



APRIL welcomes new baby Sumatran elephant to Flying Squad

INDONESIA, 12 JANUARY 2009 – APRIL’s own Elephant Flying Squad in the Ukui Estate of Riau, Indonesia, has proudly welcomed the birth of a baby female Sumatran elephant (*Elephas Maximus Sumatranus*) named “Carmen”. The Elephant Flying Squad is a team of trained elephants and *pawang*s (trainers) whose efforts are focused on preventing rampaging wild elephants from raiding village crops.

Carmen’s mother, Merry, a 20-year old Sumatran elephant, gave birth at 3am on 5 January 2009, making Carmen the first baby elephant to be born in APRIL’s custody. Baby Carmen weighed about 80kg at birth, and was 84 cm high.

Dr Neil Franklin, APRIL’s Sustainability Director, was pleased to say, “The arrival of this baby elephant is testimony to the optimum conditions which we maintain our teams. In fact, another baby is due in six months’ time.”

Dr Franklin also said, “These elephants are an integral part of the human-animal conflict mitigation. Our conflict mitigation teams play an important role in helping to manage the increasing incidents of rampaging and encroachment into community farms. In addition, these elephants and their *pawang*s also contribute by educating local communities in handling conflicts with wild elephants, and in turn, support conservation efforts and prevent illegal logging.”

APRIL now hosts two Elephant Flying Squads – the first was established in 2005 in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund and the Natural Resources Conservation Agency under the Indonesian Forestry Department. The second, under APRIL’s management, was established in 2007, with three females and one male elephant.

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For more information, contact:

Wendy Mae Poon

Head, Corporate Communications

APRIL

+65 6216 9366

E-mail: wendy_poon@aprilasia.com

About APRIL (*www.aprilasia.com*)

APRIL, with manufacturing operations in Indonesia and China, is a leading producer of fibre, pulp and paper. APRIL operates one of the world's largest pulp mills, and with our on-going expansion plans in Indonesia, our pulp producing capacity will reach 2.8 million tonnes.

The Company is committed to protecting the natural resources in its care through sustainable management of its mills and forestry operations to benefit its stakeholders, both now and in the future. APRIL is currently the only Indonesian company in the World Business Council of Development, and is a signatory to the UN Global Compact.

Its flagship product is PAPEROne™ office paper produced from 100% plantation fibre and sold in more than 56 countries.



Baby Carmen was born in APRIL's custody on 5 January 2009, making her the fifth member of our conflict mitigation team of elephants.