



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

swisscham.org



EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN CHINA

Beijing, 12 January 2009

Media release

Swiss Community in China to Rebuild a Sichuan Earthquake Affected School

On January 12, 2009, The Swiss Community Reconstruction in Sichuan - School & Housing Sponsorship Project and Sichuan Chongzhou Municipal Government signed a cooperation agreement on the reconstruction of the central kindergarten in Longxing township of Chongzhou 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 Chongzhou city.

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 7 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 completed 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.

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 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."

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 6,800 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.

Main Contact:

▪ In China:

Felix Sutter: felix.sutter@cn.pwc.com / Tel. + 86 (10) 6533 2110 (Beijing)

Krystyna Marty: krystyna.marty@eda.admin.ch / Tel. +86 (10) 8532 8888 ext. 8829 (Beijing)

Liv Minder: l.minder@sha.swisscham.org / Tel. +86 (21) 6149 8208 (Shanghai)

▪ In Switzerland:

Natasha Issa: natasha.issa@zurich.com / Tel. +41 (0) 44 639 2015 (Zurich)

Attachment 1: Donor List

Belimo / Buchi HK Ltd. / Bobst / Dätwyler Cables+Systems Shanghai / CH-Ina Employees / CH-Ina / Fracht AG / Gustav Erne / Geberit Shanghai Trading Co. Ltd / Christian & Yaling Guertler / Holcim / Hilti / Jansen AG in Oberriet SG / Chris Norup / PIXY Shanghai Ltd. / PricewaterhouseCoopers / Netstal China Ltd. / Novartis / Oerlikon / Rieter / Sicpa / River Lake Shipping Group / Selective International Management / Siegfried Ltd. Shanghai Rep. Office / Swisseau Corporation / Swiss Table / Swissnex shanghai / Syngenta (China) / Investment Co., Ltd / Voegele / Virtuarch / Hans-Peter Willi / Christine Zimmerli / Zurich Insurance / Glückskette / DEZA

Attachment 2: Design of the new kindergarten



四川省崇州市隆兴镇中心幼儿园
Longxing Central Kindergarten, Chongzhou, Sichuan