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## Swiss Community Project

**Reconstruction in Sichuan:**  
School & Housing Sponsorship  
Project

**Project Newsletter, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, Autumn 2008**



## Letter from the Presidents



**Stephan Titze**  
Vice-President,  
SwissCham Shanghai



**Felix Sutter**,  
Board Member,  
SwissCham Beijing

Dear Donors,  
Dear Sir/ Madame

On May 12th 2008, a massive earthquake and subsequent aftershocks struck Wenchuan County in China's densely populated Sichuan Province, killing more than 80,000 people, injuring more than 220,000 others, and leaving an estimated 20,000 missing or buried under collapsed buildings. The earthquake overwhelmingly affected children as schools were particularly hard hit. Many of the schools simply folded and collapsed. While temporary housing and schooling is now available, reconstruction of permanent buildings is pressing.

The Swiss Business Community in China, under an initiative of SwissCham Shanghai, cosponsored by SwissCham Beijing and in cooperation with the Swiss Embassy, the Consulates General in Shanghai and Guangzhou the Swiss Club in Shanghai and the Swiss Society in Beijing aims to help with the earthquake relief, meet local needs and provide the region with immediate support. Under the leadership of SwissCham a project team has been established to assess the possibility of building an earthquake-proof school building in one of the most severely hit areas, where 80% of buildings collapsed. Our goal is to ensure children can return to school as quickly as possible in a permanent and safe building. Reconstruction will use local materials, be constructed by a local workforce and be built according to the safety standards being developed by the Chinese government.

We herewith thank all donors and people who have so far supported us and welcome all who would like to participate in future.

Best Regards

**Stephan Titze**,  
Co-President of Swiss Community Project,  
General Manager Syngenta

**Felix Sutter**  
Co President of Swiss Community  
Project,  
Partner PricewaterhouseCoopers

## In Brief:

**20.11.08** Visit to Chong Zhou City for a final approval of the location as the host of the Swiss Community School.

**08.11.08** Presentation of the project at the Swiss ball in Beijing.

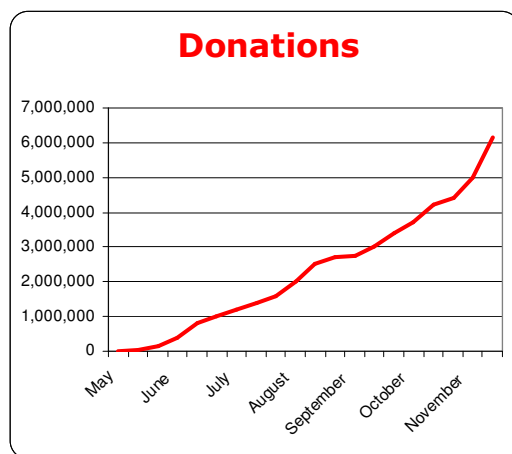
**10.09.08** Second visit to the region by steering committee members to update the local government on recent fund raising and current construction drafts.

**08.08.08** Presentation of the project at the House of Switzerland in Beijing

**29.07.08** Fact finding Mission in Sichuan. A delegation including the two Co-Presidents, the project leader and a member of Swiss Embassy in Beijing visited the region to assess the current situation and talk with the local government.

**07.07.08** First official Kick-Off Meeting with all representatives of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee has been set up and is open to companies who donate or support the project in a proactive way and wish to participate at the Steering Committee level.

## Donation update Autumn 2008



For a successful enforcement of the project a minimum budget of 7 Million RMB is needed. So far **6'156'112 Million RMB** have been collected.



Temporary playground of the school

## Interview :

*Interview with **Felix Sutter**, Co-President of the Swiss Community Project*



Long Xing Town Central Nursery School, what is left after the earthquake

**SCP:** You have been to Sichuan together with the official delegation. What were your first impressions?

**Sutter:** What deeply upset me was the scale of the disaster we found in Sichuan. Not only buildings were completely destroyed but also the streets and even the landscape has been severely demolished and changed.

**SCP:** What are the most important aspects for choosing Long Xing Town as the location for the Swiss Society School?

**Sutter:** First of all we wanted to help in a region where help is most needed. To ensure the sustainability and the bottom up approach we also wanted to focus on a region where Swiss companies already have long term relationships.

**SCP:** What kind of School will be built in Long Xing Town by the Swiss Community?

**Sutter:** The project team has decided to rebuild the Long Xing Town Central Nursery School for about 300-400 pupils. If we had more funds we would even consider building additional dormitories. For the project team it is important to guarantee an earthquake proof construction and to make sure that the project will focus on a sustainable effect. It is therefore also proposed to support the school in future with smaller projects like schoolbook donation or letter exchange with Swiss children.

**SCP:** Who has so far donated something and from where do the donors come from?

**Sutter:** There are all kinds of donors, starting with families and individuals up to large renowned companies. A lot of companies do also donate in-kind, such as doorframes, windows, toilet systems etc. It is important to us that the project remains sustainable. Therefore design, sourcing, training, and after completion tasks are planned and executed with such a mind set.

**SCP:** When will you start to rebuild the school?

**Sutter:** Even though the local authorities have already confirmed the location and size of the school to be rebuilt, we still need the approval of the national authorities. So far we have received solid support from the Chinese authorities. We work on that task with the crucial support of the Swiss Embassy. The nursery school is planned to be opened in Summer 2009..

# Chong Zhou City visit:

## Location of Chong Zhou City

One location near the earthquake's epicentre has been identified to be most suitable for a Swiss Community initiative to help. On the one hand help in these village is most needed and on the other hand a bottom up approach can there be realized through existing long term relationships of some of the Swiss Chamber members.



## First contact with Sichuan government

On their first trip to Sichuan the delegation including Steering Committee Members and Project team leaders were there to take an initial look and explore different school locations. The delegation was accompanied and guided by the responsible people of the local government. The goal of the trip was to evaluate potential schools that could be rebuilt by the Swiss Community project.

The local government was very positive about cooperation with the Swiss Community and will support the activities of the Swiss Society. The project team are in the final stage of discussions on the contract with the local government and hope to complete this in the coming weeks.



First delegation visiting Sichuan from l to r: Daniel Heusser, Stephan Titze, Krystyna Marty, Liu Yung Qing, Felix Sutter

## Long Xing Town Central Nursery School!

After careful consideration the project group has selected the Long Xing Town Central Nursery School to be reconstructed by the Swiss Community. Currently the nursery pupils are taking classes in overcrowded class rooms that have been vacated by the primary school, forcing them to be overcrowded too. An impossible situation for more than 1000 pupils.

## Profile of Long Xing Town Central Nursery School

- Location:** Long Xing Township, Chong Zhou City
- Damage:** All classrooms collapsed in the earthquake
- Size:** School for 300-400 pupils
- Sqm:** 6800
- Needed facilities:** 8 classrooms



Potential draft by Virtuarch Shanghai of the school in Sichuan with space for 400 pupils.

## Project objectives

As well as constructing an earthquake-safe, affordable, good quality, sustainable, environmentally friendly and accessible school, the following additional value-added components have been proposed:

- Facilities and access for disabled students
- Training for local construction workers in sustainable construction and business continuity planning
- Training and awareness of Chinese Building Codes
- Localized risk management manuals and procedures
- Risk engineering expertise to be available
- Enable the community to maintain the infrastructure themselves at lowest costs possible
- Stimulate the local economy by using local enterprises where feasible and possible
- In case enough funds are collected dormitories will be constructed adjacent to the school
- Quality control skills to be applied by local construction companies and officials

Timeline of the project:	
February 09	Start of construction
Summer 09	Opening ceremony of school

## How you can help?



We are looking for other Swiss organisations to join in and assist 'The Swiss Business Community Reconstruction Project' rebuild the futures of these communities by providing the funding and non-financial resources that are needed to reconstruct schools and homes. To date we have raised 6'156'112 RMB in financial donations and multiple non-financial support commitments including materials, transportation, etc. Furthermore, many of the Swiss companies will look to engage their local staff where possible, to help with this activity.

Donations will be coordinated through the steering committee and PricewaterhouseCoopers will provide monitoring services to ensure that the resources are used effectively and can be appropriately accounted for during and after the project..

If you would like to make a donation or have further enquiries, please contact

- In China: **Felix Sutter:** [felix.sutter@cn.pwc.com](mailto:felix.sutter@cn.pwc.com) / Tel. + 86 (10) 6533 2110 (Beijing)  
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Alternatively donations can be paid into the following bank account with the reference "**EARTHQUAKE RELIEF**"

**Bank:** UBS AG Beijing Branch  
**Account Name:** SWISS CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**Account Number:** 2701450101  
**Bank Address:** 12/F Winland International Finance Center, No. 7 Finance Street, Xicheng District, Beijing 100140, China  
**General Line:** 8610-58327000

**Help us lay a foundation from which the earthquake victims can rebuild a future for themselves and their families.**