



Asian Turtle Program Indo-Myanmar Conservation



Indo-Myanmar
Conservation

Protecting today so we can see tomorrow

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Pham Nhu Quynh, Communications Assistant of ATP/IMC, shared information about the Hoan Kiem turtle.
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Turtle awareness program for schools around Xuan Khanh and Dong Mo Lake

From the 20th to 30th December 2019, the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo Myanmar Conservation (IMC) coordinated with Ha Noi Fishery department to deliver the annual Dong Mo and Xuan Khanh schools program, which aims to raise awareness for Vietnam's tortoise and freshwater turtle species, in particular, Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle or the Hoan Kiem Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*). The program targets schools close to Dong Mo Lake and Xuan Khanh Lake in northern Vietnam, which each contain 1 of the last 3 known Hoan Kiem Turtles on earth!

This year, 829 students from 16 classes of 6 secondary schools (Kim Son, Son Dong, Co Dong, Son Tay, Xuan Son, and Yen Bai) in Ba Vi and Son Tay districts participated in the program. The program combines presentations about turtle conservation and ecology with fun games, and is designed to help students understand the importance of turtles (with a focus on the Hoan Kiem Turtle) as well as the main threats they are facing locally and nationally. All students were enthusiastic and excited to learn about such a special animal living close to them.

The Hoan Kiem turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*) is a critically endangered species, and may become extinct in the near future if we do not take urgent actions to protect them. We highlighted raising awareness for younger generations in the area where the species lives as a key step to turning its fortunes around in the wild. If you would like to see more of our awareness activities



ATP/IMC's Rafetus Project Officer teaches the children how to navigate the game and save the 'Lucky Turtle'.
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Press release by: Pham Nhu Quynh – ATP/IMC.
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The students of Yen Bai secondary school played the “Lucky Turtle” board game during the lesson.
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Pham Xuan Quyen, ATP/IMC's Rafetus Field Assistant, introduced the structural characteristics of turtle shells to the students of Son Dong school.
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