



Indian pupils walk on fire, broken glass to boost confidence

印度學童生信心 赤腳走火紅木炭

A private school in the western Indian state of Gujarat made pupils walk over burning coals and broken glass in a **hair-raising** test designed to boost their confidence.

Officials at the Riverdale school in the city of Surat described the challenges set at a summer camp as "important exercises that will make a child strong and determined."

"We asked the students to walk with naked feet on fire and on broken glass pieces as it teaches them to deal with their fear and find new ways to overcome it," Kalpesh Patel, a school administrator, told AFP.

Patel said 80 children aged nine to 14 walked on the hot coals, while 110 students walked over glass pieces. He said no one suffered any injuries.

Television **footage** of the event was picked up by Indian news channels.

"The children were reluctant in the beginning but afterwards they **exuded** confidence," Patel said, adding that the school had been running the activities for more than a decade.

Fire-walking has existed as a religious ritual in many cultures for thousands of years. It has also gained some popularity in the US as a team-building exercise and alternative health **remedy**.

為了增加學童信心，印度西部古加拉特省一所私立小學，舉行了一場令人毛骨悚然的測驗，要學童赤腳走過火紅木炭與碎玻璃。

蘇拉特市里弗代爾小學人員表示，這項夏令營活動「是讓孩童變強壯，培養堅忍毅力的挑戰」。

校方行政人員卡爾貝希·巴戴爾跟法新社表示：「我們要求學生赤腳走在火苗與碎玻璃上，因為這讓他們學習面對恐懼，並找

出克服它的方法。」

巴戴爾說，八十名九到十四歲的孩童走上火紅木炭，而走過碎玻璃的有一百一十位，但沒有任何人受傷。

印度多家電視新聞台紛紛報導這個活動。

巴戴爾說：「孩子們一開始很排斥，但後來卻表現的很有信心。」他還說，學校舉辦這個活動已經超過十年。

這種過火宗教儀式在許多文化中已流傳數千年。在美國則因為團隊合作訓練與另類健康療法而小有名氣。

(法新社/翻譯：吳岱璽)

A Buddhist devotee walks barefoot through the flames during the **Hi-watari**, or fire walking ceremony, in the western suburbs of Tokyo, on March 14, 2010.

PHOTO: AFP

三月十四日，一位佛教徒在東京西部郊區的過火儀式上赤腳過火。 照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **footage** /'fʊtɪdʒ/ n.

片段 (pian4 duan4)

例: We were fortunate to capture some great footage of the tornado in action. (我們很幸運能拍到龍捲風正在發威的精采片段。)

2. **exude** /ɪg'zʊd/ v.

散發出 (san4 fa1 chu1)

例: The new director exudes an air of calm. (新來的經理給人沉穩的印象。)

3. **remedy** /'rɛmədi/ n.

療法 (liao2 fa3)

例: The doctor suggested an alternative remedy for my chest pain. (醫生建議我用替代療法來治療胸痛。)

LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

hair-raising 令人毛骨悚然

Something that is **hair-raising** is very scary. According to the article the fire walk is a **hair-raising** experience.

Example: "We had a few **hair-raising** moments during the flight, but fortunately we managed to land safely."

如果說某件事情「**hair-raising**」，就表示它非常可怕。上文中提到，赤腳過火是個非常可怕的經驗。

例如：「我們飛行途中經歷了幾個驚險時刻，還好最後安全降落了。」