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## **Presentation by Natasha Romero, co-founder of The Tiger Foundation**

“Taiwan Save The Tiger” Campaign Launch and Press Conference  
Sponsored by 7-Eleven and National Geographic Channel,  
in collaboration with The Society of Wilderness

Ni hao? My name is Natasha Romero and I am one of founders of The Tiger Foundation. I am very happy to be here and must thank 7-Eleven, National Geographic Channel and The Society of Wilderness for giving my father and I the opportunity to deliver a very important message to you: **Taiwan, please help us to save the tiger!**

We are here because wild tigers are in very big trouble. They may become extinct very soon. There are less than 7000 wild tigers left in the whole world and if we don't do something urgently they will disappear forever. If they chose to, the people of Taiwan really can save the tiger. Yes, Taiwan can save the tiger.

Tigers are facing many problems. One of them is that their habitat is shrinking and becoming fragmented. Every day there are more and more people on our planet, and they keep cutting down the trees to make cities and villages bigger. Unfortunately, for tigers, these trees make up their forest home, the only viable natural habitat that they have left. As humans take up more room, the forests where the tigers live get smaller and smaller. Highways, power lines, fences, plantations and farms are built in the forest. The result is tiny, fragmented forests with a few tigers here and a few tigers there. These tigers often have no way of meeting other healthy tigers when it is mating season and they are forced to breed with their relatives, which results in either no tigers being born or sick tigers. Without forests, tigers have nowhere to live. Without healthy forests the tigers' prey have no place to live. We must make sure that the forests of Asia that are home to the tiger stay healthy and that the animals living in them are well. What this means, is that if we concentrate our efforts into conserving forests, we will automatically be helping tigers and the animals they need to survive.

Another problem that tigers face is that they are being killed by poachers because of greed and ignorance. Last year, when I was in India, I saw the skin of a beautiful female tiger that had been killed by poachers. I was so sad and angry. I couldn't understand why anybody would want to kill such a beautiful animal and display it as a trophy. Before the skin was sold, a brave policeman risked his life and captured the poachers. It was great that these terrible poachers were caught, but so many are not getting captured, and the tigers keep dying. We need to stop these poachers before they kill all the wild tigers. There are many very good people in places like India and Indonesia that want to protect the tiger. But, they are very poor. They need financial

assistance to protect the tigers and the forest. These are the people that The Tiger Foundation supports. These are the people that we want you to support.

Maybe some of you weren't aware of how desperately tigers need help. You may have been too busy with your own lives to have thought of tigers. I hadn't known myself about the problem tigers were facing until my sisters and I decided to start The Tiger Foundation and, now that I know, I want to help and be part of the solution. I hope you will too. It may seem like tigers have a lot of problem, but together we can save them. With the help of humans there is a real good chance for the survival of tigers in the wild.

Together, we must help these magnificent creatures. My sisters and I originally wanted to help save tigers because we didn't want them to disappear. We don't want tigers to become just a memory. We want them to live forever as the greatest symbol of the power and beauty of nature. We want them to survive as **the** symbol of Asia's vanishing wilderness.

Last year when I was in India I saw several tigers in the wild. It is truly one of the most spectacular sights in the whole world. I would like wild tigers to still be around so that my children and grandchildren can see them as well. But this may all depend on you..... Please help us to save the tiger.

Thank you,

Natasha Romero  
The Tiger Foundation