Premiere of a Documentary Film

At Temporary Learning Center,
Khun Mao Orange Plantation and Wat Loi That
Background of the shooting of the film

In early 2004 the Shan Women’s Action Network (SWAN) and Danish Burma Committee (DBC) initiated a plan to raise funds to provide educational support to Shan migrant children in Thailand. The Danish government supported this plan, and obtained permission from the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs to carry out the project with the following objectives:

1. To produce and sell Christmas calendars to students in Denmark
2. To produce a book featuring the way of life of Shan migrant children for sale among teachers and students so that they could learn about the lives of Shan people
3. To produce a documentary film based on the real life of Shan migrant children in Thailand to broadcast in Denmark
4. From October 2005 to raise funds from many parts of Denmark to support the operation of various schools being assisted by SWAN

In early 2005 the production team of the film and book visited the project sites in Fang district, to collect information and footage for the project. And in November 2005, the book was distributed and the film broadcast to audiences in Denmark, showing the life of Shan migrant children.

Synopsis

Jai Shwe and Jai Lamaung wanted to go to school

The family of Jai Shwe and Jai Lamaung lived in an orange plantation. Their parents earn their living as waged laborers. One day, the two boys saw a school bus driving by and they waved their hands to the students on the bus. Jai Pang, who was on the way to school, asked the boys if they wanted to come along. Then Jai Pang went away. The two boys thought about the offer for a long time. Eventually, they decided to trek along the rough terrain to get to the school. Arriving there, they were introduced by their teacher to the whole class. The teacher gave them some notebooks and pencils as well.

Getting back home and seeing neither of their sons, the parents were very worried. They realized what had happened when the teacher brought the two children home. Because of the long distance from their home to the school, the parents asked Uncle Su to give a ride to the boys. Uncle Su only managed to drive them to school one day and then had to stop due to some problems. The parents then stopped the boys from going to school until they could find another school bus to take them. The two boys were very sad and disappointed at not being able to go to school.

When the teacher heard from his students that Jai Shwe and Jai Lamaung were not able to come to school, he went to see them at home. Then he learned the reason the boys could not make it to the school was that there was no school bus service for them. Also, the parents were too afraid to let the children walk to school in case they got hit by cars. The teacher then offered to pick up the boys himself, since their home was on the way to school. Every morning the two boys were asked to wait outside their home. Both Jai Shwe and Jai Lamaung were very glad that eventually they got to go to school.