


# Swiss Community Project

**Reconstruction in Sichuan:**  
School & Housing Sponsorship Project

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
  
Embassy of Switzerland in China  
瑞士驻华大使馆

**swisscham.org**





## INTRODUCTION

The death toll from the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008 earthquake centered in southwest China's Sichuan province is more than 68,500 and is sure to rise with 20,000 missing. During this earthquake private housing, most of the school buildings and other facilities in these places collapsed or were seriously damaged, causing serious casualties among teachers and students. Based on calculations from Chinese news reports, the dead include at least 9,000 students and teachers whose schools fell or were buried under landslides.

The Swiss Business Community in China, under an initiative of SwissCham Shanghai, cosponsored by SwissCham Beijing and in cooperation with the Swiss Embassy, the Consulates General in Shanghai and Guangzhou the Swiss Club in Shanghai and the Swiss Society in Beijing aims to help with the earthquake relief, meet local needs and provide the region with immediate support. We are glad to facilitate the wish of many members and friends who would like to show their compassion and solidarity with the countless people in need.

A special team has now evaluated the need and the possibility to set up an earthquake - proof school building in one of the worst hit areas. To make sure students can go back to school as soon as possible, we need your help to build up a permanent and safe school. Furthermore we target to support the construction of affordable housing, in addition to the school.

The project is under the patronage of the Ambassador of Switzerland to China, the Swiss General Consuls and SwissCham Shanghai and already has the support of major Swiss businesses such as Syngenta, Oerlikon, Zurich Financial Services, Geberit, Rieter and many more.

**Our host country is suffering from the most devastating earthquake in 30 years, and now China needs all the help it can get!** Let Swiss Business in China and the Swiss community at large join the effort.

**Don't wait donate**

Dante Martinelli  
Ambassador of Switzerland

Christian Guertler  
President SwissCham Shanghai

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## ISSUES

In the first days and weeks after the earthquake a first wave of aid has reached the needy population of the hit area. The Swiss Government through SDC and the Swiss Red Cross have immediately offered rescue support and have provided financial as well as material assistance in the form of tents, blankets and other material.

While temporary housing and schooling is now available, reconstruction of permanent buildings is pressing. China's Government is preparing under the guidance of NDRC and the support of Mofcom a Master Plan for reconstructing the infrastructure in Sichuan, expected to be finalized by August. The whole reconstruction, according to the Chinese authorities, should be finished within three years. However the first tangible constructions should preferably be in place before winter.

Observations made by members of Shanghai based Swiss Business Community operating in the affected area, as well as relief teams from Switzerland, suggest that reconstruction efforts after the earthquake in Sichuan should be affordable, using local material, being constructed by a local workforce and being built according to the safety standards being developed by the Chinese government.

## TARGET GROUP/BENEFICIARIES

There are many people in severely affected areas, which lost houses, schools and community infrastructure but are not on first line of priority to receive government funds for reconstruction. These include among others students and handicapped people.

Direct or indirect benefits to the communities in large will be provided in having a place for social interaction and education.

## GOAL/OBJECTIVES/RESULTS

To address the needs identified, a Swiss Community supported project should contribute to construct a safe, affordable, good-quality, sustainable and environmentally friendly facility also accessible to handicapped people for a community in Sichuan. One or several schools should be built, as well as affordable housing near by the schools according to their needs.

In addition to school and living space the aim is to provide the following:

- On-the-spot-training of 5 foreman's in sustainable construction
- Training and awareness on the implementation of Chinese Building Codes
- Localized risk management manuals and procedures
- Provide quality control skills to be applied by local construction companies and officials
- Enable the community to maintain the infrastructure themselves at lowest costs possible
- Stimulate the local economy by using local enterprises where feasible and possible

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## LOCATION/SCOPE

4 locations near the earthquake's epicenter have been identified to be most suitable for a Swiss Community initiative to help. On the one hand help is in these villages and towns most needed and on the other hand a bottom up approach can there be realized through existing long term relationships of some of the Swiss Chamber members:

- Yingxiu town
- Hongbai town
- Beichuan county
- Qingchuan county

However, the decision where to start the Swiss Re-construction Project will depend on the final choice and approval of the central and local authorities.



Source: Asia Times online

## APPROACH/TIMEFRAME

Project implementation should ensure fast, sustainable, effective and efficient realization of the project. Involvement of and cooperation with central and local authorities is essential; support is sought from Swiss Embassy and SDC; financial contributions are needed; cooperation is foreseen with private local institutions, local craftsmen and local construction companies; volunteers contribute to the project with their know-how (risk-engineering, etc) and/or working hours on site. Accountability to donors on all levels and all stages of the project (oversight by experts) will be ensured. It will be achieved twofold: a steering committee has to approve spending and PricewaterhouseCoopers will oversee the use of donations.

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Donations from Swiss companies and private persons are coordinated through the Steering Committee which will enable all interested donors to be proactively involved through their own expertise, such as design, consultancy, capacity building (training), technical support, project management, building materials, (re-)construction, transportation etc.

The donations in kind should be used with the highest efficiency possible to build as many schools and living space as possible. If the level of donation (cash & in kind) permits multiple locations can be selected for constructing schools and living space.

The project will be implemented under the supervision and guidance of the Steering Committee and managed by a Swiss Architect. A close coordination with the local and central government is required to obtain the necessary approvals and government backing. The implementation will depend on the size of the project, and probably be a combination of own project implementation, outsourcing, tendering, and contracting.

Project planning should be completed within 2 months by the end of July. If necessary, the Swiss Embassy will ensure that through their Mofcom and NDRC contacts, the Swiss community project is part of the overall NDRC Master Plan. First construction results are to be expected in 6 to 12 months time, with a high preference of tangible results before winter 2008.

## **MILESTONES (FIRST ESTIMATION)**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Completion of Project Scope depending of Funding levels                                   | July 31 |
| Site(s) Selection   | tbd     |
| Conceptual Design   | tbd     |
| Detail Design   | tbd     |
| Local Government Approvals  | tbd     |
| Central Government Approvals  | tbd     |
| Start of (Re-)Construction(s)   | tbd     |
| Completion of School Structure building phase (could be multiple)                         | tbd     |
| Handover to Community (could be multiple)   | tbd     |
| Start of school year 2009-2010 / Inauguration Ceremony                                    | tbd     |
| Closing of Project and Final Report<br>(detailing how funds have been allocated and used) | tbd     |

The above milestones have indicating character only. The progress of the project is depending on the approval of the National and Local government. It goes without saying that the Steering committee is committed to the utmost speed in realizing the project.

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## STEERING COMMITTEE

The project is lead by a steering committee with the following representatives\*:

Co Presidents:

- **Stephan Titze**, Syngenta (CEO China, Vice President SwissCham Shanghai),
- **Felix Sutter**, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, (Partnership Director, SwissCham Beijing Board member)

Members:

- **Gustav Erne**, Luwa, (General Manager)
- **Christian Guertler**, SC Holding Ltd. (Partner, President SwissCham Shanghai)
- **Daniel Heusser**, Virtuarch (Architect; General Manager)
- **Krystyna Marty**, Economic Counselor of the Embassy of Switzerland / **William Frei**, Consul General of Switzerland in Shanghai (on alternate basis)
- **Matthew Reilly**, Zurich Insurances, (Chief Administration Officer, Greater China/Southeast Asia)
- **Andreas Widl**, Oerlikon, (Head Asia)
- Others to be determined/ confirmed

The Steering Committee is formed of delegates of major donors, stake holding organizations and experts. Currently, the Steering Committee has 7 members. The steering committee is furthermore open to companies who are willing to donate more than 0.5 Million CNY.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Project Leader:</b>                      | Daniel Heusser, Virtuarch  |
| <b>Architecture and Project Management:</b> | Virtuarch Architecture Design Consulting (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.  |
| <b>Engineer on sight:</b>                   | As an additional support an engineer will be hired by Syngenta China to put into effect the described project. |

## MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS

This project is a contribution from the Swiss community in China for the reconstruction after the earthquake. It will show essential Swiss spirit to foster for the needs of the population by realizing safe, affordable, durable and sustainable solutions. It is a long-term project with carefulness as which meets the needs of persons without housing and of children without schools, and this is certainly welcomed by the Chinese Government.

Participating companies and organizations will attain recognition through various channels:

- Brochures
- "The Bridge" Magazine
- Websites
- Press releases through the Embassy and the Swiss Chinese Chambers of Commerce in China
- Various other ways of recognition can be discussed.

Visibility will go primarily to the donors and not the organizers!

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## CONSTRUCTION BUDGET (FIRST DRAFT\*)

### Hope School Budget

| Project               | Number           | Unit Area | Total Area | Average Budget | Total Budget in RMB | Remarks  |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| Classroom             | 15               | 72        | 1080       | 1900           | 2,052,000           | Including basic construction, fitment for 3 floors with 6 rooms each floor and two bathrooms |
| Teacher office        | 3                | 72        | 216        | 1900           | 410,400             | Including basic construction & fit out   |
| Playground, racetrack | 1                | 4000      | 4000       | 400            | 1,600,000           | Including basic construction & lay for racetrack   |
| Desk & Chair          | 500              |           |            | 150            | 75,000              |  |
| <b>Total Budget</b>   | <b>4,137,400</b> |           |            |                |                     | Including incidental expenses with a capacity of 600 students                                |

**Remarks:**

- Quakeproof Coefficient 9
- Version 1 of Budget

**\* To be approved**

## BUDGET FOR HOUSING

**ESTIMATED COST PER M2 CONSTRUCTED AREA RMB 1200.-**

## PARTNERS\*

Swiss Embassy  
 SwissCham Beijing  
 SwissCham Shanghai  
 Swiss Club Shanghai  
 Swiss Society Beijing

**\* To be finalized**

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## HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

If you wish to participate in the project and/or donate an amount of money please fill in the following form and fax it back to SwissCham Shanghai: **Fax: +86 21 6149 8132** or contact Mrs. Liv Minder, Executive Director, directly at **Tel: +86 21 6149 8208**. Please note: All administrative and logistic cost which may occur will be borne by SwissCham Shanghai. The donations will go in full to the project.

### Any donation is welcome!

Donations can be paid to the following account with the comment: **Sichuan**

**Bank:** Bank of Shanghai 上海银行营业部

**Account Name:** Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce 中国瑞士商会

**Account No:** 316007-03000572143

**Bank Address:** No. 585, Zhongshan Dong Er Road, Shanghai, China

**Name:**

**Surname:**

**Company name:**

**Address:**

**Mail:**

**Phone:**

**Cell phone:**

What kind of donation do you offer:

- In kinds  
 Cash  
 Men power

Description of other donations (if not paid in cash):

|                        | In RMB |
|------------------------|--------|
| Value of your donation |        |

As you mentioned in your mail, please find below the details of our bank account:

## YOUR SIGNATURE AND DATE:

**Signature:**

**Date:**

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