

Swiss Community Project

Reconstruction in Sichuan:
School Reconstruction Project

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

Monthly Update, December 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. Since our last update to you we have had some challenges in settling payments to our contractors that has caused some delays; however we have worked hard to resolved these issues. As you can see from the photograph below, significant progress has still been made in the last month, with some roofing in place and most structures reaching greater heights!

Our relationship with the local government remains strong and constructive. Following a successful meeting during December, we were able to confirm and progress several items with them. We also gained some additional publicity in Switzerland, with a recent article in the leading Swiss newspaper "Sonntags-Blick", which you can access from the following web-link <http://www.blick.ch/news/ausland/spenden-sie-ein-kinderlachen-136143>.

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 had a **successful meeting with the local government**, including Director of the Education Bureau in December. We were able to get their support on the payment processing issues, confirm their responsibility for local utilities and on-going maintenance.
- We have **issued the tender for interior design and landscaping contractors** and will receive their proposals in coming weeks.
- Building #2,#3,#5 and#6 have roofing in place, the first floor of building#1 has been finished and the roofing of building #1 and #4 will be finished by the middle of January.
- We have **engaged the free services of a Europe-China intern** to help plan and prepare for the opening ceremony. He will work with the Education Bureau and donors to develop a plan in January.
- We encountered **some challenges getting money through the system** this has resulted in some delays as the General Contractor work slowed whilst awaiting some payments. This has now been resolved but has impacted our planned construction completion date by around 5 weeks.
- **Teacher education will start in February.** This was one of the topics discussed with the local Education Bureau and we are following up with our partner to finalize the details.
- We have **sold almost 1000 calendars**, generating additional funds and publicity.

Looking forward:

- The current time schedule foresees an **opening during April 2010.** This has moved out a few weeks due to the delays caused by payment processing issues.
- The **roof will be on all the main buildings by January**, so that we will be able to start the work on the interior.
- During January, we will **conclude contracts** with various contractors, including the Interior Design and Landscape contractors.
- We will **continue planning for the official opening ceremony.**

Donation update:

- As at mid-December, the total amount of committed donations (both financial and in-kind) had reached **RMB 7.8m.**
- Based on the updated conceptual design, the main construction project budget is foreseen to be **RMB 7 million.** However to provide the additional on-going maintenance, fixtures and fittings, teacher training, etc the total project budget sits at **RMB 9 million.**
- 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

Bank Address: 12/F Winland International Finance Center, No. 7 Finance Street, Xicheng District, Beijing 100140, China

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