

Nursery School at Longxing Town:

# Putting the World to Rights

隆兴镇幼儿园：让世界回归原位





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The children turned a Snow Pavilion in their little hands, a crystal snow ball with a mini replica of the Swiss Expo Pavilion inside. Snowflakes in the transparent ball brought immense joy to the children of this newly built nursery in Longxing town.

3rd September 2010 witnessed a festival in Chongzhou, a city which is just an hour's drive from Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan Province. A nursery financed and built by the Swiss community was handed over to the local authorities. With its blend of local architecture and Swiss aesthetics designed by Swiss architects Virtuarch from Shanghai, the nursery consists of single-storey, multi-colored buildings connected by two capped corridors which look like auspicious dragons in the air. The new nursery will be welcoming almost 250 children at the start of the new semester in early September.

The local authorities of Chongzhou City were delighted to welcome representatives of different Swiss partners for the reconstruction project in Sichuan. The presence of H.E. Blaise Godet, Ambassador



of Switzerland to China, who was making his third visit to Longxing town, Pieder A. Casura (HEKS), Christian Guertler (Chairman SwissCham China), Stephan Titze and Felix Sutter (both Project Co - Presidents) and Daniel Heusser (Project Manager) and many other distinguished guests were highly appreciated. The participants were greeted by children waving Chinese and Swiss national flags and entertained by a brief live performance. It was followed by an opening speech, the tour of the nursery buildings and the official inauguration ceremony to be

concluded by a press conference.

Two years ago, the picture was completely different; on 12 May 2008 a catastrophic earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale hit Wenchuan in southwestern China, killing nearly 70,000 people and leaving some 18,000 missing.

The city of Chongzhou was confronted with an emergency where more than half of its 700,000 population suffered from the earthquakes, more than 540,000 houses were destroyed and economic loss of CNY 10 billion incurred. The local schools were hit as well: 64 were injured (10 teachers and 54 students) and 12 killed (2 teachers and 10 students). Most school buildings were damaged and teaching tools no longer usable. The old nursery at Longxing town, established in 1998, had a floor space of 340 square meters and enrolled 132 children.

Shortly after the disaster, Swiss Cham Shanghai initiated a call to join forces to the Swiss community in China, including SwissCham's in Beijing and Guangzhou, the Embassy of Switzerland in China, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai, the Swiss Society Beijing, the Swiss Club Shanghai and a number of groups and



individuals, to raise funds not only in China but also in Switzerland. Some Swiss-based bilateral organizations, such as the Swiss-Chinese Association, the Swiss-Chinese Association - French Speaking Region, the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Entraide Protestante Suisse (EPER) along with some individuals, launched fundraising campaigns for the quake-stricken areas. Among them, EPER became the figurehead for the fundraising effort in Switzerland. The total collection in China and Switzerland amounted to more than CNY 7.8 million - a great achievement worth mentioning here. There is nothing like this exemplary cooperation. We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who initiated and supported the project.

The contribution by the Swiss community may pale in comparison to the disaster-caused losses; however, it is significant especially in regards to this year's 60th anniversary of the Sino-Swiss diplomatic relations. Here we see a brand new school for the children, one that draws focus from around the world.

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孩子们的小手翻转着含有世博会瑞士馆小复制品的积雪透明球。透明球内飘着的雪花带给隆兴镇一所崭新的幼儿园的孩子们无穷的喜悦。

2010年9月3日，在离四川省首府成都市有一小时路程的崇州市是个节日。地方当局接收了由瑞士资助并建立的建筑楼。该幼儿园的教室借鉴了瑞士及当地农村和小镇的风貌。每栋建筑都是以单层多彩建筑为主。一条封顶走廊把所有的教学楼连接在一起，形成波浪状，从空中看犹如是两条吉祥龙。9月份开学时这座楼将迎来250名孩子。

崇州市当局非常高兴地迎接了瑞士在华机构四川重建项目不同合作伙伴的数位代表。第三次访问隆兴镇的瑞士驻华大使顾博礼 (Blaise GODET)，HEKS的Pieder A. Casura，中国瑞士商会会长Christian Guertler，合作项目主席Stephan Titze和Felix Sutter，以及项目经理Daniel Heusser等出席受到了热烈欢迎。手上挥舞着中国和瑞士国旗的孩子们欢迎客人的到来，短暂的艺术表演之后，该项目完成致辞，建筑楼参观以及正式的落成典礼和新闻发布会。

两年前的情景与今天截然不同。2008年5月12日，汶川地区遭受了一场可怕的地震，规模达到里氏8级。有近七万人死亡，一万八千人失踪。约有七十万人口的崇州市面临着半居民遭受地震灾难，有五十四万

多户房屋被摧毁，经济损失达到100亿元人民币的紧急状态。教育部门也受到了损失：64人受伤（10名教师和54名学生），12人死亡（2名教师和10名学生）。大部分教学楼不同程度损坏，教学用具变得无法使用。1998年开设的隆兴镇幼儿园，占地340平方米，地震前拥有132个孩子。

灾难发生后不久，上海瑞士商会就发动了中国所有的瑞士社会团体，包括北京和广州瑞士商会，瑞士驻华大使馆，瑞士驻上海总领事馆，北京瑞士社团，上海瑞士俱乐部以及众多企业和个人迅速地行动了起来。不仅在中国也在瑞士开始了募捐活动。在瑞士的一些双边关系组织像瑞中协会，瑞中协会法语区分会，瑞中经济协会和瑞士新教互助协会还有一些个人发起了募捐活动。而瑞士新教互助协会成了主要赞助协会。募捐总额超过七百八十万人民币。这项成功值得提及。因为像这样有示范意义的合作是非常罕见的！我们对所有发起和支持该项目的人们深表感谢。

与这场灾难造成的损失相比，瑞士的贡献也许不是很大，但意味深长：今年，当我们庆祝瑞中建交60周年，我们可以看到这些孩子们有了一个崭新的学校，世界的目光聚集在那里……

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