



Cover Story:

**Interview with “Wu Zhi Xing 2011” Organizing Committee Chairman Ms Leonie Ki, SBS, JP
Support Interschool Charity Walk to Change Lives with Bridges**

Wu Zhi Qiao’s First Interschool Charity Walk: Wu Zhi Xing 2011

(Interviewed & reported by Selina Ng & Anna Lam, students from the School of Journalism and Communication, CUHK)

A passionate devotee to the work of Wu Zhi Qiao, Ms Leonie Ki has run numerous fundraisers for the Foundation since its establishment, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for bridge construction budgets. Though Ms Ki admits that fundraising is no easy feat, she has always taken it by its horns. This year, she has even chaired the “Wu Zhi Xing 2011” Organizing Committee. She hopes that “Wu Zhi Xing” would gain public recognition and support, such that it would become an annual “signature event” to raise funds to support the operation and development of the Foundation.

“Students must go build a bridge at least once in their lives”

Ms Ki observes that the young generation of Hong Kong is blessed with material abundances. She firmly believes that youngsters would learn to treasure what they possess once they have personally experienced a place in poverty. “Many things cannot be taught,” Ms Ki says, “you have to experience it yourself. Then you will realize that you cannot take things for granted – you will realize that you are so much more fortunate than so many others.”

The bridge-building process can help students grow. “You can clearly detect the change in the young people,” Ms Ki assures, “at first they would think the place is very dirty. There is no bathroom, no shower. But once you have participated in a project you will find the experience very fulfilling.”

“Students must go build a bridge at least once in their lives,” Ms Ki adds.

Wu Zhi Qiao has always been targeted for university students. Ms Ki reasons that, at university, students are in a learning stage; they are poised at an intermediary point where they are still largely being taken care of. Yet once they leave this point, they enter society solo, tackling all its challenges on their own. “The experience that Wu Zhi Qiao offers is important for the students in this crucial moment,” Ms Ki says, “you must learn about society, and realize that the world may not be what you imagined it to be. There won’t be many people protecting you – the fittest survives, and you have to learn to adapt.”

Diverse individuals share a common goal

Since its establishment, Wu Zhi Qiao has completed 20 bridge building and village rebuild demonstration projects in different areas in China. As its pool of student volunteers expands, so its operation costs increase. Ms Ki hopes that “Wu Zhi Xing” would raise more capital for the Foundation’s operation and reserves, so that Wu Zhi Qiao can develop more bridge-building projects. “First, we hope to benefit the villagers. Second, we hope to benefit the students,” she states. Furthermore, the “Wu Zhi Xing” Organizing Committee hopes to use the event as a means to unite students from the different universities and promote Wu Zhi Qiao to the ones who have yet to participate in the projects.

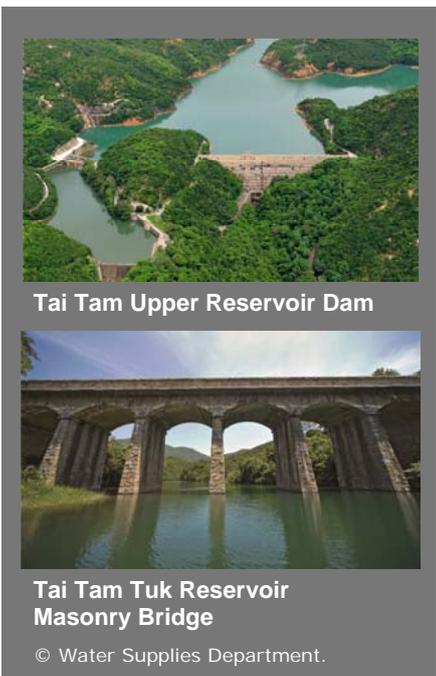
Ms Ki hopes that “Wu Zhi Xing” would communicate the message that bridge-building transcends differences and is certainly not limited to any one school. “As we take part in “Wu Zhi Xing”, we will see the flags of various universities,” she remarks, “but we will all be walking towards the same destination. We are walking for Wu Zhi Qiao. This is our goal for Wu Zhi Xing. We are building bridges of communication, of hearts; our ultimate aim is still to help poverty-stricken places.”



Ms Leonie Ki, SBS, JP

**Chairperson, Organising
Committee, Wu Zhi Xing 2011
Honorary Secretary, WZQCF**

With the great effort and support from Miss Leonie Ki and the Organizing Committee members of “Wu Zhi Xing 2011”, the press conference of this fundraising event was successfully held and officially launched on 6 July. The event is now open for enrolment.



Tai Tam Upper Reservoir Dam

Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir Masonry Bridge

© Water Supplies Department.

EVENT DETAILS

This Charity Walk will be held at the Tai Tam Waterworks Heritage Trail on 13 Nov (Sunday). The trail is situated at the Tai Tam Country Park, a perfect spot to experience the greatness of nature and local cultural heritage. With the support of the Water Supplies Department, you can visit 21 monuments, including the historic architecture at Tai Tam Tuk Raw Water Pumping Station near the end point.

All participants will be given Wu Zhi Xing 2011 headwears (anniversary edition), don't miss it!

Starting Time: 9:45am

Walking Time: Approximately 2.5 hours

Minimum Donation per Person: Tertiary students with valid student ID card/ Persons below 18 years old : HK\$200

Others: HK\$500

Method of Enrolment:

- Tertiary Institutions Category: Students, staff and alumni of participating institutions are welcome to enroll through the coordinating unit with enrolment form.
- Open Category: Make enrolment with enrolment form or online enrolment and make the donation by credit card.

For more details of the event, please click [here](#). As quotas are limited, please act NOW!

Acknowledgement

Wu Zhi Xing 2011 is launched with the great support of various compassionated organizations and individuals. The Foundation would like to express our sincere gratitude to all supporting units including supporting organizations, participating institutions, event sponsors, anonymous sponsors and the voluntary supporters as well.

Organising Committee

Leonie Ki, Chairperson
Christopher Hui, Vice Chairperson
Irina Fan
Melanie Lee
Stephen Li

Fion Lui
Jayne So
Fiona Wan
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Supporting Organization



Participating Institutions



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Other Sponsors: Sun Rise Printing Co, ToiToi Hong Kong Ltd, Watsons Water

Event PR: Prestique Ltd

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Artwork design for event promotional items by Ryan Cheung
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Professional photography service by Alain Yip Photography Alumni Group
Support on event webpage design by VERSO Studio

PROJECT UPDATES

1. Two more bridges built since January 2011

✧ Wu Zhi Qiao in Datan Village, Gansu

Site Location: Datan Village, Zhangjiachuan County, Tianshui City, Gansu

Sponsor: Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited

This project was a collaboration between The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Xian Jiaotong University. With the participation of 16 student volunteers mainly from 6 universities in Hong Kong and Mainland and local villagers, a 16-meter long gabion bridge was successfully built on 25 April.

This is the second Wu Zhi Qiao in the village and the first time we built two bridges in the same village. Although the first bridge, Cartier Wu Zhi Qiao, is still in good condition and improves the safety of the villagers, another small river exists, preventing villagers from commuting. Therefore the Foundation mobilised some volunteers to build the second bridge for the locals.

During the construction process, the villagers fully utilized the construction skills gained from the first bridge to build the second one with the volunteers. Besides, new project coordinators also learnt how to build a gabion bridge from this project.

Please click [here](#) for more project details.



Cartier WZQ



The second WZQ in Datan Village was successfully built



Group photo at bridge location

✧ Wu Zhi Qiao in Baofeng Village, Bazhong City, Sichuan

Site Location: Baofeng Village, Qingjiang County, Bazhong City, Sichuan

Sponsor: The Hong Kong Bank Foundation

This project was organized by Chongqing Jiaotong University (CJU) and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and with technical support from Ove Arup Global Ltd. With the great effort from 24 student volunteers and professionals to complete the final decking work, a 36-meters long steel bridge was successfully accomplished on 5 June.

With the generous support from The Hong Kong Bank Foundation, the project teams had the opportunity to discuss project details through 6 times of investigation, survey and site supervision trips. In addition, two CJU members also joined the supervision programme in Hong Kong.

The completion of the bridge was not only a gift for CJU team to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the university, but also a great result and experience gained by two project teams. Mr. Cheng Ming, student from CJU claimed that the project provided an opportunity for him to put his knowledge of bridge construction into practice under the assistance from the project team, Ove Arup and the Foundation. Meanwhile, through mutual communication and collaboration of the two institutions, he learned that there was a difference between the Hong Kong and Mainland project teams, both of which held different mindsets due to their respective cultural background.

Please click [here](#) for more project details.



Original stone bridge in Baofeng Village



WZQ bridge completion ceremony



Volunteer group photo



2. Tsinghua-HKU Centenary Wu Zhi Qiao Project

Site Location: Xianyuan Village, Sanchuan Township, Yongsheng County, Lijiang City, Yunnan

Sponsor: Wharf China Development Limited

There are four natural villages comprising of 170 households (1,160 people) near the bridge site. Local villagers from Xianyuan Village and Linglang County, need to cross the river for going to school, to the clinic and farming. Currently, villagers have built a bridge made out of tree trunks near the bridge site to cross the river. However, it is washed away by the rapid water flow every year during rainy season. Such a small river does brings great inconvenience to the locals. During flooding, they avoid crossing the river.

As this year is the centenary of both Tsinghua University and The University of Hong Kong, the Foundation invited them to take a bridge building project as one of their centenary celebration events. The project teams conducted investigation trips in December last year and in early March this year to get the necessary data for bridge design and relevant logistics arrangement for construction purpose. In May, the construction of the bridge foundation was completed. Apart from bridge building, the teams also built an eco-toilet to improve the livelihood for the village. The volunteer final construction trip for the bridge is expected to be organized in early August.

In addition, in accordance with celebrating its centenary anniversary, Tsinghua University's Wu Zhi Qiao project team conducted a Wu Zhi Qiao exhibition within the university. In the exhibition, the plank of the bridge and a bridge mock up were displayed to allow people from different sectors to know more about the Foundation's vision and the operation of its projects.

Please click [here](#) for more project details.

3. Victoria He Ping Village Wu Zhi Qiao Bridge Project

Site Location: Heping Village, Rongshan Township, Lizhou District, Guangyuan City, Sichuan

Sponsors: Victoria Educational Organisation, Victoria Nursery & Kindergarten P.T.A., Victoria Shanghai Academy, Victoria Shanghai Academy P.T.A, Victoria Charitable Trust Fund

During the rainy season, the river is rapid and the water level may rise to 1.5 meters. Villagers and students need to wade across the river to reach the opposite shore. Near the bridge site, there are about 1000 villagers from 4 natural villages, and close to 80 kids who need to cross the river to attend school. The bridge site is located at the entrance of the Heping Village. It is the key access/route of the villagers and students towards the 'outside world'. Apart from Heping village, villagers from Fengai village, located 2 kilometres away, and two additional villages also need to pass this point to have contact with the 'outside world'.

This is the second bridge as supported by Victoria Educational Organisation, led by Sichuan University and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The project teams confirmed the bridge design and construction drawing after the first investigation trip in December 2010 and finished the construction material procurement and pre-construction preparation in June. The project is expected to be completed in mid-August.

Please click [here](#) for more project details.



River status of bridge site at Xianyuan Village



WZQ exhibition, one of Tsinghua Centenary celebration events



Bridge site at Heping Village



Bridge design of Victoria He Ping Village WZQ



Original bridge at Mixia Village

4. Mixia Village in Yunnan, The Lead Project by the Volunteer Team from Ove Arup Global Ltd

Site Location: Mixia Village, Luchun County, Honghe State, Yunnan

This project is led by the volunteer team from Ove Arup Global Ltd (Ove Arup), Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology and Kunming University of Science and Technology. Following the bridge design competition organized by Ove Arup where the winning design was chosen, the project teams has completed the construction drawings and planned the relevant construction schedule.



Winning design of the bridge design competition organized by Ove Arup



The team provide a health education talk to the kids



Volunteers had a good interaction with local children



An external timber framework was built by villagers within a day



The construction of the key wall structure is in progress

As the project's main supervisor/leader, the Ove Arup volunteer team faces a challenge in this bridge project. Unlike large scale conventional construction projects in companies, a Wu Zhi Qiao project requires its bridge foundation to be most environmentally friendly, economical and sustainable. In addition, the bridge site location is about half an hour from the main road by foot. The team needs to think about how to use the simplest materials to build a bridge with Wu Zhi Qiao's vision by hand (with manual labour only) without the assistance of machinery to meet the locals' needs. It really brings a brand new experience to the team.

The volunteer construction trip is expected to be scheduled by the end of this year by mobilizing volunteers from Ove Arup as well as student volunteers. Please click [here](#) for more project details.

5. Updates on Village Rebuild Demonstration Project at Ma'anqiao Village

Site location: Ma'anqiao Village, Xin'an Township, Huili County, Liangshan State, Sichuan

Sponsor: Lee Hysan Foundation

In March, 32 volunteers from School of Public Health and Primary Care of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Foundation's representatives visited Ma'an Qiao village to conduct a field-based research and health intervention programmes. These programmes provided a chance for the medical students to personally investigate the medical conditions in rural villages and to help the villagers with their knowledge. This includes conducting focus group discussions and household surveys to assess villagers' mental and physical conditions. The team also organised a health education talk on the theme of disaster response, waste management, non-communicable diseases and tuberculosis and coronary heart diseases.

Furthermore, the Foundation purchased furniture for the village centre in May and mobilized a volunteer team to paint the walls with protection materials, decorating the interior of the centre, to draw wall paintings in children's room and to organize programmes for local children. As the project is going to be completed soon, the Foundation will do the documentation for the whole rebuild project and conclude the experiences for further promotion and publicity purposes. Please click [here](#) for more project details.

6. Village community centre at Datan Village, Gansu

After building two Wu Zhi Qiao bridges in Datan Village, the Foundation is now constructing a village community centre there. Apart from the local construction team, dozens of villagers also volunteered to participate. With their effort, an external timber framework was built within a day. The construction of the key wall structure is in progress and is expected to be completed by August.

During the construction process, the project coordinator imparted modern building technology to the village so as to improve the building's anti-seismic performance and stability, etc.

On the other hand, the Centre is becoming a public gathering place for people although it has not yet been completed. The locals enjoy spending their time in the Centre while they take a break from work.

Student volunteers will conduct activities and health education programmes to the locals by the end of this year.

7. Investigation and data collection for potential bridge projects

In order to foster project development in Mainland, the Foundation has worked out a set of principles for site selection and data collection so that the university teams can do the investigation to seek for more potential bridge projects in areas nearby. Please click [here](#) to view the relevant data collection form.

Exchange and Training Programme

The Wu Zhi Qiao University Team Interflow Camp

The Wu Zhi Qiao University Team Interflow Camp was successfully held in Hong Kong from 17 Feb to 21 Feb. A total of 74 student and teacher volunteers from 17 universities in Hong Kong, Mainland, Taiwan and U.S participated to promote mutual communication/ learning and experience sharing. In order to increase the aptitude of the teams, participants also learned about project management and organization, rural development and ecological architecture.



WZQ University Team Interflow Camp

The Foundation would like to express its sincere gratitude to all the speakers and guests who contributed their time and expertise in this event.

Please click [here](#) to see more photos.



Team Building Workshop



Gabion Bridge Construction Manual

Gabion Bridge Construction Manual

In order to equip new project teams with better understanding of gabion bridge construction techniques, and to standardize design principles and construction specifications, the Foundation is now debriefing past experiences to work out a construction manual, which is expected to be finished by this year.

With assistance from the Foundation's committee members and specific design team, the details of the bridge design and its construction procedures are recorded through several meetings and discussions. This manual will be a useful source of reference, providing guidelines for the teams that wish to build gabion bridges for their projects. They may also consult it when they need to change a design to cope with different site situations.

Wu Zhi Qiao Scholarship Scheme

The Foundation has now established a "Wu Zhi Qiao Scholarship Scheme", which aims to encourage selected PhD Architecture candidates at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to conduct rural sustainable development research. This is achieved through Wu Zhi Qiao bridge projects and village improvement projects. To put theory into practice, candidates are required to act as the project coordinator to complete one or more Wu Zhi Qiao projects led by CUHK and to assist the daily operation of Wu Zhi Qiao.

The scheme fully subsidizes the tuition fees for the selected candidate for 3 or 4 years (according to study period). Applications are welcome anytime. Please go to the website of the Foundation for details.

Publicity and Fundraising Programme

Wu Zhi Qiao Sustaining Member

Since the establishment of Wu Zhi Qiao Sustaining Membership Programme, Chun Wo Development Holdings Limited has become Stone WZQ Sustaining Member and Ms Wong Kam Tai and Mr Kenneth Chan have become Bamboo WZQ Sustaining Members. The Foundation would like to express its sincere gratitude to these corporations and individuals on behalf the benefited villagers and university students. We hope that individuals or corporations from different sectors of the community can continue to support our bridge projects and village improvement projects in remote areas in Mainland.

Please click [here](#) for more details of the programme.

Wu Zhi Qiao successfully listed on WiseGiving

The Foundation has just been successfully listed on WiseGiving after validation by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service! We agree to be accountable to the public by making our information publicly available on the WiseGiving website. Donors can thus understand our work, governance and finances better and make informed decisions and wise giving choices.

Please feel free to click [here](#) to know more about us in the WiseGiving website.

Wu Zhi Qiao on RenRen

Wu Zhi Qiao is now on RenRen. It provides an online platform for the volunteers from Hong Kong and Mainland to have mutual exchange and communication.

To recognize more WZQ volunteers and broaden Wu Zhi Qiao network, click [here](#) to join and add as a friend now!



Leaflet for WZQ Sustaining Membership Programme



WZQ listed on WiseGiving



WZQ on RenRen

ATV TV Programme

ATV filmed a children programme for the Foundation. In the programme, the Foundation's committee member introduced the operation and projects of the organisation. On the other hand, to encourage children to devote and help the people in need, a Principal and some students from Victoria Educational Organisation were interviewed about a fundraising activity and their "Victoria Wu Zhi Qiao Project" village visit organized in Sep & Oct last year. The programme was broadcasted on ATV channel on 29 Jun 2011.

Please click [here](#) to view online version.

WZQ and Wu Zhi Xing Publicity programmes

In line with the official launch of "Wu Zhi Xing 2011" Charity Walk, the Foundation has accepted a number of interviews to introduce the vision of the Foundation and the bridge design principles. Some students also shared their experiences and gains from the bridge projects.

You are welcome to click [here](#) for RTHK Nova Management Programme interview and [here](#) to go to Foundation's website for relevant newspaper clipping or magazine articles.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wu Zhi Qiao Development and Research Centre

In order to develop more bridge projects and other improvement projects in Mainland, the Foundation is planning to establish a Wu Zhi Qiao Development and Research Centre at Xian University of Architecture and Technology. It helps to promote sustainable development research and demonstration construction projects in rural areas of Western China. It also facilitates better coordination amongst university teams and provides training support to the project teams.

Victoria Wu Zhi Qiao Fundraising Event

In collaboration with the Foundation, Victoria Educational Organisation, Victoria Nursery & Kindergarten P.T.A., Victoria Shanghai Academy, Victoria Shanghai Academy (Primary) P.T.A, Victoria Charitable Trust Fund successfully organized a bridge model building fundraising event and sponsored 2 bridge projects last year. They have planned to conduct a parent-child fundraising event again to raise funds for the Foundation again. The Foundation would like to express its sincere gratitude for their generous support.

The fundraising event is proposed to be held on 24 September. If you would like to be a volunteer on the day of the event, please stay tuned with our latest updates.

Project Programme

Apart from the ongoing projects in Ma'anqiao Village, Xianyuan Village, Heping Village and Mixia Village, the Foundation will launch a village improvement demonstration project in Northwest China. Furthermore, 6 bridge projects are to be completed next year.



WZQ volunteer and teacher and student representatives from Victoria Educational Organisation were interviewed



New clippings of Wu Zhi Xing 2011



Working team of WZQ Development and Research Centre



Fundraising event organized by Victoria last year

Please send your comments on this newsletter to

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