

SAMBHOTA TIBETAN SCHOOL, SHILLONG MEGHALAYA, INDIA.

A BRIEF REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL TOUR CUM PICNIC TO GUWAHATI, JUNE 2010.

Introduction:-



Sambhota Tibetan School Shillong is located in the state of Meghalaya, North-East India and was established in the year 1980. The purpose of establishing a Tibetan school in this remote place is to cater to the educational need of Tibetan children whose parents are scattered all across the North- Eastern states of India. The school has been working diligently to preserve and promote the invaluable Tibetan culture, religion and language.

Presently we have 67 students and 15 staff members. In our hostels we have 57 students and most of them are from remote areas of Tuting (Arunachal Pradesh) and Nepal. These students have no-where to go during the 20 days Summer Vacation because of the distance and the poor financial condition of their parents. To make their stay in the school memorable and to compensate for not being able to go to home, the school office appealed to the Director of Tibet Charity, India, (Mr. Tsering Thundup la) to find a sponsor for our proposed trip to Guwahati. Thankfully the dynamic Director succeeded to find a sponsor within a short period of time and for this we shall ever be indebted to him and his reputed office.

Some of our younger students could not take the trip to Guwahati due to travel sickness and general ailments. We compensated them by taking them to places of Interest at Shillong at a later date along with rest of the students. In total 32 students and 4 escort teachers made the trip to Guwahati.

Our sincere thanks also go to STEN MELSON & NETTE VOLSON for generously sponsoring our memorable trip and putting smile on our student's face. The students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and in the process learnt a lot of valuable lessons about wild life, flora and fauna, waves and the law of motion. The students thoroughly lived and enjoyed every moment of their stay in the zoo as well as the water park.

Finally, it was well worth watching the satisfied look on the face of our students after the trip and they still discuss about the trip and what they experienced during this year's memorable Summer break. For your kind help and support our school shall ever be indebted to all of you.

1. VISIT TO ASSAM STATE ZOO-CUM-BOTANICAL GARDEN.

BACKGROUND OF THE PLACE.



The **Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden** is located at a distance of 5 kilometers from the railway station in the city of **Guwahati** in the state of **Assam**. The zoo occupies an area of 130 hectares while the botanical garden is spaced out over an area of 82 hectares.

The **State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden of Assam** is one of the chief attractions of the city of Guwahati. Established in the year 1982, the

botanical garden at Guwahati has gathered 44 varieties of orchids from the northeastern region of the country of India. The orchids placed in the orchid house of the botanical garden are rare species that are typical of the mountainous region. The garden is decorated with trees of various types that abound in plenty. The garden has planted palm, conifers, broad-leafed plants, variety of herbs and shrubs.

The zoo is supervised by the office of the divisional forest officer. The zoo has a huge collection of reptiles, mammals and apes. The section for the reptiles has assorted as many as 358 reptiles of various kinds. The mammal section of the zoo has a total collection of 37 animals. The zoo has a huge collection of diverse kinds of birds that are placed in the ape section of the zoo. There are as many as 277 kinds of birds in the zoo.

The **Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden** had approximated an average of 5 lakh visitors in a year. It is evident that the zoo is one of the most frequented tourists destinations in Guwahati in the state of Assam.

OUR EXPERIENCE AT THE ZOO



We reached the zoo after a grueling three hour drive through the winding and ever changing landscape of “the land of the clouds” i.e Meghalaya. The children began the journey enthusiastically and started singing as soon as we left our school. As we progressed some students began vomiting but not as much as we feared. We stopped at Nongpoh for some refreshment and continued our journey. We reached the zoo at around 10 a.m. and

immediately entered the zoo to explore the place.

The students were very excited to see the real wild animals which they have till then seen only in photos and textbooks. They learnt about the places of origin of different animals and their die. Their excitement knew no bound when they saw lions, tiger, leopard and bear feeding and prowling about in their respective enclosures. Their favourite animal was the hippo as they could interact with them from close quarter. The younger children were all taken aback to see the height of giraffe and the sheer body of the rhinoceros. They also liked the different species of snakes and asked the warden about their diet.

As we pass through the zoo we also explored the different varieties of plants and flowers and our students took notes about them and learnt about their medicinal as well as commercial value. They also learnt about how plants help us and how they are important for our environment. They pledged that they will always keep their environment and surroundings neat and clean and never to cut a tree or plant unnecessarily.

Having spent more than three hours to explore the whole place we set out for our next destination.

ACCOLAND WATER PARK



Accoland, the family fun amusement park is the biggest amusement park in North East India. It is also the best place to fun and spend leisure time with friends and family. It is located around 20 km away from the city centre and records a minimum of 800 visitors per day.

We reached Accoland at around 2.30 pm and immediately booked tickets in order to make the most of our time there. The students were amazed to see the sea of clear water with different rides. They took no time to wade into the water and tested all the different rides to their heart's fill. They filled the place with laughter and the happiness in their face was for all to see. They later played in the artificial waves at the Queen's Bay and learnt about the movement of waves in the oceans.

They later played under the Giant Splash. The specialty of it was that at a regular interval there is a great splash of water that comes from above as and when the over-head giant bucket gets filled with water. It was great fun and we all loved it very much.

After an initial hesitation all the staff and students later enjoyed the fun and excitement of Bouncy. It was a ride through the tunnel on a tube filled with air. The winding slope of the tunnel pumped our adrenaline to such an extent that we screamed to the top of our voice. Once the ride was conquered we of course went back to it again and again.

OUTING NUMBER TWO (13.06.10)

NATURAL EXPLORATION CUM WALK IN THE FOREST



After our trip to Guwahati, we decided to explore the forest cover in and around Shillong and packed our lunch and all the essential commodities. The idea is to just explore the nature and discover new plants and trees henceforth we haven't come across. After a couple of hours hiking through the pine covered forest we came across a stream and decided to take a dip in it as it was quite hot and humid. We prepared our tea with fire wood and had our lunch. Since

we haven't brought much drinking water we faced some problems but it also taught us a very important lesson regarding the importance of water to us and how we have to utilize it judiciously.

OUTING NUMBER THREE (17.06.10)

VISIT TO LADY HYDRAI PARK AND CRINOLINE SWIMMING POOL



Crinoline swimming pool is managed by Meghalaya Swimming Association and has facilities both for children and adults with life guards available at all time. Since the weather was unusually hot and humid we decided to go for a swim before going to the park. All the staff and students enjoyed the cool water of the pool and the swimming instructor gave some swimming lessons to our students.

We had our lunch, which we had brought with us, at the swimming pool retiring room and later proceeded to go to the park. Our students played on the see-saw, swing, football, cricket etc and also visited the zoo which is situated inside the park. They also enjoyed running on the lush green lawn and the garden with beautiful flowers. In all we all had a wonderful day and we returned to school feeling physically tired but mentally rejuvenated.

Finally we all would like to thank once again STEN MELSON & NETTE VOLSEN for generously sponsoring our trip and making our Summer holiday a memorable one. Our thanks also go to Mr. Tsering Thundup la, The Director, Tibet Charity India, for his continued support and for helping us to impart holistic education to our students. For your kind help and guidance we shall ever be indebted to you.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Namgyal Yemphel

Headmaster,

S.T.S. Shillong

DETAILS OF THE EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING THE TRIPS.

| Bill No. | DATE | NAME OF THE PLACE VISITED | ENTRY FEE | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------|----------|--|---|------------------|
| 1. | 07.06.10 | Banner printing for the trip. | | 430.00 |
| 2. | 08.06.10 | Assam State Zoo | 32 students@ Rs5 = 160 4 teachers @ Rs 10 = 40 3 Sumu Parking@ 50= 150 | 350.00 |
| 3. | 08.06.10 | 3 Tata Sumu Booking for the whole day @ Rs 4000/- each | | 12,000.00 |
| 4. | 08.06.10 | Accoland Water Park. | 9 Below 4.4 feet height@ 145=1305 25 Above 4.4 feet height@185= 4625 2 Entry Free | 5930.00 |
| 5. | 08.06.10 | Lunch at Accoland Water Park 34 Non-veg Thali @ Rs. 60 Each=2040 | | 2040.00 |
| 6. | 07.06.10 | Refreshment = Mineral Water, Chips, Fruit Juice, Coca Cola | | 1552.00 |
| OUTING NUMBER TWO. 13.06.10 | | | | |
| 7. | 13.06.10 | No expenditure incurred as we took our food from the school | | ----- |
| OUTING NUMBER THREE. 17.06.10 | | | | |
| 8. | 17.06.10 | Local Taxi fare for 48 students and 8 teachers (Up and Down) | | 980.00 |
| 9. | 17.06.10 | Consolidated Entry fee & Swimming Costumes for Crinoline Swimming Pool . * Includes Entry fee for students @ Rs 10 & Adults @ Rs. 20 * Includes Swimming costumes @ Rs 15 per piece. * Actual Price comes to Rs. 1480 | | 1000.00 |
| 10. | 17.06.10 | Entry fee to Lady Hydari Park 48 Students @ Rs. 5 = 240.00 8 Adults @ Rs. 10 = 80.00 | | 320.00 |
| 11. | 17.06.10 | Fooding and Refreshment | | 1420.00 |
| 12. | 26.06.10 | Photo Developing Charges | | 238.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | 26,260.00 |