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29th January 2014

Dear Dr Dick,

We refer to the Open Letter to you dated 17th January, 2014 from Sakae Hemmi, Elsa Nature Conservancy Yukari Sugisaka, Help Animals, Sachiko Azuma, Put an End to Animal Cruelty and Exploitation (PEACE).

EIA writes to support the appeal in the letter for WAZA to take firm action to end the procurement of dolphins from the Taiji hunt. These hunts, like other coastal cetacean (whale, dolphin and porpoise) hunts, are driving local populations of these animals towards extinction. The live animal trade is providing a lucrative incentive for these hunts to continue, despite the lack of demand for dolphin and whale meat, which is in part due to the fact that these animals carry high burdens of pollutants that make them unfit for human consumption. Indeed we note that thousands of Japanese supermarket stores, including AEON, Seiyu and Ito-Yokado stores, do not sell cetacean products due to concerns about the threat they pose to consumers.

We appreciate the WAZA statement issued 24th January 2014 condemning the Taiji hunts and clarifying that the Taiji whale museum is not a member of WAZA. However it is a member of JAZA.

WAZA's Code of Ethics should require that all JAZA-affiliated facilities immediately stop acquiring dolphins from the drive hunts since JAZA is a member of WAZA. WAZA has stated that: *"the catching of dolphins by the use of a method known as 'drive fishing' is considered an example of such a non-acceptable capture method."* You also state that, *"WAZA member facilities place animal welfare at the forefront of all animal acquisitions"*.

By not ensuring that JAZA-affiliated facilities stop the procurement of dolphins through drive hunts, WAZA is in non-compliance with its own Code of Ethics and shares a responsibility for the cruelty and decimation suffered by these dolphin and whale populations.

For clarification, can you please confirm that no WAZA institutional members anywhere in the world including Japan are procuring dolphins from the Japanese coastal hunts?

The Japanese Government continues to make unsubstantiated claims that its small cetacean hunts are sustainable. In fact Japanese scientists have documented that the abundance of a number of populations targeted by the coastal hunts have declined drastically due to overexploitation. I attach for further information a report published by EIA in 2013, "*TOXIC CATCH: Japan's unsustainable and irresponsible whale, dolphin and porpoise hunts.*" I also attach a scientific review paper on the status of cetaceans hunted in Japanese coastal waters, which was submitted and presented to the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee in 2013.

EIA urges you to do all that you and WAZA can to end the trade in live cetaceans from the Japanese drive hunts. As a first step, JAZA should be given one month to formally and publicly commit to immediately ending the acquisition of live cetaceans from any cetacean hunts, as well as formally condemning the dolphin hunts. If this commitment is not forthcoming, JAZA should be expelled from WAZA.

The whole world is watching what happens in Taiji and WAZA's reputation is at stake.

We look forward to your prompt response to this urgent issue.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Lonsdale
Director

cc Yukari Sugisaka, Help Animals