



Singapore Club of Thailand @ since 1984

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## Travellers' Reflection 16th Chiang Rai Charity Trip - Nov 15th-18th 2014



Siew Hwei (SH): I had been interested to join one of SCOT's Charity Trip since my arrival to Bangkok 2 years ago and the opportunity came when Aileen invited me months earlier for this memorable trip to Chiangrai - Phayao District. Even at the last few minutes, I almost could not make it due to my over-confidence of the traffic situation in Bangkok! So, this set a stage for the start of our adventure!!

I salute veterans like Pansy and Aileen who had faithfully make this trip since 2006! They truly fly Singapore flag high up in the mountains of Chiangrai - so much so that in one school, I saw the Singapore Merlion! The focus of SCOT is to support minority hill-tribes who have many needs even though the Thai government provided support for basic education.

As mentioned by some of our members, we were touched with what little they have and yet we see happy faces everywhere we go. So I urged all of you to help and support this great humanitarian project in whatever ways you can - like the hokkien says, "*Woo lak, chut lak. Woo lui, chut lui*" 有力出力有錢出錢 (Got strength give strength. Got money give money - literal translation, haha!)

Like all the rest of my 12 new friends, we came home more blessed than the children and villagers we met! I leave you with some spectacular photos of the beauty of God's creation for inspiration and consideration to join the next trip!



**Thomas:** I missed last year's trip and almost could not make it. I am very glad that I make it this time as I felt all of the participants and the people who donated for this very special cause of giving. Although there were only that few of us, but we brought to these underprivileged people from the many great hearts who sponsored and donated to make this special mission possible.

During this trip, I felt that even with just less than the 13 of us, we have done to the work and conveyed the greatness of giving, even all the gods will agree with my pen. For those who came on this trip, I salute all of you with my tears that words could not express. All of you rushed from one village to the next school with no complaints of whatsoever and we had to eat at whatever time and food that has been arranged. The only place we had the time to visit at 0430 on the 18th, our last day; we to Phu Chi Fa where we did not even got to view the sunrise but perhaps able to have our lively spirits up there till our next visit.

You have all touched my heart and I will try to do more than what I have done.



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**Caroline:** It was truly a gratifying privilege for me to have the opportunity to participate in well planned and heart-warming giving activities in the villages around the Wiang Kaen mountainous region.

Much work has already been done and I am confident that even more good will come of these efforts. I would encourage everyone to participate in the next heart-warming charity trip to bring smiles to those far less fortunate than us!



**Gina:** This was my first charity trip to Phayao and Chiang Rai. We visited mountain schools and villages. Distributed blankets, old clothing, shoes, bags and stationeries to the children and villages. The best reward is a warm and smiling face in return. Overall, I find the trip meaningful and heartwarming experience.

*"There is one way to learn, it's through action. Everything you need to know you have learned through your journey." by F. Scott Fitzgerald*



**Jia Jia:** 16<sup>th</sup> charity trip to Chiang Rai is significant as this is the first time I join an overseas charity program. My takeaway from the trip is: appreciate and treasure the present. The people that we have reached out to do not have the privilege of having luxury item, i.e. branded bag or clothes. The children, as young as 3 years old, are aware of the basic courtesy that they should give when they received the gift from us. Often at times, unlike these beneficiaries, we have been taking things for granted as our parents spoon fed us with luxury life that we, the children sought after.

During the trip, it also gave me an important lesson on appreciating each other differences and aligning ourselves to achieve the same objectives: deliver the donation to the needy. With the participation from all the 13 members, it created a meaning trip as well as a learning journey for me.



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### The Lim Sibling



**Hubert:** We set out from Bangkok with 12 Singaporeans & 1 Thai and one motive, it is to serve the Thailand community and help the needy. Most of us are from the Singapore Club of Thailand (SCOT). This trip have enlightened me and my fellow Singaporeans that we should not take things for granted in Singapore and anywhere else.

We have visited some orphans who study in the morning, work after school and take care of their sick grandparent at home in the night. These scenes are very moving and have touched our hearts to feel for them. Some others are no better off, they have barely enough to feed their family and for their child's studies. This we helped those whom we really think needed our little support the most. We gave out basic necessities like clothing, books and stationary.

This is my second stay in Pratang Hill, thus I have experienced the temperature difference between the day and night, understanding the living conditions they live in. I feel sympathetic yet fortunate as I am born in Singapore where all this situations are less possible.

**Fiona:** This is my 2nd time volunteering for the charity trip. I felt that it is really meaningful to help the needy by donating basic necessities from our own pocket. By doing so, we are giving them support and making their live a little more carefree. Upon that, we will also make them feel that there are people out there encouraging and supporting them.

Through the trip, I also learnt that I am very lucky to have a cozy home and a caring family. When I was at Chiang Rai, I saw children with no parents, and some did not have enough food and clothes. We went to this school up in the mountain & they only have 2 toilets for the primary students & teachers. SCOT has the intention to help raise fund to build toilet facilities for this school in 2015.

From the trip, I learnt not to be greedy and not take things for granted.

