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NEWS RELEASE

- For immediate release -

LANTERNS AND INTERNATIONAL TALENT TAKE CENTRE STAGE

Calgary Zoo unveils world-renowned performance roster for
inaugural ILLUMINASIA Lantern and Garden Festival

Calgary, AB – Today the Calgary Zoo launched its premier fall event, ILLUMINASIA Lantern and Garden Festival presented by Sinopec Canada featuring an all-star lineup of cultural performers from around the world. The seven week festival will showcase the 800 year-old tradition of Chinese lantern making while creating a one-of-a-kind multicultural event allowing visitors to experience authentic Chinese, Japanese and Indian entertainment and programs.

“ILLUMINASIA will be a spectacular event for the zoo, for our city and for Western Canada,” says Dr. Clément Lanthier, President & CEO, Calgary Zoo. “This unique event will enable us to present a new cultural festival that will draw our local supporters, as well as many tourists visiting Calgary.”

Headliners representing each of the three featured cultural groups include Japan’s Kenichi Ebina, 2013 winner of *America’s Got Talent*, Phoenix HuaYun Artistic Troup from Montreal, QC and Sparq Productions Bollywood performers from Calgary, AB.

“Sinopec Canada is proud to partner with the Calgary Zoo on this unique opportunity to celebrate our Chinese and Canadian cultures and to continue to support our local communities and educational initiatives,” says Brian Tuffs, CEO & Director, Sinopec Canada.

The event will run nightly, Thursday through Sunday and will feature 183 stunning Chinese lanterns that represent animals within the zoo and cultural symbols of China. Guests will be able to take part in unique programming that spotlight, food, garden, art and culture illustrating the diversity of China, Japan and India. The Dorothy Harvie Gardens, celebrating its 30th anniversary, will provide the tranquil backdrop through lush mosaic cultures.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.calgaryzoo.com/ILLUMINASIA

Media Information: Please note photos, videos and background on the event can be found at www.calgaryzoo.com/ILLUMINASIA/mediaresources

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The Calgary Zoo is a conservation leader whose mission is to take and inspire action to sustain wildlife and wild places. As a not-for-profit charitable institution, all revenue is reinvested back into conservation activities at the zoo and around the world.

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