

Proposal of Tibet Study and Service Project

China Study Society, HKUSU

I. Summary

The activity, “Tibet Study and Service Trip”, which will be held from May 27th to June 2nd, is organized by the China Study Society (CSS), HKUSU. We are organizing this activity because we have heard of a school for blind children in Lhasa and we want to help them as well as to learn the economic and politic development in Tibet. We are looking for students who are interested in the Tibetan culture and economy development and who are willing to help the blind children in rural areas in China.

II. Objectives of the project

The core value of the CSS is to learn about China with young students. This year, when the HKU is celebrating its 100 anniversary, we want to do more than just “learn” about China. We are ready to serve the people who need help in China. The total number of the participants will be around 30 to 40 students.

III. Project Activities and Timeline

Date	May 27 th (Transportation)	May 28 th (Tibet University)	May 29th (Sightseeing in religion places)	May 30th (School for Blind Children)	May 31st (Sightseeing)	June 1 st (Sightseeing out of Lhasa)	June 2 nd (Back home)
Morning	Take flight from Shenzhen to Xining	Visit the Tibet University and listen to a lecture about the Tibetan culture	Drepung Monastery Gyantse Fortress	Visit the school for blind children, have a talk with the principal	Potala Palace Tibet Museum	Namsto Lake	Take the flight back to HK.
Afternoon	Arrive in Lhasa by train from Xining	Have lunch with local students and have ice-breaking game	Sera Monastery, Tashilhunpo monastery	Teach the children lessons and play games with them	Jokhang Temple and Barkhor Street	Namsto Lake	
Evening	Have a rest in the hotel	Have a taste of local food together	Prepare for the volunteer teaching the next day	Have a review of the volunteer teaching	Free arrangement	Free arrangement	

(Students who are interested can choose to stay in Tibet for an extra week to teach in the school for blind children. Some of the Ex-Co will stay there and make the arrangement.)

IV. Expect Outcomes, Impact and Outcomes of the Project

At the first stage, we enrich our professional knowledge of Tibetan Cultural and Tibetan educational situation by communicating with professors and students in local university. (Day 1)

Afterwards, we try to get deep understanding of the Tibetan Religious belief and customs by visiting the religious and historical sites in person. (Day 2)

Then, fully prepared, we reach the session of interacting with the blind children and discussing the education system and educational problems in Tibet with the teachers and the founder of the school. And we try to build a long-term cooperative project with the school. (Day 3)

1. Visiting the Tibet University

We want to have a deeper understanding of the Tibetan culture. So we are now communicating with a local lecturer who is now teaching in the Faculty of Arts in the Tibet University. We hope that through his lecture, students from HKU can have a better knowledge of Tibet.

We are also planning to have a casual talk with local students there. We can learn about Tibetan people's ideas in this way. It's important to learn about what local people concern about and what their true opinions are on certain issues. It won't be a very formal and serious talk, but just a sincere talk between friends. We hope that the local students can talk with us freely and casually.

2. Volunteer Teaching in the School for Blind Children

First of all, we have to have a talk with the principal of the school, Nima. It's a school established by a German. We are moved by his great love to the children in Tibet. In the morning, principal Nima will make a brief introduction of the history of the school and tell us how to help the blind people. Actually, the principal himself is a blind person and graduated from this school. We will first learn some proper ways to get along with the blind Tibet children.

In the afternoon, we will organize the students to teach the children something about Hong Kong or other simple knowledge and play games with them. We want to help those children and make them happy by communicating and playing with them. Of course, this is not enough. We also expect to tell them about the world outside Tibet and encourage them to live optimistically. Our power may be limited, but we will try to do our best.

3. Overall Outcome

China Study Society has been organizing study trips to cities in China every year. It's the first time for us to choose Tibet as our destination and to do volunteer service in our project. Tibet has long been a very mysterious place. We think it's a very good opportunity for students to feel the real Tibet. When they come back to Hong Kong, they will have a basic knowledge of the Tibetan culture and Tibetan people's ways of thinking. They will also enjoy the great beauty of nature.

Because of the special environment in Tibet, we do not require all the students to stay there to do the volunteer teaching for the second week. Those who are interested can stay there for an extra week with those blind children. After a week's stay in Tibet, they'll be used to the environment and can do the teaching in a better state. They will gain an unforgettable memory because it's really meaningful to help others.

Of course, we China Study Society also want to make a big impact through this project. We hope that more people can have interest and take part in the activities organized by our society, so it's important for our society to gain a high reputation through this project.

V. Insurance and Safety Arrangements

Because the special political environment in Tibet, we don't think that we have the ability to guarantee the safety of the participants by ourselves. So we have already found a co-operator, which is a local travel agency. They are experienced in arranging trips to Tibet for foreigners. With their help, it will be much easier for Hong Kong and international students to get a Visa to travel to Tibet. They will arrange an experienced tour guide for us and buy insurance for everyone.

Unless there is something out of control, such as natural disasters or political unrest, occurs, we will guarantee the safety of the participants. For safety reasons, students are not allowed to go somewhere by himself or herself. All the participants will be divided into small groups of five people. Each group will have one of the Ex-cos to be the group leader. The group leaders will be responsible for communicating the group members.

Because of the high altitude of Tibet, participants may feel uncomfortable when they are there. When we recruit participants, we will require them to provide health proof. Three weeks before the departure, we will ask all the participants to eat Rhodiolarosea and do some physical exercise. When we are leaving for Tibet, we will take enough medicine with us. If someone has the altitude reaction, we will let him or her use the oxygen bag we have prepared. If anyone is seriously sick, we will immediately send him or her to the nearby hospital.

VI. Budget

Catalog	Item	Number	Price	Total
Tickets	Potala Palace	40	250	10000
	Jokhang Temple	40	105	4200
	Tashilhunpomonastery	40	68	2720
	Gyantse Fortress	40	50	2000
	Drepung Monastery	40	100	4000
	Tibet Museum	40	37	1480
	Sera	40	50	2000
				26400
Transportation	HK to Shenzhen	40	130	5200
	Shenzhen to Xining	40	2700	108000
	Xining to Lhasa	40	632	25280
	Lhasa to Chongqing	40	960	38400
	Chongqing to Shenzhen	40	875	35000
	Bus in Tibet	1	9800	9800

				221680
Hotel	Youth Hostel	20*5	200	20000
				20000
Food	7 lunch and 6 dinner	40*13	37	19240
				19240
Preparation and Propaganda	Posters	200	0.5	100
	Banner	1	300	300
				400
Others	Insurance	40	168	6720
	Medical			500
				7220
Total		40	7373.5	294940

VII. Method of evaluation and evaluation by activity participants

After the activity, all the ex-co of the China Study Society will have a meeting to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the project. We will check whether our activity meets the expected outcome of our proposal.

Meanwhile, we will ask participants to give us some suggestions. They are also required to write a report of the trip to Tibet. We will evaluate the outcome by reading their report.

China Study Society will have similar study trip every year. We will make efforts to make our project better and better to serve more people.