

Swiss Community Project

Reconstruction in Sichuan:
School Reconstruction Project

<http://www.swisscham.org/sha/news/sichuan.php>

Monthly Update, November 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

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. Since our last update to you we have resolved some issues related to timely payment of our suppliers and can confirm again great progress on the construction of the school. As you can see from the photograph below, the every day the building achieves a greater height!

With our focus on constructing a high-quality learning environment for the local children, important safety and quality control inspections have been passed. Furthermore, we are continually working with our on-site partners to ensure all aspects of the site and construction are performed to the appropriate standards. 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 250 Children in Sichuan.

Sincere thanks,

Swiss Community Project



Headline News:

- We continue to **source the best partners** to support the various aspects of creating the school, with **tendering, bidding, selection and contracting** for corridor, interior design and landscaping contractors on-going in November.
- The **foundations** for the main buildings have been **checked and approved** by the quality inspector – a significant achievement.
- The project team is making **considerable efforts with our on-site partners** to ensure the site and finished products are in line with our **high quality standards**.
- We encountered **some challenges getting money through the system** to ensure it was available when required and ensure appropriate controls; this has been resolved to ensure the work continues as planned.
- **Teacher education will start in December/January**. Teacher nomination was completed in November. We are now defining the details. Volunteers are sought to host the teachers in BJ and SH.
- **Calendars** have been printed and available for sale; **please contact us to help sell these before 2010!**

Looking forward:

- The current time schedule foresees an **opening during February 2010**, which remains feasible, however challenging.
- The **roof will be on the main buildings during December** and we plan to hold a small ceremony to mark this key landmark.
- During December, we will **conclude contracts** with various contractors and **complete the civil and structure work**.
- 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 continue to **identify additional funding** support for additional items such as the installation of water purification equipment.

Donation update:

- As at end November, the total amount of committed donations (both financial and in-kind) had reached **RMB 7.2m**.
- 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

In China:

Felix Sutter: Co-President , Project

felix.sutter@cn.pwc.com

Tel. + 86 (10) 6533 2110 (Beijing)

Christoph Lang: Liaison, Swiss Embassy

Christoph.lang@eda.admin.ch

Tel. +86 (10) 8532 8888 ext. 8869(Beijing)

Daniel Heusser: Architect/ Project Director

d.heusser@virtuarch.net

Tel. +86 (21) 5272 9909 (Shanghai)

In Switzerland:

Karin Reiter

karin.reiter@zurich.com

Tel. +41 (0) 44 639 2015 (Zurich)

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

Tel. +86 (10) 5832 7000