

Bio-Data of Farmers who were under Training in Switzerland recently - and their Reports

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Qualification	Class VIII



To
The Chairman
Swiss-Bhutanese Friendship Association
Switzerland

A report on my journey to Switzerland

This is my first trip abroad, and I am very excited and nervous. On the 3rd of July we left Bhutan and arrived on the 4th of July in Zürich – Switzerland. At the Zürich airport we were received by Mr. Erich Oberholzer and he took us to our host family. Rudi and Andrea Zaugg are my host family and they have three children. The farm is very big and I am surprised by many new things that I have never seen in my life.

On Sunday Mr. Erich Oberholzer and Aum Tshering came to visit us and we all went over to the Pfister family to discuss. They explained about the fooding and lodging, insurance and the tax. Then Aum Tshering explained to my host family about the custom and culture of the Bhutanese, and in turn she also told us about the Swiss culture and the customs.

Next day I am shown how to clean the cow shed and to chop the fire wood. The fire woods are cut into 33cm and made into bundles of 20kg for the market. I learnt how to use the machine to milk the cows and also how to clean them. The tractor is used very often, so I also learnt to drive the tractor. I am taught how to cut the grass with the machine. I also learnt how to plough the field and sow the grass seeds. I also got the chance to harvest the potatoes and the corn. The Zaugg family have been very kind and patient with me, they have always explained things and was always there for me, somehow I never felt homesick at all. I really learnt a lot from them.

We were not only working and learning in the farm but we also got the chance to visit the other Cantons in Switzerland. On the 13th of July Aum Tshering and Mr. Erich Oberholzer took us for a picnic by the lake side and this was the first time in my life that I sort of swam in a lake. One of our first trip was to the city of Zürich and this was organised by Aum Tshering, Mr. Erich also joined us. Aum Tshering explained about the different types of the public transport, the different houses and we also walked through the old city and she told us about the history of Switzerland. And in the afternoon we went to the Zoo. Today was also the national day of Switzerland, so Aum Tshering had organised a trip on one of the big boats and we had our dinner on the boat and later we could see all the fire works. It was a very beautiful day. Then we slept in Aum Tshering's house and next day we went to Bad Ragaz, Landquart and to the region of Pfäfers. Mr. Erich had asked one of his friend Mr. Raphael to tell us about mountain farming. We also got the chance to part take in the birthday celebration of Mr. Daniel Schwitter, who is a friend of Aum Tshering and Mr. Erich. We all slept over in Mr. Daniel's house and next day he took us around the village. Mr. Erich also explained to us about the Swiss forestry. Next day Mr. Reinhardt took us up to the mountains and explained to us about the different kinds of fruits in Switzerland. On the 29th of August we went to Bern and there we met Dr. Menzi, he took us around the city of Bern, later in the evening we went to Thun and stayed in Dr. Menzi's house. The next day we visited Dr. Tobias who is the vet there and then we went to Niederhorn. Dr. Menzi also took us high up in the Swiss Alps to see a farm, where they worked without any machine, there they made cheese manually. This was very interesting for me as I could apply the work method back in Ha.

We also visited Ballenberg and Interlaken.

On the 14th of September Mr. Erich took us to a poultry farm and we also visited his family. All these visits were very interesting and I learnt many new things.

I also got the chance to see a Swiss wedding as Mr. Peter from the Pfister farm got married and he had invited me.

On the 27th of September we helped Aum Tshering to prepare a Bhutanese meal and had invited both the host families and also my co-workers, which was very successful.

We left for Delhi on the 28th of Sept, the Zaugg family, Mr. Peter and his wife Mrs. Barbara and Aum Tshering came to see us off.

This programme was very interesting and good for me as I learnt many new things that I could try and apply in my farm and also teach my neighbours, like to increase the milk production by supplying more fodder for the cattle. I also learnt that it is better to have less numbers of cattle and to feed them sufficiently and in return the milk production will be high, because in Ha we try to have more cattle but the milk out put is very less as there is not enough fodder. I found this programme very educative as I learnt not only the work methods but also got to meet new people with new customs. This exposure has made me more confident.

I would like to thank the Swiss-Bhutanese Friendship Association for given me this opportunity. My special thanks goes to Mr. Erich Oberholzer, Mr. E. Reinhardt, Dr. M. Menzi, Aum Tshering and my host family Mr. Rudi Zaugg and Mrs. Andrea Zaugg, for all their support and kindness.

Tashi Delek

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