APPENDIX I

INTERVIEW INFORMATION FORM FOR THE TOPIC "THE SINGPHO OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH: A STUDY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE FROM 1800 – 1947."

1. Name of the narrator: .................................................................

2. Address of the narrator: .............................................................

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E-Mail: .............................................Contact No.......................(R).............................(O)

3. Date of interview: .................................................................

4. Length of interview: .............................................................

5. Number of cassettes or discs: ..................................................

6. Transcription review by narrator: ...........................................

7. Abstract of interview:


Signature of the interviewer

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APPENDIX II

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE TOPIC ON "THE SINGPHO OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH: A STUDY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE FROM 1800 – 1947", ON THE FOLLOWING CONTENTS

QUESTIONNAIRES

1. Do you know the meaning of the nomenclature Singpho? If so then, do you know any myth related to the origin of the word Singpho?

2. Have you ever heard about any myth about the origin and migration of the Singpho? If so, then please narrate the myth or belief you know.

3. What do you think why the Singpho to migrate from Myanmar to the plains of Assam?

4. Apart from Myanmar where do the Singpho inhabited these days? Whether all the Singpho residing in different countries are known by same nomenclature?

5. Do all the Singpho have same socio-cultural practices irrespective of their settlements? What is the socio-cultural significant of Shawpawng Yawng Manau Poi festival for the people?

6. Do you still have your kit and kin in Myanmar? If so, how you manage to keep in touch with them?

7. Do the Singpho of Myanmar and the Singpho of Indian side differ in socio-cultural life?

8. What was the impact of the Indo-China war of 1962 on relation of the Singpho living in Assam side and Myanmarese side?

9. How the government restrictions on the trans-border movement affect your relations with the Singpho living in Myanmar?

10. Do the Singpho have relations with the Ahom? If so, then what kind of relations?

11. In Ahom-Singpho political relations, do you know any interesting incident? If you know from where & from whom and please narrate.
12. Do the Ahom monarchs interfere in the internal matter of the Singpho people? Did the appointment of kotokis in the Singpho area affect their political life?

13. What role the Singpho people played during the Moamaria Rebellion?

14. Traditionally, what kinds of political system the Singpho have? What changes do you observe in the traditional political and legal system?

15. What were the power and function of a chief? What kind of a relation do the chief and the commoners have?

16. What were the main reasons for political clash among the chiefs? What was the mechanism of defense among the chiefs?

17. Generally among numbers of chiefs who was considered to be the most influential among the people?

18. What is the oldest legal institution in Singpho society? How it dispense justice in the society?

19. Do the chief have influence in the process of dispensing justice? What role the village council members and the chief played in the administration of justice?

20. What were the social status & position of the Council members? How they were appointed or selected and what were the basic criteria for their selection?

21. What were the reasons for the relegation of the chieftainship and traditional village council?

22. What was the impact of Myanmarese invasions of Assam on the Singpho of Indian side?

23. Do you know something about the Singpho relations with the British? If so, could you discuss what were the reasons for the Singpho rebellion against the British administration?

24. Whether the institution of chieftainship and the traditional village council continues to be the same during the colonial period or the British interfere in the functioning of the traditional institutions?

25. What was impact of the British policies on the social, economic and political life of the Singpho?
26. Why the Christian missionaries could not convert Singpho people into Christianity?

27. During colonial period what were the livelihood activities of the people? How it was affected by the new economic policies of the British administration?

28. What constraints the people had to face in their livelihood activities during the colonial period?

29. Do you know about the history of the discovery of tea and its impact among the Singpho? If so, do you know some interesting incident or event related with tea bush in the Singpho area?

30. Whether the Singpho take pro-active part in tea business during the colonial period?

31. These days are the people engaged in tea business.

32. Do you agree that the widespread opium addiction among the Singpho started after the British introduced license system in doing opium business?

33. Do the people consume opium since pre-colonial period? If so, from where and how they manage to get opium?

34. Personally what changes do you observe in socio-cultural life in your society? What factors do you attributed to these changes?

35. What is the impact of modernity in the traditional marriage system, family system and other cultural practices?

36. What steps the people are taking to preserve the tradition and culture of the people? Do you like to add suggestions from your own side in this context if yes, then to whom and why?

37. What is the role of women in Singpho society?

38. Do the people have a traditional belief system and practices?

39. What is the impact of Buddhism in the Singpho society? Whether the Buddhist way of life has relegated your traditional belief system or it continues to be same after the people converted into Buddhism?

40. When the people totally embraced Buddhism? What were the factors for the popularity of the Buddhism among the people?
41. Whether the role of traditional priest continues to be same after the people embraced Buddhism?

42. What are changes or modification do you observe in the burial practices, marriage ceremony and celebration of festival due to the Buddhism in Singpho society?

43. What measures the people are taking to maintain peaceful co-existence in the society with their neighboring tribes?

Signature of respondent with date:
Designation/position:
Date and day:
Plate No.1, Ratna Vihar Theravada Buddhist Monastery, Miao Town, Miao Administrative Circle, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh.

Plate No.2, Frakuing (sacred altar) built in front of Theravada Buddhist Monastery. The one shown in the photograph is frakuing of Bordumsa Theravada Buddhist Monastery, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh.
Plate No.3, Permanent Manau Shadung (Stage) for the celebration of Shapawng Yawng Manau Poi festival, Bordumsa Town, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh.

Plate No.4, Welcome gate constructed in front of the Permanent Manau Shadung, at Bordumsa.
Plate No. 5, Innem Gam Singpho, showing narrating the oral traditions of the Singpho history and culture during the interview at his residence, Bordumsa, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh.

Plate No. 6, Lakhum La Singpho, Village elder while narrating the myth and oral tradition of the Singpho to the researcher, Bordumsa village, Changlang District Arunachal Pradesh.
Plate No.7, People from Pisi Village crossing the Noa Dehing River on elephant while going to Miao town. Photo was taken on 4th September 2011 by the researcher while going to Pisi Village for field work.

Plate No.8, the Theravada Buddhist Monastery, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
Plate No.9, Researcher with Narinda Bhikku, the Head Monk of Ratna Vihar Monastery, Miao town, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh.

Plate No.10, Lisu La Singpho, an Ex-Monk of Choukham Monastery narrating his personal experience as a Monk and a common man of Pisi Village, Miao Administrative Circle, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh.