goal is to establish a healthy and genetically viable population and bring awareness, through education, to the plight of the tiger in the wild.

Both "Kali" and "Indah" were born at the Toronto Zoo on June 28, 2006 to sire "Rengat" and dam "Brytne". With the recent departure of these two females, the Zoo is temporarily left with one female Sumatran tiger. The Toronto Zoo has been playing matchmaker with the San Diego Zoo to bring "Harimau Kayu" a male Sumatran tiger to the Toronto Zoo in early 2011 who is an attractive mate (both physically and genetically) for "Brytne". Transferring tigers is not a simple task, and certainly requires a great deal of planning and coordinating both internally and with other zoos. Maria Franke, Curator of Mammals at the Toronto Zoo, is the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums coordinator for tigers within Canada and has been working with the Species Survival Program (SSP) for several years in planning these transfers. Maria works closely with many staff including the Zoo Keepers to ensure comfortable travel for the animals which includes extensive crate training, organizing shipments/permits, and communicating any pertinent information about the animals and their "personalities" to the staff on the other end so they are able to make the animals feel at home when they arrive.

"With the world taking notice to help save tigers, it is apparent that global partnerships and international collaboration is mandatory to help save these species from extinction", says Franke. "With outcomes from the Global Tiger Summit and the signing of a new accord, the Toronto Zoo Sumatran tigers going to Japan is one part of the puzzle working together to help save endangered species," says Franke.

"The Toronto Zoo is recognized as a global player in helping to save the Sumatran tiger from extinction," says Gerry Brady, SSP Sumatran Tiger Coordinator. "Currently, there are only 250 Sumatran tigers left on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia".

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) currently lists the Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) as endangered. This is a result of habitat loss due to the expansion of the human population, the logging of forests, as well as poaching and the elimination of natural prey.

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