



*Bridge for which we come together
To better the life of the needy in
China where we live and which we care*

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Top Stories

Village House Rebuild Demonstration Project in earthquake affected Liangshan, Sichuan

In collaboration with the Ministry of Housing, Urban-rural Development P.R.C. (MOHURD), the Foundation has launched a village house rebuild demonstration project in a minority village in Maan Village in Liangshan of Sichuan province which was devastated by the 512 earthquakes.

The project is implemented by volunteer professionals and university teams from both Hong Kong and the Mainland. To the fullest extent possible, project teams build footbridges and traditional village houses with locally available and sustainable materials. The prototype village houses are constructed based on the traditional design of the minority people in the village but enhanced with the introduction of anti-seismic structural strengthening, improved ventilation and an integrated biogas system for cooking and heating.

During the construction process, the volunteer teams have worked closely with local villagers to transfer practical building skills and knowledge of materials with a view to enabling the locals to maintain the buildings going forward and, particularly in the case of the prototype houses, to replicate the structures as needed.

In the coming months, the Foundation will subsidize key construction materials for the villagers who are willing to adopt our green building method. Currently, nearly all earthquake affected families in the village (35 in total) wish to rebuild their home by using our method.

More information can be found [here](#).



Local villagers have been fully engaging in the construction work of the first village house prototype.



Project team members are discussing the rebuilding project with local people at Maan Village, Sichuan

Project Updates

Since the inauguration of the Foundation, it has built 4 Wu Zhi Qiao bridges in Gansu, Shaanxi and Sichuan provinces. Over 120 Hong Kong and Mainland students and professionals were involved in the projects, benefiting over 6,400 villagers in 9 villages.

In addition, the Foundation has been actively supporting the reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the 512 Sichuan earthquakes. They include providing technical advice on rebuilding village house in a Sichuan Jiarong Tibetan Village, and bringing together potential donors and university architectural teams for a primary school rebuild project in Guangyuan and a comprehensive village rebuild project in Xinan County, Liangshan.

The first batch of Wu Zhi Qiao bridges was built in Gansu and Shaanxi (18 Jul 2008)

Close to 60 student volunteers mainly from Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Xian Jiao Tong University accomplished the first batch of Wu Zhi Qiao bridges in Xingshi Village of Shaanxi, and Datan Village of Gansu on 18 July. The bridges are sponsored by and named after Cartier.

With the common vision in mind, all volunteers exerted themselves to the full in bringing the bridges into completion.. Their hard work and passion deeply touched the hearts of villagers, and mobilized over a hundred of them to help out in the projects. More information can be found [here](#). Watch “A Bridge to Hearts” [video](#).

Learning from villagers: Wu Zhi Qiao Project at Baiyun Village, Hanyuan County, Ya’an City, Sichuan (13 Nov 2008)

Houyu Town in Hanyuan County was severely hit by the 512 earthquakes. Apart from providing funding support, the Foundation mobilized university students specializing in bridge construction to facilitate the locals to build a stone arch bridge there in early Nov.

In this village, an experienced builder has built 8 stone arch bridges in the mountains. Some of them have been used for more than 20 years and none of them was damaged during 512. This project not only improved villagers’ communication with the outside world after the earthquakes, but also provided an opportunity for students to learn and document local traditional architectural wisdom. More information can be found [here](#).

Wu Zhi Qiao bridge in earthquake affected Sichuan (21 Dec 2008)

More than 16 student and professional volunteers from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Wuhan University of Technology, Xi’an Jiaotong University and the Communist Youth League of China (stationed at Hanyuan) accomplished a new Wu Zhi Qiao bridge for the locals in Malie Village, Malie Town, Hanyuan County on 21 Dec, benefiting over 220 villagers. More information can be found [here](#).



Wu Zhi Qiao at Datan Village, Gansu



A new stone arch bridge in Baiyun Village, Sichuan



Wu Zhi Qiao in Malie Village, Sichuan

More new Wu Zhi Qiao Projects in Gansu, Yunnan and Sichuan

The Foundation has been working with 5 universities in Hong Kong and 8 Universities in the Mainland to construct 9 more footbridges and 3 more green village house prototypes (and renovate further 2 houses) in 9 rural villages identified in Sichuan, Gansu, Yunnan, Guizhou and Anhui. These footbridges are essential to these villages as links among communities, schools, local medical clinics and monasteries. They are all expected for completion by 2009.



A temporary foot-bridge in Shaodi Village, Gansu

Publicity Programmes

Xinan Village House Prototype project drew attention from key Hong Kong and Mainland Media (Jan 2009)

Key media from the Mainland and Hong Kong, including CCTV, Phoenix TV and TVB, has showed great interest in the Xinan Village House Prototype rebuild project. Documentaries and news will be broadcasted around Chinese New Year and mid February. Their attention should help maximize the demonstration impact of the prototypes in the earthquake area.



A filming crew from TVB Sunday Report

“A Bridge of Hearts” Exhibition in Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Jan 2009)

“A Bridge of Hearts Exhibition”, organized by the Wu Zhi Qiao project team in Hong Kong Polytechnic University, was held successfully at Hong Kong Polytechnic University from 19 to 23 Jan 2009. A collection of photos and video highlighting the bridge building process and the memorable experience of the journey was on show. The exhibition will be displayed in other Hong Kong universities in the early half of 2009.



A Bridge of Hearts Exhibition

Wu Zhi Qiao recognized by Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) to address global challenges (Dec 2008)

WZQCF made a CGI commitment to construct 6 footbridges and 3 green village house prototypes (and renovate further 2 houses) in 6 rural villages identified in Gansu and Sichuan provinces. This will provide an alternative learning experience and social service opportunity for more university students to strengthen their understanding of the Mainland, and help them to develop integrity and commitment to society and life. The commitment was highlighted in the CGI Asia annual meeting held in Hong Kong in Dec 2008.

Looking Ahead

BUILD teams and capacity

The Foundation will actively mobilize and form further project teams in universities and higher education institutes both in the Mainland and Hong Kong, while it keeps coaching university teams to develop their potential to lead further bridge and related projects, and transfer skills to new members. The Foundation will deploy training personnel and draft manuals to memorialise its plans and endeavours for future reference.



Project teams from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Xian University of Architecture and Technology

FOCUS ON bridge projects in Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces

The Foundation aims to gain further experience and develop bridge prototypes in specific locations and environmental settings in the northwestern and southwestern region of China. In the next two years, the Foundation will focus on and streamline its site selection and development process when implementing projects in the marginalized and deprived villages in Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces.



A few tree trunks on the top of the piers made a temporary access in Hekou Village, Sichuan

ESTABLISH operation centers

The Foundation will take Datan Village, Zhangjiachuan County, Tianshui City in Gansu as the first focal point to explore further bridge building projects in the area. More operation centers will be established in potential project sites in Sichuan and Yunnan in the future.



Datan Village, Gansu

DEVELOP a post-disaster rebuild demonstration project with MOHURD

In collaboration with the MOHURD, the Foundation will develop a comprehensive village rebuild demonstration project following the pilot village house prototype building completed in the Chinese New Year. The entire project will cover village planning, bridge building, basic infrastructure development (village pathway) and a village community centre cum rural development training centre. Meanwhile, a well-illustrated and easily understood village house construction manual will be produced to maximize the demonstration impact of the village house prototype.



A collapsed village house in Maan Village, Sichuan

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