

## Asian Turtle Program Indo - Myanmar Conservation



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## Art contest raises public awareness on turtle conservation

The restrictions implemented to combat COVID-19 in Vietnam has limited the organization of inperson communication and education events so we have focused on carrying out virtual activities instead, including a national online art competition.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2021, the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo-Myanmar Conservation (IMC) in collaboration with People and Nature Reconciliation (PanNature) and Humane Society International Viet Nam (HSI in Viet Nam) launched an art contest titled "Let's Save Turtles" to create a platform for sharing knowledge and raising awareness of turtle species, their roles in ecosystems and threats to their existence. Participants were invited to submit original art pieces, both hand-crafted and digital, which centre around turtle conservation.

Overall, the contest was a huge success and we received 771 valid entries of hand-painted artwork and digital artwork from 720 participants (42 participants sent more than one artwork); they came from 50 out of 63 provinces/cities of Vietnam. The ages of participants varied from 4 to 62 years old and the 7-12 years old category had the most participants (403).

The range of artwork not only illustrated the participants' personal experiences and viewpoints but also their awareness of aspects of turtle conservation, ecology and threats. The diversity in the ways of expression or in the materials used also surprised the organizers, with some authors using recycled materials and other environmentally friendly methods.

The seven (7) pieces of art with the most interactions on Facebook won an award, while the contest judges selected seven (7) other exceptional submissions



Nguyễn Ánh (code: 000243) won the Diamond Turtle Warrior award with the painting titled "Ocean warrior". © Nguyễn Ánh and PanNature



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to win separate awards. A few additional special awards were given too.

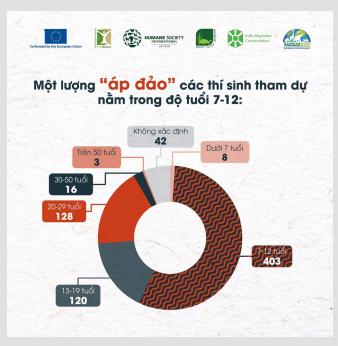
You can check out all of the winning entries here: Facebook ThienNhien.Net

The success of the contest would not be possible without the support of provincial and local Departments of Education and Training, the Board of Directors of schools across the country, and all who have shown great interest in and helped spread the contest within their communities. We are also grateful to all the participants who submitted their work to the contest. Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the European Union and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for supporting this activity.

Co-funded by the European Union

Date: 25th August 2021

Press release: Bich Kieu - ATP/IMC



The 7-12 years old category had the most participants (403). © PanNature



Hoàng Hữu Thiện (competitor code: 000048) won the Golden Turtle Warrior award with the painting "Sinh khối nhân chủng – Lời cảnh tỉnh từ quá khứ".

© Hoàng Hữu Thiện and PanNature



Nguyễn Ngân Duyên (code: 000298) won the Golden Turtle Warrior award with the painting "Chung tay bảo vệ rùa" (Let's save turtles). © Nguyễn Ngân Duyên and PanNature



Lê Thị Như Hoài (code 000268) won the Turtle Impressive Set of Paintings award with the set of 3 paintings "Sống" (Live). © Lê Thị Như Hoài and PanNature

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Cung Quang Hào (code: 000015) won the Silver Turtle Warrior award with the painting "Máy gắp thú" (Claw crane). © Cung Quang Hào and PanNature



Đỗ Phú Đạt (code 000006) won the Silver Turtle Warrior award with the painting "Đồi Mồi" (Hawksbill Sea Turtle). © Đỗ Phú Đat and PanNature



Phạm Ngọc Anh (code 000124) won the Bronze Turtle Warrior award with the painting "Trái tim của tự nhiên" (Heart of the Nature). © Phạm Ngọc Anh and PanNature



Nguyễn Thu Hằng (000492) won the Vietnamese Turtle Warrior award with the painting "Ngạt thở" (Suffocating). © Nguyễn Thu Hằng and PanNature



Vương Nhất Thuận (code 000171) won the Vietnamese Turtle Warrior award with the painting "Đi chợ" (go to market). © Vương Nhất Thuận and PanNature