



## DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

On Sunday, July 17, 2011, Kees Sprengers, professional photographer gave a presentation on his documentary project to photograph indigenous groups in Northern Laos. He also provided photography tips he has learned in about photographing such groups. The following shows the tips he provided.

You can see some of his photography at <http://www.pbase.com/kees5/root&page=all>, and for more information on Kees about his project <http://kees.zenfolio.com/>.

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Make sure (applies mostly to using digital cameras):

1. Your lens is clean
2. Your battery is full
3. Your memory card or film is inside the camera
4. The lens cap off
5. Use the maximum file size possible in the camera
6. Use Raw file format if you have it, memory is cheap.
7. Use minimum ISO to handle situation. Test your camera what is maximum useable ISO
8. Auto focus is on
9. If possible, avoid direct flash by turning flash off
10. Make notes on paper of where, when, who, and what for the photograph then photograph the paper using 'close-up', so the information is stored with the pictures.
11. Send prints back to your subjects
12. Ask permission before you photograph
13. Go close up
14. Show image on back of the digital camera to your subjects
15. Smile it makes the photographer, less intimidating.
16. Don't photograph those who don't want to be photographed.
17. For group portraits take multiple shots, one additional shot for each person in the group (invariably some will have at least one person looking elsewhere, having their eyes closed, sneezing, etc.).
18. Squat down if needed to be on the same level of your subject, e.g., a small child.
19. Take Plenty of memory, buy a spare card
20. Take a picture of a White card in the same light you are working in, and use it for white balancing in your photo software!

After shooting your pictures:

1. download to computer
2. Sort and delete the duds
3. Save everything else to back-up hard disk.
4. Save it on another hard disk! Hard discs can fail, a back-up is useful.
5. Use Adobe Lightroom 3 for editing, rating, annotating and 'tweaking', add as much info as you have. As soon as you can. (Kees's suggestion, other software may also do, but this is currently his preference)