

# The Finnish Charity School Project

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*Why Wouldn't You Build a School?*

为什么不建一座学校呢？

## **The Finnish Community in China is able to build a School in Sichuan**

Press release April 22nd, 2009

**A Finnish charity project has reached an important milestone. The construction of a primary School in Sichuan will start according to schedule in May. Completion is expected in September. The project will celebrate this together with the Finnish Expo 2010 team on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

After 512, the Wenchuan Earthquake, individuals, corporations, and governments donated millions in emergency relief. However the structural damages could be measured in billions - if not trillions. A charity project was spontaneously formed by Finnish and Chinese individuals, working with Finnish companies in China. The Finnish Community wanted to contribute to creating lasting infrastructure in the society that has so kindly accepted them as their guests. Building a school matches very well the Finnish mentality and values which holds education in very high regard. The project has been named "FenFang project".

The objective of the project is to build a primary school in Guiyuan village of Guanghan Town in Deyang District of Sichuan Province. The school, to be named Fenfang Spring Bud School, will be a primary school, grades 1 through 6 with a capacity for 250 students. The project budget is about RMB 4.2m. The project is supported by China Children's and Teenagers Fund (CCTF) and the local government.

The management of the Finnish Charity School Project is now happy to announce that, despite the dismal economic climate, it has succeeded in securing enough funds to commence with the first phase of the construction project: starting construction of the main building. However, the over-all budget for the school campus is only 90% complete. A few more donors are still needed and thus encouraged to join this rapidly growing crowd.

To commemorate this milestone the project will have a celebration together with the Finnish Expo 2010 team on April 22nd at the Ground breaking ceremony of the Finnish Pavilion for the Shanghai World Expo 2010. The Ground breaking ceremony for the school will be held on site in Sichuan on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The construction work is expected to be finished by the beginning of the next school year in September.

### **More information**

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### **The Finnish Charity School project...**

- was initiated by members of the Finnish Community in China as a spontaneous response to the tragic events of “512”
- Fenfang came from the pronunciation of Finnish Funding, showing the nature of the project.
- is administered in assistance of the oldest independent charity organization in China, China Children’s and Teenagers’ fund, CCTF with 20 years of experience or building schools in rural China.
- will result in a primary school for 250 children in the village of Guiyuan northeast of Chengdu.
- is about creating long lasting infrastructure with the potential to touch the lives of thousands of children in the years to come.
- channels 100% of the donations to construction work. All administrative work is done with volunteer efforts.
- has no administrative budget. All marketing has been by “word of mouth”
- will be managed and overseen “24/7” on-site by our “own” construction managers - a donation by the Pöyry Construction Consulting Company.
- is a very convenient way for a organization to practice highly targeted and cost effective Corporate Social Responsibility.
- is supported by donations from almost 30 corporations, almost 100 individuals, the Embassy of Finland in Beijing, and numerous volunteer workers.
- is not yet completed – We still need your support!



*The conceptual design of FenFang-SpringBud Primary School*