



Activities report to the donors for the calendar year 2010

Dear donors

This is to inform you about the activities of the *Foundation Amici of Qinghai* and the *Swiss Friends of Qinghai* in the Tibetan minority areas of Qinghai during 2010, as well as about the planned activities for 2011. Last year was particularly auspicious with seven new projects and some repair works. And next year promises to be yet another fruitful year. For detailed information please visit the following address on the website (projects 2010 and 2011):

<http://www.schurtenberger.biz/swiss/>

All these numerous endeavors are obviously only possible thanks to the many generous donors, villagers and authorities who support our activities. 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 is 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, the building of more primary schools in Qinghai's remote areas would be at risk.

On March 24, 2010, the monks of the Tashi Caphgel Monastery expressed their gratitude to all donors for their generous and continued support to the local Tibetan population in Qinghai, by improving the conditions of the primary education. Furthermore, the students of Garuna were praying for one hour every day during the whole year of 2010 to express their deep gratitude to the donors, at their own initiative in the village temple.



1. Business year January 1 to December 31, 2010

Administrative information

The supervisory authority of the foundation, the *Eidgenössische Stiftungsaufsicht* in the Ministry of Interior EDI, approved the audited account and the activities report for 2009 on December 7, 2010, without reservation. The accounts for last year, i.e.2010, have been approved by the board (annex 1) and will be audited by the audit expert Cristiano BOTTA, Lugano, before being submitted to the supervisory authority later this year.

New projects realized in 2010

The numerous donations in the calendar year 2010 enabled the *Foundation Amici di Qinghai* as well as the Swiss Friends to finance the construction of seven new primary schools, and to repair three earlier built ones.

Duoning in the Tongren district is an integrated primary school fully financed by literally all the associates of the Buhler group in China. Initially planned to be ready for teaching in September 2009, renewed and heavy rain delayed the works. As a consequence, the inside and outside painting will be done in Spring 2010, once all the walls are completely dry. A delegation of Buhler's employees will make the opening in due time, to the genuine pleasure of the whole village.



Garuna, located in the future tourist area above the Lijiaxia reservoir west of Jonah city, is a primary school fully financed by Buhler-Uzwil on the occasion of the company's 150 anniversary. Given the size of the project, the realization is being done in two phases: construction of the two one floor classroom buildings in 2010, the painting, the northern wall, etc. in 2011 Anybody who visit the village of Garuna is genuinely impressed by the warm heartedness of its population. Inauguration is planned for summer and will likely be attended by the sponsor from Switzerland.



Gashari (Tongren): The Swiss Friends gladly agreed to finance a one floor building with three classrooms, thus contributing to the enlargement of a school they already joined to finance in the late 1990s. The new building is of pleasant design and built to withstand an 8-grade earthquake. Yolanda made the inauguration of the new building in early September. Two of the teaching rooms have been dedicated to specific donors.



Jianglong (Tongren): A well-known and regular supporter of the Swiss Friends from Hong Kong has fully financed the construction of this additional and very functional classroom building at the village school of Jianglong. The one floor construction has three classrooms and has been built to withstand strong earthquakes. The sponsor intends to inaugurate the new tract himself in late Spring of 2011.



Jili (Jianzha): As the old tracts of the 1980s were in too poor a shape to consider a renovation of this primary school south of Jianzha city, the head of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Pyongyang offered to finance a new two-storey building from her own means, and inaugurated the new classroom building personally on October 6, 2010, together with a family member from Switzerland.



Lanxiangyangzhi (Jianzha): Because the more than 100 students of this nomad boarding school which is at very high altitude, had to eat literally under the sky, the *Amici di Qinghai* agreed to finance 50% of the construction costs for a proper canteen, given the extreme weather in winter. The local Government finances the other half, while the nomads offered noticeable labor. Due to bad weather the interior of the canteen will be completed and inaugurated in late spring 2011.



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



Delayed completion of schools due to bad weather

Nuoriguo(Zeku): The construction of this functional, modern building for nomad students, financed by Mrs. and Mr. Calvin Grieder, suffered long delays due to the extended bad weather. But classroom instruction could start in September 2010. And thanks to some pressure and some financial support, the works on the sports ground and canteen were also terminated in late fall. The formal opening is scheduled for late July 2011, with the participation of the donor family, Mr. Calvin Grieder.



Shenaihe (Jianzha): The construction of the Shenaihe school, far south of the district city of Jianzha, at 3200 m above sea, has also suffered long delays from the bad weather, and was finally completed in late Summer 2010. No doubt that this solid building in a remote area makes a real difference for the village. An informal inauguration was held in late July 2010, a formal ceremony is scheduled for Spring 2011, likely by the Swiss Friends on behalf of the generous donor family of Mrs.& Mr. Vögtli.



Yegongduo (Zeku): The teachers' new living quarters, financed by Dr. Barbara, who had already sponsored the construction of the first three classroom buildings at Yegongduo, in memory of her late mother, Mrs. S. Schnyder, could finally be completed in Summer of 2010. A sun heated corridor protects the five rooms which got in addition double glass windows, from the freezing outside temperature in winter that can descend to minus 30° C in January and February. The teachers were visibly happy about this noticeable improvement of their living conditions.



Nandang (Jianzha): This one floor functional classroom building for the children of the surrounding mountain farmers has been built in memory of late Li Kelin and Al Grimmer, and was fully financed by Tom Grimmer and his wife. Due to extended bad weather the construction was completed in November 2009 only, and the formal opening by the donors and their family was made in late June 2010. The event was very refreshing for the donors, the students and the villagers alike. Remaining works for the sports ground have been completed in the mean-time as well.



Gabu (Jianzha): The new Gabu school building, largely financed by the *Lions Club Baden*, was

finally inaugurated by an appreciable delegation from Switzerland in mid October 2010. While the construction was finished in late 2009, the exterior painting was added in Spring 2010. All, the students, the villagers and the Educational authorities expressed in an impressive way their gratitude to the visitors from afar, convincingly telling them that the new building makes a real difference to the village and their younger generation.



Repair works in 2010

Xiabrang

The Swiss Friends launched this thorough renovation works of one of the earlier schools built by the Swiss Friends. at the initiative of Anne-Marie Schmid: reinforcement of the walls, balcony, and roof. Furthermore, the whole building was retiled and repainted, both inside and outside, and new windows installed. The authorities financed new desks and chairs for more than 180 students at this major primary school.



Emao and Ngaksa (Tongren): Ernst Hohl and the *Kiwanis Zürich-Limmat Club* generously offered to cover fully the costs for an necessary renovation of the primary schools in both villages of Ngaksa and Emao. The two schools offer education in the pre-school and grade 1 and 2, thus allowing the young students to stay close to their families for 3 years before they have to attend the more remote school for grade 3 to 6. In Homak. Anne-Marie Schmid made the inauguration on behalf of Mr. Hohl in mid October 2010.



Quma (Tongren): in 2010, Mrs. and Mr. Ronner made another donation for the Quma school that was constructed ten years ago in memory of their late son killed in a car accident in Beijing. The gesture allowed replacing the old mud wall around the school by a new solid brick wall, which was furthermore decorated with impressive paintings by local artists. Quma has become a model school, both in terms of education quality and of quality of the school buildings and installations.



2. Activities in business year 1.1. to 31.12. 2011

The prospects for the calendar year 2011 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.

New school building projects 2011

The construction of five new school buildings have been decided up to the writing of this report, as well as the renovation of the exterior wall of two earlier built schools. Discussions for an additional 1-2 construction projects are under way.

Huanhuqu (Tongren): When the Swiss Friends visited this remote school for nomad students, they saw no hope to renovate the two classroom buildings erected in the early 1990s due to string impact the harsh winter climate had on the walls and the roofs in particular. When Dr. Jiang Qiqi, a highly respected Chinese ceramics and porcelain expert, kindly offered to finance the reconstruction of a long, one-floor classroom building, everybody welcomed the offer. The construction will start in April and should be ready for inauguration in fall by the sponsor herself.



Nubu (Jianzha): This primary school project includes a two storey classroom building in a village located around 30 km West of Jianzha city, close to the upper Yellow River, for almost 100 students of grade 1 to 6, plus pre-school. The construction of this major school, fully financed by the Foundation of the Banca del Ceresio, will start as soon as the weather conditions will allow so, and should therefore be ready for the new school year in early September. Villagers and authorities are highly motivated to turn this project in yet another model school of the region. The inauguration will be made at a time agreeable to the bank and the Amici.



Yalang (Tongren): Although “only” at 1 ½ hour walking distance from Tongren, where hundreds of primary school students from some villages of the area attend the city’s boarding school, Tom shared the feelings of the Amici during his first visit on site that it would make sense to offer the youngest students a chance to get their first few years of education close to their parents (grade 1-2, and pre-school). The functional one storey building will be realized in memory of late Paul Calello, with funds collected by Tom for this purpose. The exact site of the new one-floor classroom building was chosen by Tom after careful consideration, the works would be closely supervised by the latter, together with the Amici.



Guanxiu (Tongren): Although Guanxiu village is less than 20 km south of Tongren city, the villagers are poor, as a result of the deteriorating climate in recent years, with alternating floods and droughts. Teaching is presently done in a farmer’s house that has been neatly rearranged into 3 teaching rooms. A Geneva based Swiss businessman has generously offered to finance the replacement of the present shabby wood farmer’s house with a one floor construction (three classrooms). Actual construction works will start as soon as the weather conditions allow and the exact site of the new school has been finalized.



Renovation or extension works 2011

Gerongte and Geronghe (Jianzha): The exterior painting of these two schools deteriorated rapidly because of very harsh temperatures in winter. The donors of the two classroom

buildings offered, therefore, to redo the exterior by good quality tiles. Both classroom buildings will see a new weather resistant face in the course of 2011.



Xiabrang (Tongren): Discussion are under way to explore the possibility for the Swiss Friends to build an additional, new room for computer instruction, and to finance the adequate IT hardware for this school, given the fact that computer instruction has become an integral part of education in China today. As a matter of fact, one whole young generation has grown up digitally.

To conclude we are sending you some warmhearted smiles from the students at our schools on the highlands of Qinghai to all of you, wherever you are staying.



For the Foundation *Amici di Qinghai* and *the Swiss Friends of Qinghai* with warm regards and deep gratitude

Yours truly

Yolanda and Erwin, mid February 2011