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## Swiss Community Project

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

**Project Newsletter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, April 2009**



## Letter from the Presidents



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



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

Dear Donors,  
Dear Sir/ Madame

In the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake many Swiss companies donated to various charities and invested in projects to assist in the relief and reconstruction in Sichuan. The Swiss community project was initiated by the SwissCham Shanghai with the support of the Embassy of Switzerland, the Consulates General in Shanghai and Guangzhou, the SwissCham in Beijing, the Swiss Club in Shanghai and the Swiss Society in Beijing with the objective to rebuild a school in one of the worst affected areas in Sichuan and help children to return to a permanent school as quickly as possible. With the help of generous donations of Swiss Companies in China, Swiss Charities and Development Agencies and the Swiss people in China a total amount of more than 6 million cash and in-kind donations were collected, sufficient to rebuild a school for over 300 children. The new kindergarten is planned to be reconstructed as a model kindergarten in the area and is expected to be constructed in the fall of 2009. It is intended to give these children the opportunity to learn and develop for a better future after the earthquake with a secure and high-quality but economical building.

We are also delighted to announce that the groundbreaking ceremony will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May in Long Xing township. Besides expecting media representatives as well as Chinese and Swiss officials, all donors and other interested parties are cordially invited to attend this ceremony.

Herewith we 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 Swiss  
Community Project and  
General Manager Syngenta

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

## 总裁寄语:

尊敬的捐赠者，  
尊敬的先生们、女士们：

在四川地震之后，许多瑞士公司向多家慈善机构进行了捐赠，并参与到震后的救灾和重建项目中。在上海瑞士商会的倡议下，中国瑞士商会与北京瑞士商会共同合作，联合瑞士大使馆、上海和广州的瑞士总领事馆以及上海瑞士俱乐部和北京瑞士社团要在四川受灾最严重的地区建一所幼儿园，以帮助孩子们尽快返回并可以在安全的永久性校舍中安心学习、成长。多家驻华瑞士公司、瑞士慈善机构和发展机构、以及在华的瑞士人民慷慨解囊，目前已捐赠超过600万的人民币及多种物资，用来建立一所可容纳300多个孩子的幼儿园。新幼儿园计划被建为该地区幼儿园的典范，预计将于2009年秋季建成。新幼儿园注重安全、高质量和经济性，旨在为孩子们在灾后的生活中提供一个良好的学习和成长的机会。

我们很荣幸的宣布，新学校的奠基仪式将于2009年5月20日在隆兴镇举行。届时除了媒体代表，中、瑞士官员外，我们还将诚挚邀请所有捐赠人和其他相关团体出席该仪式。

在此我们感谢所有捐赠者以及所有给予我们支持的人们，并且对未来所有愿意加入该项目的热心人士表示欢迎。

敬礼！

**Stephan Titze 与 Felix Sutter**

瑞士商会项目联合总裁，先正达总经理  
瑞士商会项目联合总裁，普华永道合作伙伴

## In Brief:

**13.04.09** Easter gifts donated by the Swiss Society in China and the Swiss Embassy are presented to the children in Long Xing. Final changes are made to land plot documents and preparation for the groundbreaking ceremony. Two Swiss Radio journalists attend the visit and interview local officials. Pictures are taken for 2010 calendar project.

**10.03.09** the concept design is presented to the relevant authorities and the kindergarten headmistress in Longxing. Virtuarch clarifies open questions regarding the land and updates the design according to new requirements.

**16.02.09** a local project manager is hired by the project group.

**19.01.09** the requirements from the Planning Bureau are fulfilled.

**13.01.09** the draft site plan from the Government is received.

**12.01.09** the agreement with the local government is officially signed. The Ambassador of Switzerland in China, the Vice President of the SwissCham Shanghai, a Board Member of SwissCham Beijing as well as some of the donors attend the ceremony with the Mayor of Chongzhou and other representatives of the city.



The Swiss and the Local Government Delegation at the Signing Ceremony in January 2009

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

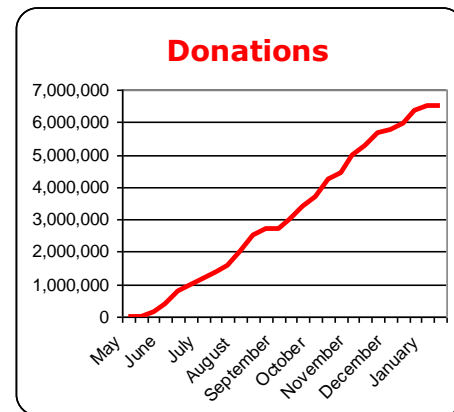
**29.07.08** Fact finding Mission in Sichuan.

**07.07.08** First official Kick-Off Meeting with all representatives of the Steering Committee.

## Next steps

<b>20<sup>th</sup> of May 2009</b>	Ground Breaking Ceremony
<b>June 2009</b>	Start of Construction
<b>November 2009</b>	Children move in school
<b>December 2009</b>	Opening ceremony of school
<b>January 2010</b>	End of the project

## Donation update Spring 09



For a successful enforcement of the project a minimum budget of **7 Million RMB** is needed. So far **6'250'000 Million RMB** have been collected and confirmed. To ensure the full realization of the project at least **750'000 RMB** is still needed. Please contact us if you would like to participate and/or donate. Please find the contact details below.

## Project Profile:

### Long Xing Town Central Nursery School

**Location:** Long Xing Township, Chongzhou City  
**Damage:** All classrooms collapsed in the earthquake  
**Size:** School for 200 - 250 pupils  
**Sqm:** 4200  
**Facilities:** 7 classrooms

### 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
- Quality control skills to be applied by local construction companies and officials

## Signing Ceremony of the Reconstruction Project:

### Warm welcome by the Chong Zhou city government:

On January 12, 2009, the Swiss Community Reconstruction in Sichuan - School & Housing Sponsorship Project and Sichuan Chong Zhou Municipal Government signed a cooperation agreement on the reconstruction of the central kindergarten in Long Xing township of Chong Zhou city in Sichuan. The signing ceremony of this reconstruction project was attended by the Ambassador of Switzerland in China, the Vice President of the SwissCham Shanghai, a Board Member of SwissCham Beijing and the Mayor of Chong Zhou city.



Pupils welcome the delegation from Switzerland at their School in Long Xing Town

### The beginning of a long term relationship

Blaise Godet, the Ambassador of Switzerland to China, said: "There has been a long friendly and mutual aiding relationship between Switzerland and China. In addition to immediate donation and relief work after the disaster, we hope to provide the Chinese Government constant support and help in long-term reconstruction and restoration of the disaster areas. Apart from this comfortable, modern, and beautiful school with high earthquake resistance, we will create communication opportunities between the Swiss and Chinese children by organizing mutually corresponding activities, promote communications and advanced training in infant education between Switzerland and China, enhance



### Exchanging presents with the Mayor of Changzhou City

l to r: Felix Sutter, Stephan Titze, Mayor of Chong Zhou City and Blaise Godet, Ambassador of Switzerland

hardware and software for the infancy education in Sichuan villages and towns, and help the local children to study and grow in an easy, happy and healthy way."

### Support from various experts

The conceptual design by a Swiss architecture office is focusing on a learning environment suitable for children of this age, providing numerous inside and outside spaces for playing, combining the qualities of a Swiss town environment with the ones of traditional Chinese palaces, while realizing fully environment-friendly and therefore sustainable school buildings. With an area of 4,200 square meters, the entire school building will be suitable and accessible for disabled children, too. During the construction, some Swiss donor enterprises also provide a series of advanced construction management support and valued services, including training of local builders in sustainable construction and service planning, localized risk management and standardization, provision of practical specialized risk engineering technologies. Enterprises also aim to help the local communities to maintain the infrastructure on their own at the possibly lowest price, so as to ensure successful construction of a quake-proof, sustainable, high quality, and environment-friendly school.



Media representatives carefully listen the speech of the representative of Chongzhou Municipal Government

## Interview:

*Interview with **Alex Sudan**, SICPA, Participant of the Signing Ceremony in January and General Manager of Sicpa China, one of the Donors of the Swiss Community Project*



Swiss Delegation Visit of the provisional Central Nursery School in Long Xing Town

**SCP:** You have attended the Signing Ceremony of the Reconstruction Project in Long Xing Town in January. What was your impression of the area since this region was hit hard by the earthquake last year in May?

**Sudan:** We could not see many earthquake affected buildings in the area we visited, since much work had already been done in the clearing, repair and rebuilding of houses. We had a humble but impressive welcome from the local authorities who have shown their dedication and appreciation to the region reconstruction, and in particular to the Swiss Community project.

**SCP:** How did the schoolchildren welcome you in their provisional school building?

**Sudan:** I was very impressed and moved by the children of the Long Xing school who were studying in difficult conditions in temporary school buildings. Those children and teachers gave us such a radiant and lively welcome. We visited their classrooms attended by 50 to 100 pupils, learning the hard way, with no comfort and no much of the didactic material our kids enjoy in Switzerland, but we could feel a strong sense of determination and hope for the life to come, in a truly happy mood!

**SCP:** What was the reason for your company to donate to this community project?

**Sudan:** The SICPA Group is involved in China for about 25 years and our joint-venture company in Beijing, the China Banknote SICPA Security Ink company also supplies products in Sichuan province. Our JV employees spontaneously collected funds a few days after the earthquake and our HQ in Lausanne decided to back up this move with a larger donation for a long term project related to children and education. We felt that the Swiss community project was indeed well managed and well controlled, with guaranties of quality building and usage of funds.

**SCP:** In your opinion, what is the long-term effect of such a reconstruction project for the schoolchildren?

**Sudan:** Well, children everywhere are our future! This school will last for many years. I hope that the Swiss community will be able to support the long term maintenance of buildings, and why not, support the school operation and the education of Children.

**SCP:** Will you visit the school again in the future?

**Sudan:** Definitely yes, most likely when the school starts operation and I am looking very much forward to be back in Long Xing Town.



Group photo with delegation and children at Long Xing School: from l to r: Paul Bussinger, Dierlikon / Stephan Titze, Syngenta / Felix Sutter, PwC/ Blaise Godet, Ambassador of Switzerland in Beijing/ Alex Sudan, SICPA

# Wanted: Post Cards and drawings for Long Xing Primary School

## Post Cards from Long Xing Primary School

After the singing ceremony in January 2009 the Swiss Community Project Steering Committee has received many postcards from Long Xing Primary School. Below is a selection of these cards - written by the pupils to thank all donors and supporters of their new school. To build up long a long term partnership between Swiss kids and the children in Chongzhou the project team is looking for children who would like to send pictures and post cards to the children in Sichuan.



## What to write and what to draw?

You are free to draw and write whatever you like. However, possible topics could be the following:

- Paint a picture of the school of the Swiss Community Project: How could it look like?
- Write about yourself and about your hobbies, what would be a game you would like to play with the children from Long Xing School?
- Paint a picture of Switzerland or of China
- Write about your wishes to the children in Sichuan



## Where can I send the pictures or letters?

Please send your cards or pictures to Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce Shanghai "New School for Long Xing"

1612, Regus Silver Centre, No.1388 North Shaanxi Road, Shanghai 200060, P.R.China  
 Tel: +86 21 6149 8207  
 Fax: +86 21 6149 8132  
 Email: l.minder@sha.swisscham.org

## Postcards from Long Xing Primary School:

More cards can be found on the following website: [www.swisscham.org/sha/news/sichuan.php](http://www.swisscham.org/sha/news/sichuan.php)



Dear Handsome Mr. Sutter,

I sincerely hope to make friends with Swiss children, wish your country become richer and stronger. Please come and visit us when you have time, we will also perform the show.

*Long Xing Primary School*

Dear Mr. Titze,

How are you? Are you getting used to your life in China? Spring comes, birds singing, flowers blooming, do you see them? The teacher said good man deserves good rewards, I wish you so and hope you visit us more.

*Long Xing Primary School*



Dear Handsome Mr. Bussinger,

Is everything going on well at work? Lots of fun in our primary school now, hope you can visit us with your friends sometime, I wish you a good health and wealth in OX year.

*Long Xing Primary School*

## How you can help?



We are still 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 6'250'000 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. Also donations of Construction Materials are welcome; your material donation can still be integrated in the construction design, allowing your company to have a model project in Sichuan province. For material donations, please contact the design and project management.

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

In China:

<b>Felix Sutter:</b>	Co-President Steering Committee	<a href="mailto:felix.sutter@cn.pwc.com">felix.sutter@cn.pwc.com</a>	Tel. + 86 (10) 6533 2110 (Beijing)
<b>Christoph Lang</b>	Liaison, Swiss Embassy	<a href="mailto:christoph.lang@eda.admin.ch">christoph.lang@eda.admin.ch</a>	Tel. +86 (10) 8532 8888 ext. 8869 (Beijing)
<b>Liv Minder</b>	Communications, Swisscham Shanghai	<a href="mailto:l.minder@sha.swisscham.org">l.minder@sha.swisscham.org</a>	Tel. +86 (21) 6149 8208 (Shanghai)
<b>Daniel Heusser</b>	Architect / Project Director	<a href="mailto:d.heusser@virtuarch.net">d.heusser@virtuarch.net</a>	Tel. +86 (21) 5272 9909 (Shanghai)

In Switzerland:

<b>Natasha Issa</b>	<a href="mailto:natasha.issa@zurich.com">natasha.issa@zurich.com</a>	Tel. +41 (0) 44 639 2015 (Zurich)
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Alternatively donations can be paid into the following bank account with the reference "EARTHQUAKE RELIEF"

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



**The foundation stone has been laid – Help us to finalise the school project in Sichuan**