



Issue 3, 5 February 2010

Dear Friends of Wu Zhi Qiao,

The Foundation has been very active since our last issue in July: five bridges have been built in Gansu, Guizhou and Sichuan; a rebuild demonstration project in Sichuan is currently in progress; an exhibition in Times Square and Harbour City to enhance public awareness has just been completed with encouraging results; and an Architectural Review (UK) Commended Award was given to one of our projects.

To start off with a new decade, we'd like to share with you some experiences of beneficiary villagers, our partners and students after various bridge building projects:



**Mr Lui Kwan Ho, Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

"When we worked hand-in-hand, I realised how simple the relationship between us was. It was as if there were no conflict in the little village.....I truly found happiness there. Helping people is very fulfilling because you do not calculate how much you give."



**Ms Yang Fudan, Honghe Prefecture Construction Bureau, Yunnan**

"In this 3-day trip, I climbed the steepest slope, walked on the muddiest paths, sweated the most and gained the most happiness in my life. I have come to understand and appreciate the meaning of giving and taking in relation to charity: one gains much more joy in giving than receiving."



**Miss Cindy Fung, United World College of the Adriatic, Italy**

"I knew I would not be back again – the village was way too remote. But I sought consolation in the fact that though I was leaving the bridge behind, I was taking so much more back to the city life with me. I have met amazing friends across Mainland China and Hong Kong.....and I have delightfully discovered that I am stronger than I thought. In more ways than one, tangible or not, I have taken the Wu Zhi Qiao back with me."



**Mr He Yu Long, Head of Datan Village**

"The fact that you defied difficulties and adverse weather conditions, and your ability to endure hardship really touched us. You picked up litter everywhere. This made a head start and served the role in promoting education, strengthening environmental protection and resources conservation, and living together in harmony, which also raised the villagers' awareness in these areas. We will try our very best to mobilise the villagers to be self sufficient. We hope to have a leaping improvement in the quality of the villagers' living environment, standard of living and education. To do well in such matters is our greatest reward to you."

Since our inauguration in 2007, more than 330 student volunteers from 12 universities in Mainland China and Hong Kong have been involved in our bridge building projects, benefiting over 13,000 villagers. Indeed, two bridges are built: not only a structural one, but a spiritual one of friendship, care and love.

\* Photo on top: Hong Kong Girl Guides Wu Zhi Qiao

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In the second half of 2009, five Wu Zhi Qiao (WZQ) bridges have been built in Gansu, Guizhou and Sichuan.

### WZQ in Taibai Village and Shaodi Village, Gansu (August 2009)

Named as “New World Wu Zhi Qiao”, this bridge in Taibai village is one of the largest WZQ projects in terms of volunteer participation, involving close to 80 professionals and volunteers from Hong Kong, China and New World Development Co Ltd, the sponsor. This project was mainly organized by the WZQ teams from Xian University of Architecture & Technology (XUAT), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (POLYU) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and completed on 2 August 2009.

The first WZQ in Tibet region - a week later, a 30m long gabion bridge, partly sponsored by Goldman Sachs (Asia) L.L.C., was completed in Shaodi Village of Gansu, by more than 40 professionals and volunteers from both Hong Kong and China.



New World Wu Zhi Qiao at Taibai Village



Wu Zhi Qiao at Shaodi Village



Ming Chong Wu Zhi Qiao in Guizhou

### First WZQ in Guizhou: Xinchang Village (August 2009)

This Ming Chong Wu Zhi Qiao, sponsored by Chan Chong Charitable Foundation, was a broken stone bridge. It is viewed as an icon of the village and with much significance as being the venue to gather villagers. Its planning and construction had been organised by The University of Hong Kong and Chongqing University (CQU) since October 2007. After the broken arch was restored in November 2008, waterproofing, paving and landscaping work was finally completed in August 2009.

The bridge has also gained an Architectural Review (UK) Commended Award in 2009.

### WZQ Bridge in Maan Qiao Village and Baishisi Village, Sichuan (October and November 2009)

Mainly organised by student teams from the Civil Engineering Departments of CQU and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and sponsored by the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association, this 66m bridge with bridge piers of 3-4m in height in Maan Qiao Village is our largest project in terms of scale. Local skilled workers helped to build the piers, and our student teams completed decking and handrail installation onsite in early October 2009.

A month later, WZQ teams from CQU and HKUST facilitated local government to renovate a suspension bridge in Baishisi Village to improve commutation safety of locals.



Hong Kong Girl Guides Wu Zhi Qiao in Sichuan



The team is demonstrating how to reinforce village house.

## Rebuild Demonstration Project in Maan Qiao Village, Sichuan

### Village House Rebuild and Strengthening

We provided technical advices and financial support for 33 families to buy key construction materials and rebuild homes with the concepts learnt under the supervision of Hong Kong and Mainland students on site. Key rebuild works were completed in June 2009. Our project teams will further provide recommendations to the locals to rebuild peripheral facilities, such as water supply system and animal shed.

In addition to rebuilding, we also demonstrated how to strengthen village houses suffering from minor destruction in July 09. A mixture of lime, cement and Sodium Silicate (水玻璃) was injected into the wall cracks to retain structural stability. This method will be further introduced to other families later this year.

**The Publication of Anti-seismic Rammed Earth Village House DIY Construction Manual**

In addition to the 3,000 copies distributed to village builders in June 2009, the Foundation also invited a mainland publisher (中國建築工業出版社) to publish this DIY manual and it is now available for sale in Xinhua Bookstores nationwide and online bookstore. Meanwhile, the Foundation also provided complimentary copies to the needy in Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu, as well as libraries and relevant Hong Kong and Mainland NGOs to promote this affordable and sustainable building method in remote rural areas.

**Research Study on how to strengthen structural stability and anti-seismic performance of rammed-earth buildings**

A civil engineering team from XUAT has already launched the captioned research. Tests were done to investigate how to build strong rammed earth walls with the best proportion of earth, lime, water and cement. All the field tests and analysis were completed by December 2009 and research results are expected by March 2010.

**The Development of the Village Centre**

Applying the results of the aforesaid Research, our project team will build a village community centre with stronger structural stability and anti-seismic performance. This centre will comprise a clinic, a reading corner and training facilities for future capacity building programmes. Upon completion of its structure, the Foundation aims to coordinate student teams to support and assist in the development of the Centre with villagers in later this year.

**Public Education Programme in the Village**

The result of an on-site health needs assessment carried out in March 2009 by the School of Public Health and Primary Care (SPH) of CUHK indicated that the ethnic minority population in the area had poor health and general health awareness and behaviour practices when compared with people at provincial levels. Thus, the SPH has taken the initiative to develop a “Healthy Village” health promotion programme in the area following the planning framework suggested by the World Health Organisation.

The team has been to the village to implement the first round of health education activities in January 2010. Further target-oriented programmes and evaluation sessions will be conducted later this year.



Anti-seismic Rammed Earth Village House DIY Construction Manual



Testing of anti-seismic rammed earth construction



Village Centre at Maan Village, Sichuan



The team from SPH is conducting health education activities in Maan Qiao Village.



The 512 Earthquake led to the damage and collapse of many of these houses built in recent decades.

**Stone-wood Structure Architecture Demonstration Project in Western Sichuan**

The Foundation has submitted an application to the Sichuan Rebuild Trust Fund of the Hong Kong Government for the captioned demonstration project. It will be a 2-year project with a focus on a comprehensive survey on traditional stone-wood structural architecture, “qiong” cage, which has represented residential houses in western Sichuan for centuries. Our team will also build a training centre in a selected village to preserve and revitalise such valuable local and traditional architecture.

## PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES

### A Bridge of Hearts Exhibition @ Times Square and Harbour City

The Foundation has recently held an exhibition at Times Square and Harbour City from 14 – 25 January 2010, mainly organised by student teams from CUHK, HKUST and POLYU under the guidance and funding support of the Foundation.

Through photos exhibition, models, video display and guided visits by our volunteers, the exhibition illustrates the spirit of WZQ, our bridge stories in those deprived and remote villages, as well as our reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquakes through our village demonstration rebuild projects. An overview of future bridge projects was on display as well.

Please click [here](#) to view more photos and [here](#) for media clippings.



Exhibition at Times Square, 14-21 Jan 2010



Exhibition at Harbour City, 22-25 Jan 2010

## LOOKING AHEAD...

### Funding urgently needed for WZQ projects in 2010!

In 2010, the Foundation has identified 8 potential project sites in Yunnan and Sichuan with urgent bridge building needs. The funding WZQ has at the moment does not go far enough to meet the needs to fund these projects and thus the Foundation is now seeking generous support from different sectors of the community.

As always, we shall count on you for your continuous support as we enter a new chapter in a new decade.

Please click [here](#) to make a donation now or [here](#) for further information on upcoming projects and sponsorship details!

Please also forward this newsletter to any of your friends or contacts whom may be interested in supporting us! Let us contact them direct to share with them the Foundation's work and explain in detail the sponsorship arrangement!

*With Chinese New Year just around the corner, the Foundation wishes you all happiness, prosperity, good health, luck and success in the Year of the Tiger!*



Project site at Mixia Village, Yunnan



Project site at Aidong Village, Yunnan



Project site at Matou Village, Yunnan



Project site at Xibuhe Town, Yunnan Sichuan



Project site at Baoshan Village, Yunnan



Project site at Baofeng Village, Sichuan

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