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## **GROUNDBREAKING FOR SWISS COMMUNITY PROJECT IN CHONGZHOU: LONGXING NURSERY SCHOOL**

(May 20, 2009, Chongzhou City, Sichuan Province) The Swiss Community Reconstruction Project in Sichuan broke ground for the central Kindergarten in Longxing town of Chongzhou city, one of the areas affected by the earthquake in 2008.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place at the new site for the Longxing Nursery School. It was attended by local government officials and other attending sponsors and partners of the Swiss Community in China, especially Mr. Blaise Godet, Ambassador of Switzerland in China, Mr. Christian Guertler, Chairman of SwissCham China, Mr. Stephan Titze and Mr. Felix Sutter, Co-Presidents of the Steering Committee of the project and Mr. Daniel Heusser, Architect and Director of the project.

Mr. Blaise Godet, Ambassador of Switzerland in China, officials from Chongzhou City and representatives of the donors shoveled the first soil for the Longxing Nursery School. This historic action will be recorded in the annuals of the kindergarten as the official start of the construction phase for Swiss Community Reconstruction Project.

This reconstruction project financed mainly by the Swiss business community in China and Switzerland was initiated a few days after the earthquake by SwissCham Shanghai, co-sponsored by SwissCham Beijing and has gained the patronage of the Swiss Embassy, the Consulates General in Shanghai and Guangzhou, the Swiss Club in Shanghai and the Swiss Society in Beijing. Up to date, the Swiss Community has raised 6,250,000 RMB in financial donations and multiple non-financial support commitments for the supply and transportation of materials. In addition, many volunteer hours have been spent and committed for the realization of the project. Donors include many Swiss companies, HEKS, Swiss Lottery and individuals.

The new kindergarten was designed by a Swiss architecture office Virtuarch in Shanghai. Inspired by traditional Chinese garden design, a dragon-shaped covered corridor has been used to create a feeling of learning and exploring inside the school as well as to separate the long plot into different spaces. The concept design is focusing on learning environment suitable for Children of kindergarten age, providing several inside and outside spaces for playing. With an area of 6,500 square meters, the school can host over 300 students and will be suitable and accessible for disabled children too. The arrangements of the classroom buildings refer to the pattern of habitation in rural areas and small towns in Sichuan as well as in Switzerland. By using fast growing bamboos as plants and as construction material for the corridors, the project implements environmental-friendly techniques and therefore creates sustainable school buildings.

Mr. Blaise Godet, Ambassador of Switzerland in China said: “During my last visit, I noticed that the children in Longxing were studying in very difficult conditions in temporary school buildings, but I was very impressed and moved by the children’s energy and enthusiasm. This urges us to speed up the pace of school reconstruction. The hope I expressed last time when I stood on this ground for working with the Chinese Government to provide constant support and help in the long-term reconstruction and restoration of the disaster areas is today symbolized in a project where two dragons are providing shelter and pleasure to the children of this kindergarten. Apart from this safe, comfortable, colorful and modern school facility, we will create communication opportunities between Swiss and Chinese children by organizing mutually corresponding activities. The model kindergarten will be a symbol as well as a living example for the collaboration between Swiss and Chinese people to learn from and to help each other. We will also look to provide training opportunities for teachers from Sichuan province to upgrade their education skills in international kindergartens in Shanghai and Beijing during their school holidays.”



## **Contact Information:**

### **In China:**

Felix Sutter: Co-President Steering Committee  
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)

Liv Minder Communications, Swisscham Shanghai l.minder@sha.swisscham.org  
Tel. +86 (21) 6149 8208 (Shanghai)

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)

### **Sponsors:**

Alain Roy/ Armada Shipping SA / Vaud-Shaanxi/China Association/ Belimo/ Bobst/ Braloba/ Buchi HK Ltd./ CH-Ina/ CH-Ina Employees/ Chris Norup/ Christian & Yaling Guertler/ Glueckskette / Daetwyler Cables+System Shanghai/ DEZA/ Fracht AG/ Geberit Shanghai Trading Co. Ltd/ Glueckskette/ HEKS/ Gustav Erne/ Hans-Peter Willi/ Hans-Peter Willi/ Jansen AG in Oberriet SG/ Nestle China/ Netstal China Ltd./ Oerlikon China/ PIXY Shanghai Ltd./ PricewaterhouseCoopers/ Rieter/ River Lake Shipping Group/ Schweizerisch-Chinesischen Gesellschaft/ Selective International Management/ China Banknote SICPA Security Ink Co/ Siegfried Ltd. Shanghai Rep.Office/ Sulzer/ Swiss Chamber of Commerce China/ Swiss Table Shanghai / SwissClub Shanghai/ Swisseau Corporation/ Swissnex shanghai/ Syngenta (China) Investment Co., Ltd/ Tong Zhen Gang/ Virtuarch/ Voegele/ Zurich Insurance/ Christine Zimmerli/

## **Project Leaders and VIP's**



**Blaise GODET**

**Ambassador of Switzerland  
to the People's Republic of China**

Blaise GODET was born in 1947 in Neuchatel. He has a law degree from the University of Neuchatel and is qualified as a lawyer. Mr. Blaise Godet is married, has a daughter and a son and two grand-children. He started his professional career in one of the big Swiss banks and entered the diplomatic service in 1974:

瑞士驻中国大使



**Daniel HEUSSER**  
**Senior Architect**  
**General Manager of Virtuarch**

Project Director of Swiss Reconstruction Project

Mr. HEUSSER's primary role is to be in charge of supervising the entire project, especially concerning the conceptual design, detail design and construction design, as well as the coordination with the Owner. After his graduation as Architect in ETH Zurich, he has worked as Senior Architect and Project Manager in China for more than 12 years.



**Christian GUERTLER**  
**CEO Dulwich Management International**  
Chairman of SwissCham China  
President of the Board of SwissCham Shanghai

Christian GUERTLER lived and worked in China for the last 14 years.. He has a degree in economics from the University of St.Gallen and is an alumni of London and Harvard Business School. He has a longtime experience as an investment expert and manager in China and Asia. Mr. Christian Guertler is married, has a daughter and a son.



**Stephan M TITZE**  
**General Manager of Syngenta China**  
Vice President, Marketing Officer of the Board of SwissCham Shanghai  
Co-President Swiss Community Project

Mr. Stephan TITZE graduated in 1988 with Bachelor of Applied Science (1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours) in Rural Management , Agriculture Marketing from the University of Queensland. He worked in Australia, Indonesia, North and Central Europe. Now he is working as General Manager in China to lead the team to turn around our China business.



**Mr. Felix SUTTER**

**Partner Systems and Process Assurance  
PricewaterhouseCoopers Beijing**

Board of Director, SwissCham Beijing  
Co-President Swiss Community Project

Felix M. SUTTER is a partner in the Systems and Process Assurance Practice in PricewaterhouseCoopers Beijing office. He joined in 2005 from the Switzerland office. He has over 30 years' working experience and particularly strong in the insurance industry.