



Activities report to the donors for the calendar year 2009

Dear donors

This is to express once again our warmest thanks to you for your continued generous support of the schools built by the *Foundation Amici of Qinghai* in the Tibetan minority areas of Qinghai. At the same time, we would also like to inform you about our activities in 2009 and in the next twelve months. For detailed information please visit the following address on the website:

<http://www.schurtenberger.biz/showPage.php?template=sfoq&id=7>

At the risk of being repetitive, I reiterate that the schools built by the foundation in Qinghai are the result of a genuine teamwork: without donors there would not have been any new school built by the Amici di Qinghai. Voluntary work at all levels are crucial for the success of the foundation (i.e. by the board members, the local authorities, the villagers, etc.). The same is true for the authorities at the various levels (province, districts, villages) and the villagers themselves. If any in the chain would be missing, then the building of more primary schools in Qinghai's remote areas would be at risk.

The six additional schools constructed or rebuilt in 2009 have confirmed our earlier experience, i.e. that villagers, students and authorities alike were all genuinely grateful for the new building that protects them from the harsh nature. You have helped realizing something that really matters to the people. A new building, often the only Donors construction in the village, means much improved learning conditions and attracts qualified teachers (because they get a one room living quarter, which is a luxury in the region). Attending classes regularly helps the children to get a better understanding of the fast changes that are taking place all over China and that are reaching also the remote areas of Qinghai. Solid education enables them coping emotionally with such an evolution and avoiding to become culturally uprooted. This is all the more important as the material benefits of China's economic modernization has started reaching the most remote areas of the country, including the province of Qinghai.

The provincial Government of Qinghai sent a team to inspect some of the projects last June, thus motivating the local authorities to do their utmost to a successful implementation of the construction work. On the side, the monks of the *Gashari* temple organized several Long Life Ceremonies during the year, be it for all donors and their families, be it for donors in temporarily critical health.

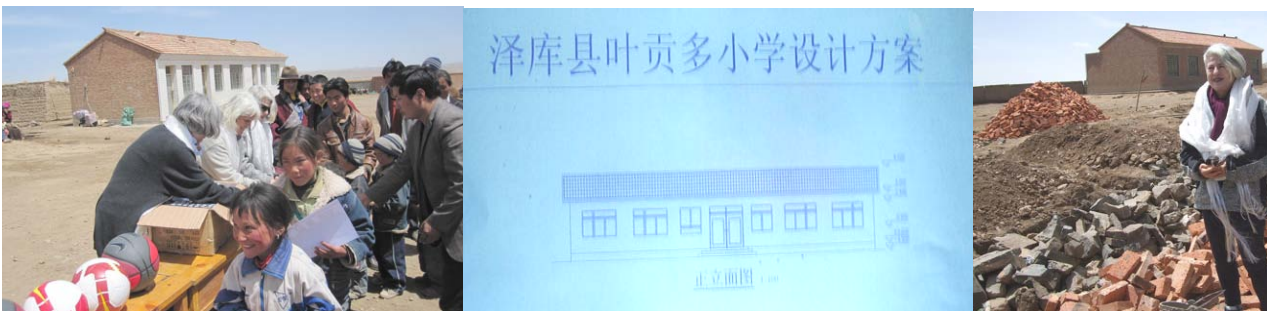


1. 2009 (business year January 1 to December 31, 2009)

The generous donations in the last business year enabled the *Foundation Amici die Qinghai Friends* to select, finance, supervise and inaugurate the construction of six new primary schools in Qinghai, and to build an extension at one.

Renovation/extension work

Yegongduo (Zeku): Dr. Barbara and Werner Lamparter-Herzog who had financed the first three classroom buildings in early 2000, offered to finance the construction of living quarters for the numerous teachers. But an extremely long and harsh winter delayed the construction so much that the sponsor and her friends could only assist to the ground breaking of the new house on April 21, 2009. The construction was finally finished in late fall, ready for the next winter.



New projects in 2009

Exceptionally poor weather during summer

Because of an exceptionally long and intensive rainy season, lasting from April until September, the construction works had to be interrupted again and again. And because even preparatory works can never start before May, most projects, albeit not all (Eshida, Gabu) suffered noticeable delays. As a consequence, some schools will be formally inaugurated in spring of 2010 only. The bad weather had unfortunately also a negative impact on the number of visitors; only the donors of Eshida, Nandang and Kangerdong were able to visit their school. The number of visits by the Swiss Friends remained as numerous as in earlier years (8 in total). Furthermore, Erwin's loyal employee Xiao Song made another two visits on his own, to inspect construction progress during 2009, when Erwin underwent his radiation therapy.



Shenaihe (Jianzha): The Shenaihe school, far south of the district city of Jianzha, at 3200 m above sea, has suffered much delay due to the bad weather, but could, nonetheless be finished before the end of the calendar year. The inauguration is planned for March 2010, with the participation of the donor family, Mrs.&Mr. Vögtli and their four sons. For the photos of Shenaihe, please see next page!



Nuoriguo or Maixiuzheng (Zeku): This school for nomad students, too, suffered serious delay due to the extended bad weather. The rain was at times so heavy that only walking allowed inspecting the progress (June). However, our perseverance and the support by the provincial authorities made the project to be finished in September for the start of the new school year. The formal opening is scheduled for Summer 2010, with the participation of the donor family, Mrs. & Mr. Calvin Grieder.



Gabu (Jianzha): The *Lions Club Baden* kindly agreed to finance half the costs for the construction of a new two-storey classroom building for this mountain farmers village, 35 km west of Jianzha city, at 2300 m above sea. A fund raising event was organized in Baden, on October 23. The other half will be financed by the Swiss Friends. The construction is being done in two phases, one in 2009, the second in 2010, with the opening scheduled summer 2010 and the participation of the Lions Club.



Eshida (Jianzha): The construction of this primary school for children of mountain farmers has been fully financed by a Swiss business family. The sponsors inaugurated the new classroom building themselves on October 12, 2009, in a touching ceremony. Furthermore, they sent highly appreciated clothes for the harsh winter for the almost 40 children of Eshida on Christmas.



Nandang (Jianzha): The construction of this school for around 40 students on the hills west of Jianzha city has been financed by Tom Grimmer, a Canadian citizen and his Chinese wife. Due to the bad weather conditions the new school could be finished late November only. The formal opening will take place in spring of 2010 with the participation of the donor.



3. Projects to be undertaken in 2010

The prospects for the calendar year 2010 are very encouraging again, not least thanks to a generous donation by a Chinese businessman. The money for additional four schools to be built in the next twelve months has already been transferred to the foundation's account by donors. The same is true for the Xiabrang school to be renovated

Renovation works

Geronghe: After discussion of the poor quality of exterior painting at this remote school, the Education Bureau of the Huangnan prefecture requested the company concerned to redo the painting at their costs during the summer of 2010.

New school buildings

The following new school buildings will be financed in 2010: Xianggan, Lanxiangyangzhi and Jili in the district of Jinzha. One or two more new buildings will be selected during the next visit on site in March 2010.

Xianggan (Jianzha): The project consists in replacing the two shabby buildings of the 1980s by one two-storey construction, serving both the primary school of the village (grades 1-6) and the vocational training center for the adjacent areas. No doubt will this project improve the educational conditions for the around 800 mountain farmers concerned. A Geneva-based company has generously agreed to provide the foundation with the means to finance the construction.



Lanxiangyangzhi (Jianzha): The Lanxiang school has, at present, enough classrooms and one dormitory for the 108 plus nomad students, who stay at the school during the week. But food is being served under the sky, which can be pretty tough given the extreme weather conditions in winter. Because there is little hope for a financing by the authorities, the foundation agreed to finance 50% of a canteen building, subject to an equal contribution by the villagers.



Jili (Jianzha): As the old tracts of the 1980s are in too poor a shape to consider a renovation of this primary school south of Jianzha city, the foundation discussed the budget for the construction of one new two-storey classroom building. A high ranking official of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation generously offered to provide the foundation with the means to finance this project by her private funds.



For the *Foundation Amici di Qinghai*

Erwin Schurtenberger
Beijing, March 5, 2010