



香港大學

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Gallant Ho  
Experiential  
Learning Centre

# Be a Responsible Partner

## GHELC Student Workshop

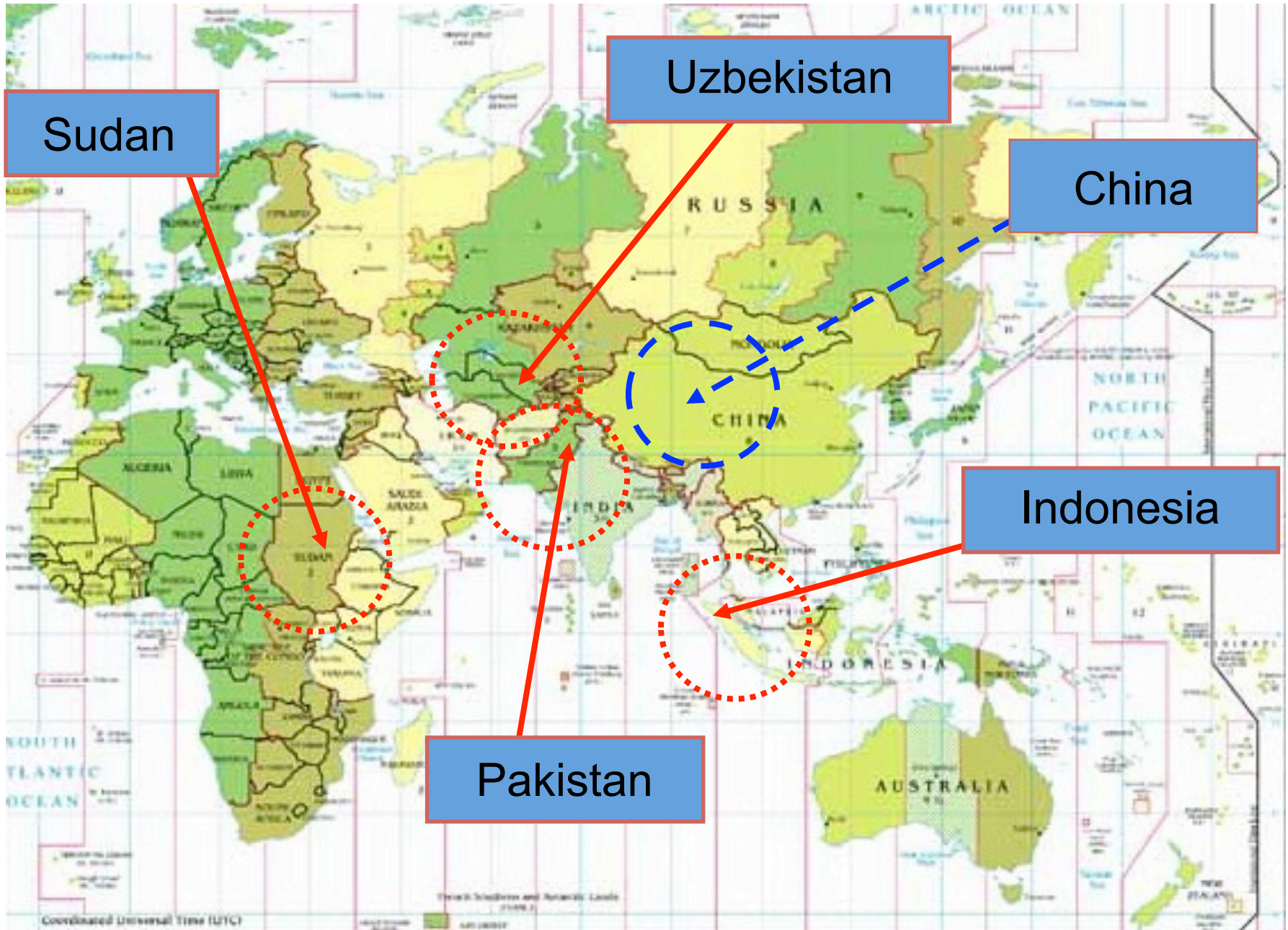
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Director

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Sudan

Uzbekistan

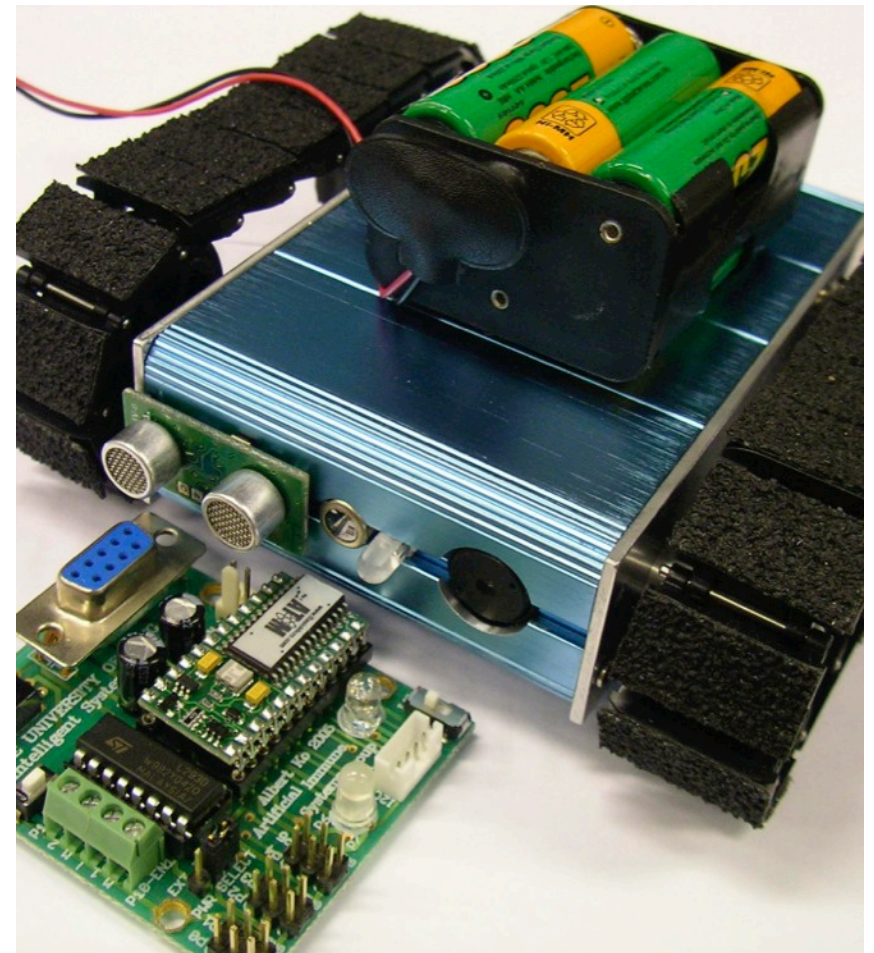
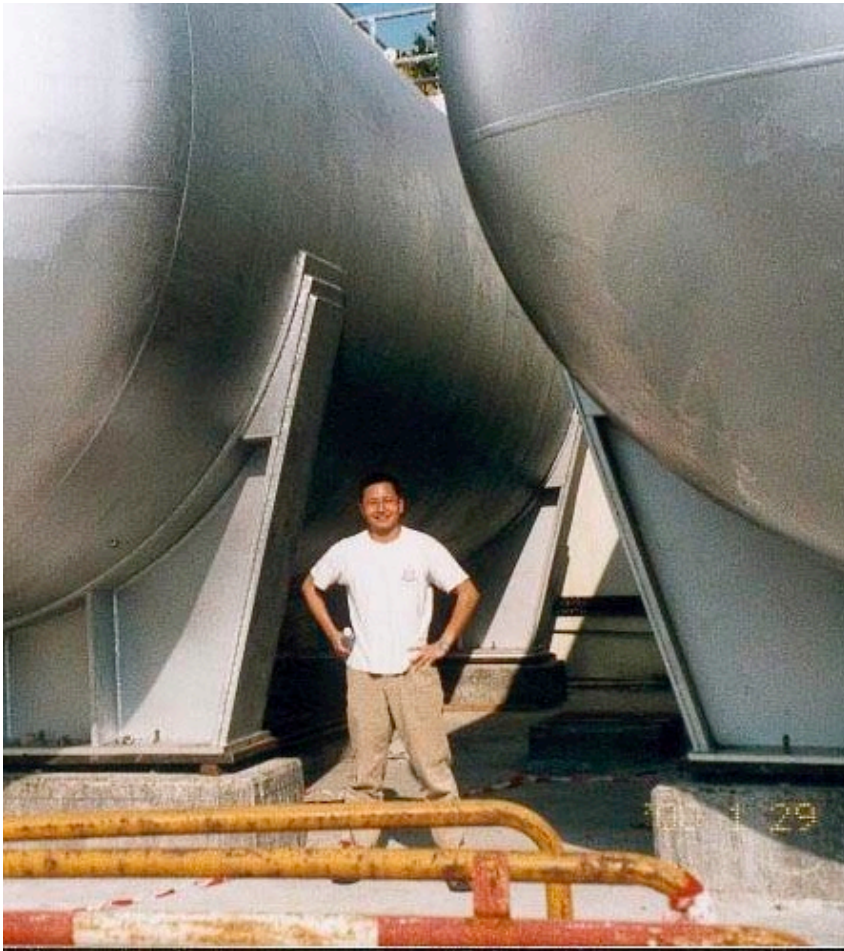
China

Indonesia

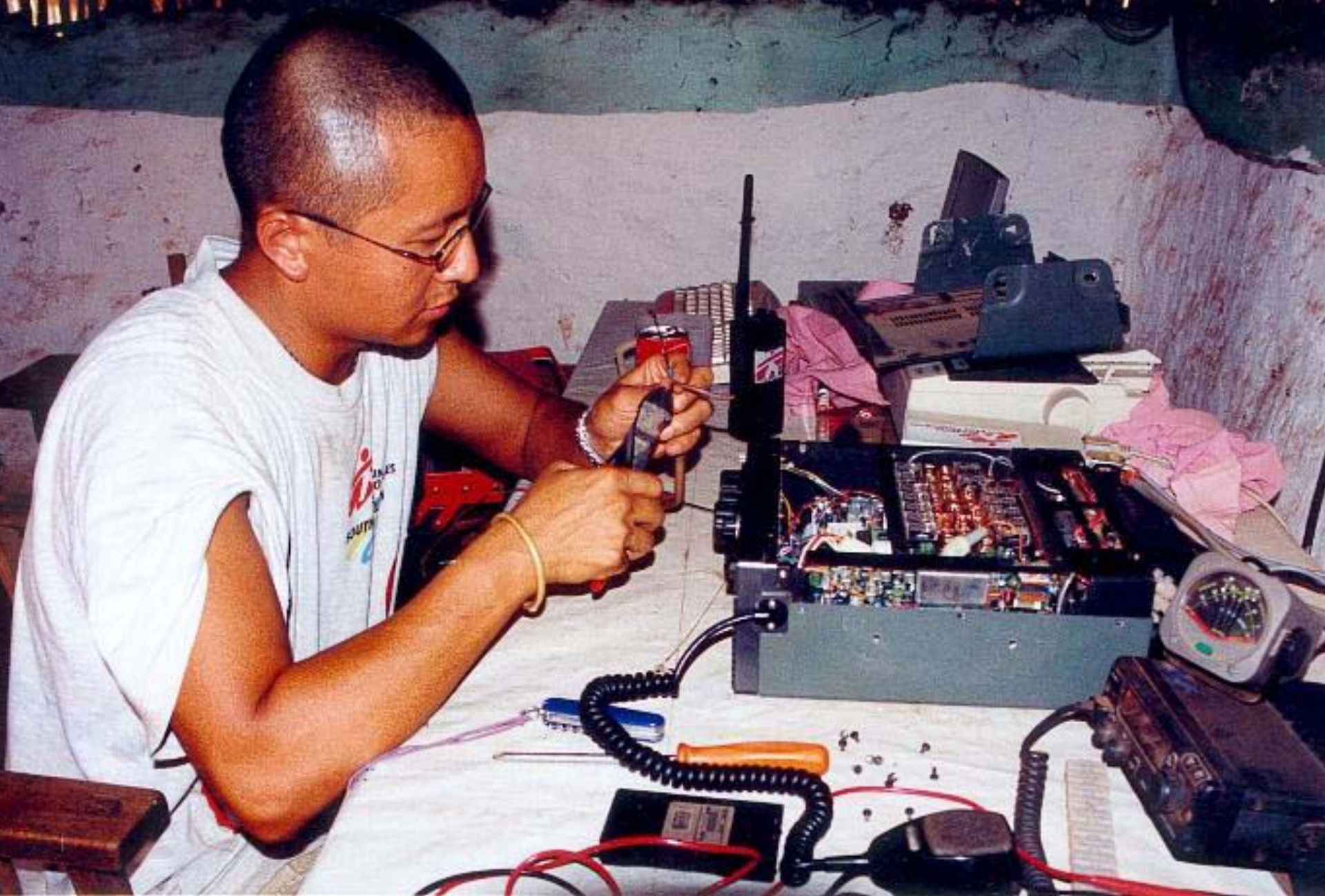
Pakistan

































# Qinghai-Tibet Highway Xining -> Lhasa





# INPUT

- 2000 km of cycling
- 30 days on the Plateau alone
- Climbed over 5231 m



# OUTPUT

- Public donation of over \$200,000
- A 200 pages book in print









# Responsible Volunteer

- Local Culture and Customs
- Travel Giving
- Health & Safety
- Environment – sustainability





# Culture & Customs

- Acquaint yourself with the local
  - Learn to say “Hello” and “Thank You” on the first day of your trip
- Clothing
  - Naked flesh can be an offense
- Buy from local markets
- Bargaining - do not insult their products
  - Pay what is reasonable to you
- Staying at chain-operated hotels
- When in doubt, observe before act





# Care for the Community





# Travel Giving

- “I want to help build a school / a water well.”
- “Let’ s visit an orphanage, school, or health clinic.”
- “Can we visit a village or home?”
- “Should I help local children earn a bit of money by letting them carry bags or serve as my guide?”
- “What do I do when I take a photograph of someone and they ask me for money in return?”





# “I want to help build a school / a water well.”

## Our advices

- Do not simply impose your will
- Consult and involve the community
- Contribute through specialized NGO
- Financial assistance makes greatest impact (for travelers)
- Encourage “ownership” to prevent “dependency”











# “Let’s visit an orphanage, school, or health clinic.”

## Our advices

- Great! Welcome. Just make sure you understand the followings
  - Avoid Poorism (or poverty tourism)
  - Make prior arrangement
  - Children are not pets
  - Orphanages are not zoos
  - Share something in return, your skill, your talent





# “Let’s visit an orphanage, school, or health clinic.”

## Positive Approach

- Study the politics, culture and social structures of the country before visiting
- Understand why the children are there
- Do not just take - offer them your talent!
- Perform a drama for the children
- Prepare a magic show
- Teach them something fun or useful
- Give from your hearts instead of your pockets





# Cotton Field in Uzbekistan



# “Can we visit a village or home?”

## Our advices

- Find a local guide with built relationship with the community
- Prior arrangement
- Refusing food offer is an insult to the host in many culture
- Be prepare to eat and drink “exotic” stuffs (otherwise don’ t go)
- Bring something interesting to share: pictures, etc.





















“Should I help local children earn a bit of money by letting them carry bags or serve as my guide?”

## Our advices

- In general, it is a “NO.” Students should be in school
- When in doubt, consult the local partner or tour guide



# Woodworkers in Uzbekistan





# “What do I do when I take a photograph of someone and they ask me for money in return?”

## Our advices

- Ask in advance
- If they insist, then pay
- Pay only a fair price
- Beware of taking pictures of a crowd dressed in similar color - it can be a funeral!



# Travel Giving

- “Let’s send used clothing.”
- “Let’s send books.”
- “Let’s bring school supplies to hand out.”
- “Let’s take computers and setup a computer lab.”
- “Can I bring small gifts?”
- “Should I give to street beggars?”





# “Let’s send used clothes.”

## Our advices

- Generous but often counterproductive
- Shipping, customs duties, delivery, distribution
- Consider gender, sizes, ages and climate
- Better to buy and donate inexpensive clothing
- Work with a NGO
- Hand carrying a couple is fine
- Think dignity before sending



# “Let’s send books.”

## Our advices

- Is the community asking for books?
- Are you introducing dependency
- 90% of people send English books. спасибо!!!
- Buy locally to support local economy
- Shipping cost > book value?
- State of the books?
- Books are culturally relevant?
- Perhaps sell your old books and make donation





# “Economic Concerns”

- Local Purchases vs. Overseas Supplies
- Inflation
- Currency exchange procedures
- Bargaining power and corruption
- Procurement channels









# “Let’s take computers and setup a computer lab.”

## Our advices

- Electricity available?
- Solar power is expensive to maintain (battery)
- Send no printer if the school can’t afford cartridges
- Send no computer without appropriate software
- Do not use poor communities as a dump site for redundant equipment



# Solar power equipment



07/01/2006



# “Can I bring small gifts (pen or candy?) to children?”

## Our advices

- NO CANDY!!! (fluorides and toothbrushes)
- Give something useful to institutions
- Well meaning gifts outside of relationship result in loss of dignity to both sides.
- Okay to bring family gift as a guest
- Indiscriminate giving by tourist can lead to children skipping school



# “Should I give to street beggars?”

## Our advices

- Very difficult to say but consider the following:
- Arbitrary giving is often what turns people into beggars
- Give directly to NGOs working in this sector
- Consult your local guide





# Health & Safety



# Personal & Team Safety

- Identify potential source of risks
  - Wrong Place + Wrong Time
  - Weather? Local issues?
- Understand Natural and Manmade hazard
- Wild animal and night travel
- Follow rules you've learnt in Kindergarten!
  - Don't following strangers home..... etc. etc.





# Personal and Team Health

- Water, food and shelter
- High altitude response
- Drugs and Vaccines
- Psychological preparation (expectation management)
- Team dynamic (mind-body interaction)



# Personal & Team Safety

## Run Away Backpack





# Personal & Team Safety Run Away Backpack

- Flashlight
- Compass
- Knife
- Raincoat/warm clothes
- Reflective material
- Lighter/Matches
- Map
- Emergency Manual
- Food – 2 Days
- Water – 2 Days
- Drugs
- Ropes
- Whistle
- ID copies
- Pen & Paper
- Comics/Candy/etc.









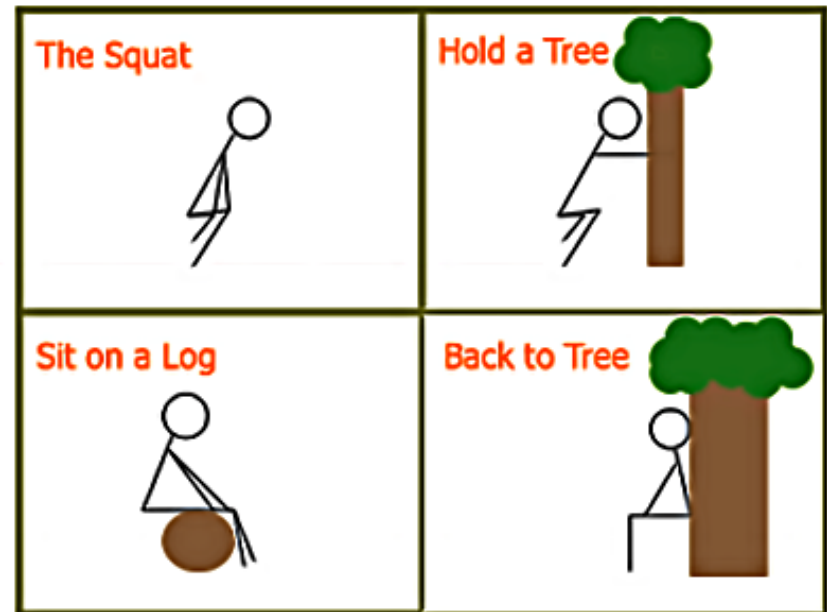
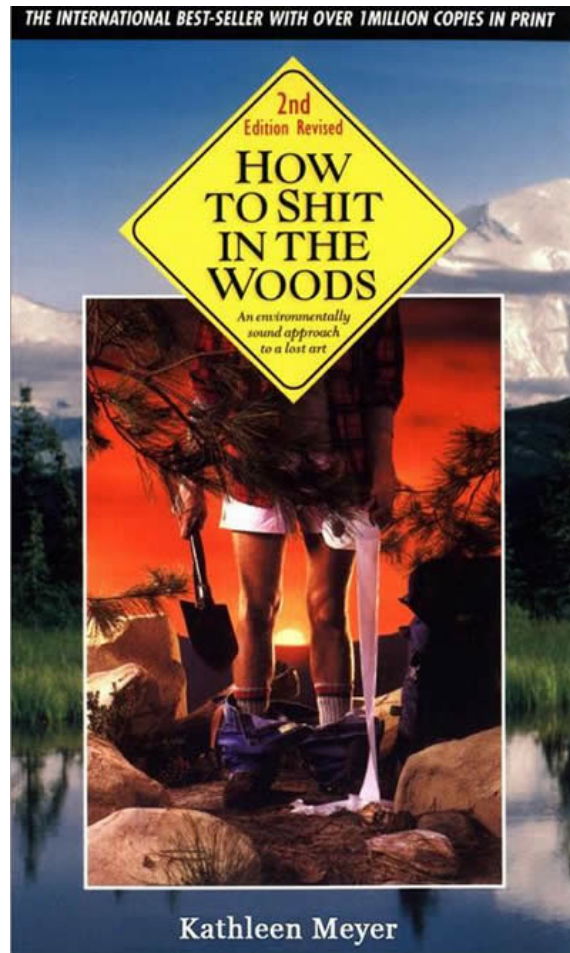
# Care for the Environment

- Do not litter!
- Keep your trash with you
- Leave what you find
- Respect Wildlife
- Banned food and products
- Animals are not for amusement
- Water is precious
- Stay on marked footpath





# Care for the Environment



# Care for the Environment

- How to poop in the woods
  - Away from the crowd
  - Observe the 8 meter rule
  - Dig a hole (6-8 inch)
  - Stir and bury
  - Watch out for dogs/snakes





# Care for the Environment





# Getting Started





# Pre-Trip Considerations

- Identify NGO/Community Partner
- Prepare Press Release
- Online Publications
- Finance and Trip Planning
- Insurance and Exercise
- Travel Log
- Book Writing/ Luncheon Talks
- Appeal to Donors with Results



# About Fundraising

- NGO practice and procedures
- NGO nature & stands
- Donor input - \$/km?
- Use of fund - 100% to NGO?
- Fund handling - direct to NGO?





# Route Planning

- Getting to the starting point?
- Leaving from destination?
- Road safety
- Weather and Climate
- Distance, altitude, terrain
- Max payload
- Where to stay?
- Where to replenish?
- Where to find help?



# Thank You





# VIP Latrines

## (Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines)

Wire mesh – trap flies

Warm Pipe – encourage air circulation

Dark Interior

Secure lining



Wind direction – encourage air circulation