

Asian Turtle News

NEWS FROM FRONTLINE OF CONSERVATION

The Asian Turtle Conservation Network

23 February 2010

Environmental Education Training Course Focuses on Turtle Conservation in Vietnam

From 1st to 6th February 2010, an environmental education training course was held in Hanoi for five staff of the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The training was organized by Education for Nature Vietnam and designed to focus on improving skills in developing, organizing and conducting community meetings and school programs to increase awareness and promote conservation of some of Vietnam's rarest turtle species.

Training in Hanoi focused on programs relating to the endemic Vietnamese Pond Turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*) and the famous Hoan Kiem Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*). Trainees also practiced their new skills conducting a special lesson plan focused on *Rafetus* for classes, grades 6 to 9 at a secondary school in Son Tay district near Dong Mo Lake where the world's last known wild *Rafetus* can be found. The team also trialed a new *Rafetus* adult-focused community meeting in local communities.

Following the training course, ATP staff will be involved in additional community and school activities in northern and central Vietnam focused on protecting turtles.

Support for the training and community meetings was provided by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

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www.asianturtlenetwork.org



*One community group discusses *Rafetus swinhoei* conservation during the community meeting*



Pupils learn about turtles playing the Lucky Turtle board game