



## Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation



Indo-Myanmar  
Conservation

Protecting today so we can see tomorrow...

*Keep up to date*

For more current news and updates on tortoise and freshwater turtle conservation in Asia,  
visit our website: [www.asianturtleprogram.org](http://www.asianturtleprogram.org)



The teams played hard despite bare feet and no shin pads.  
Photo by: Nguyen Tai Thang - ATP

## Kids Football For turtle Conservation in Northern Vietnam

From the 13<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015 the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo-Myanmar Conservation (IMC) supported the kids football event in Yen Bai commune, Ba Vi district, Hanoi. In all eight teams from eight villages in the commune participated. The players aged from 11-14 years old, most of them were from the Muong ethnic group, a group that makes up 1.5% of the population of Vietnam where 54 ethnic groups are found. During the matches around 600-700 spectators watched the games. During the opening celebration, Nguyen Tai Thang from the ATP gave a special presentation highlighting the importance of the Hoan Kiem turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) that inhabits Dong Mo Lake in the commune and its legal protection under national law National Law (Penal code No.37/2009/QH12). Yen Bai commune was chosen as a focus for the activity following an illegal hunting attempt in March 2015 when a *Rafetus swinhoei* from the lake was almost caught by a group of men from the commune.

Press release by: ATP

We would like to send our profound gratitude to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo (CMZ) and Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for supporting the *Rafetus swinhoei* project in general and this activity in particular. We would like to thank our local partners and agencies, and the Youth Union of Yen Bai commune who contributed greatly to the organisation of this successful event.



*For further information, please contact:*

Asian Turtle Program - Indo-Myanmar Conservation  
Room 1806, C14 Bac Ha Building, To Huu street, Nam  
Tu Liem district, Hanoi, Vietnam

Tel: +84 (0) 4 7302 8389

Email: [info@asianturtleprogram.org](mailto:info@asianturtleprogram.org)

Website: [www.asianturtleprogram.org](http://www.asianturtleprogram.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AsianTurtleProgram](https://www.facebook.com/AsianTurtleProgram)

Photo left: Over the course of the games between 600-700 spectators came to support their teams, including a lot of proud parents.  
Photo by: Nguyen Tai Thang - ATP



Photo below: Prizes included framed pictures of the famous turtle from Dong Mo Lake.  
Photo by: Nguyen Tai Thang - ATP



Photo above: The kids football match has been one of the first community activities to raise awareness to Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) in the commune. Photo by: Nguyen Tai Thang - ATP

Photo right: In the pre game ceremony an awareness presentation was given for turtle conservation. Photo by: Nguyen Tai Thang - ATP

