

## Swiss Community Project

**Reconstruction in Sichuan:**  
School Reconstruction Project  
<http://www.swisscham.org/sha>

### Monthly Update, October 2009

Dear Sir/Madame,

Thank you again for your support of the Swiss Community Project to reconstruct the Longxing Kindergarten School in Sichuan, after the devastating earthquake in May 2008. We are pleased to report substantial progress on the construction of the school. As you can see from the photograph below, the foundations for the main buildings have been completed; wall and roof pillar work is now in progress.

We have selected and agreed a contract with the main general contractor for construction and overcome many challenges with respect to planning, various inspections and contractual issues. Also after a great deal of personal efforts from key people on the project, Swiss Cham, Chongzhou RedCross and Chongzhou Education Bureau have signed a 3-party agreement to ensure smooth handling of donations and payments. For further details, please see below.

Your contributions and support will make this project a success, helping rebuild lives and providing a brighter future for over 300 Children in Sichuan.

Sincere thanks,

Swiss Community Project



## Headline News:

- After a challenging but robust selection process, on Sept 12<sup>th</sup> we successfully **agreed a contract with the main general construction contractor.**
- The **foundations** for the main buildings have been laid and **key aspects reviewed and accepted by the quality inspection agency** – a significant achievement.
- The complicated matter of managing the donations and ensuring a **robust, controlled and reliable payment arrangement has been achieved**, with the 3-party agreement between SwissCham, Chongzhou RedCross and Chongzhou Education Bureau.
- We are **maintaining our focus on constructing a high-quality, earthquake-safe school**, with further enhancements including additional paving around entire foundation.
- **Teacher education will start in December/January** and will be completed before school opening. Teacher nomination will be expected in early November. Volunteers are sought to host the teachers in BJ and SH.

## Looking forward:

- The current time schedule foresees an **opening during February 2010**, which remains feasible, however challenging.
- During November, we will **tender and review bids** for the ID contractor and landscaping contractor and **complete the civil and structure work.**
- We should also get the **construction permit confirmation** and **complete the safety and quality control inspections.**
- We will **start the planning for the official opening ceremony**, including looking at how to involve donors, authorities and media – further details to be shared when available.
- We have discovered that **the water supply for the school is currently not safe** and we need to install water purification equipment. This will require additional funding.

## Donation update:

- As at end-Sept, the total amount of committed donations (both financial and in-kind) had reached **RMB 6.5m.**
- Based on the updated conceptual design, the main construction project budget is foreseen to be **RMB 6.8 million.** However to provide the additional on-going maintenance, fixtures and fittings, teacher training, etc the total project budget sits at **RMB 11.5m.**
- We are therefore **still looking for other Swiss organisations to join in and assist project**, by providing the funding and non-financial resources that are needed.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers will provide **monitoring services** to ensure that resources are used effectively and appropriately accounted.
- If you would like to **make a donation** or have further enquiries, please contact

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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

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