

Impact of the 20/4/2013 earthquake on Chongren's two schools in Mingshan

Update for the donors

Hours after a severe 7.0 earthquake hit Ya'an on April 20, 2013, Mark Qiu contacted the authorities in Mingshan to express his worries and offered the foundation's support, in case of need.

The speedy feedback was that the Wangu school suffered noticeable damage, being at 17-18 km from the center of the earthquake only, while Lianjiang suffered hardly, being at more than 40 km from the center of the quake. Teacher Long sent photos a few days later that allowed to get an impression of the damage, and provided a detailed technical report a few days later, made by the provincial authorities.

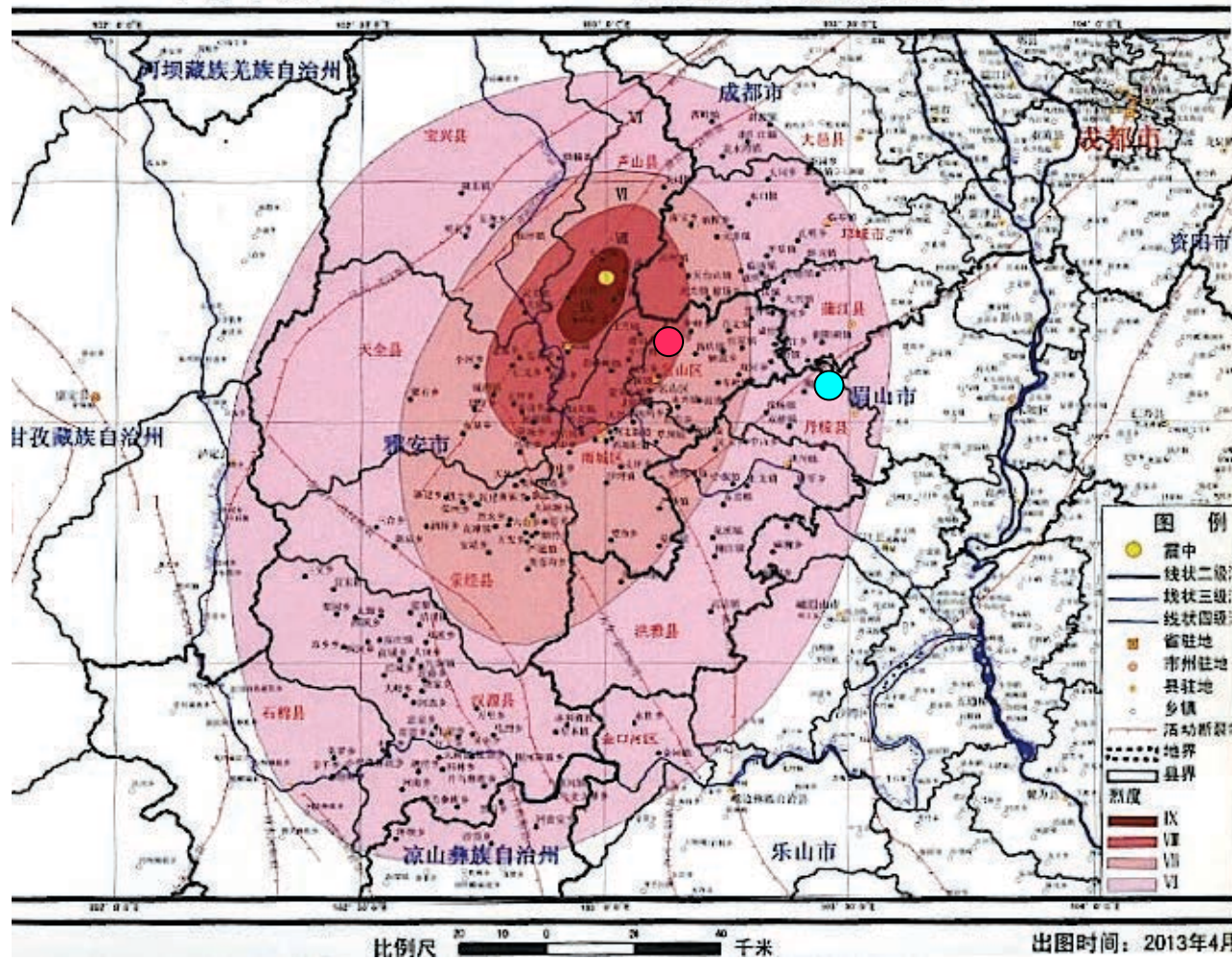
On May 30-31, 2013, Chongren, accompanied by engineer Chen Li from Swisstec visited both schools on site, and noticed with great satisfaction that the damages at both schools, and the Wangu in particular, have already been repaired, closely following the recommendations made by the competent provincial authorities in their Safety Assessment Report, dated May 1, 2013.

The donors can, therefore, be at ease that the quality and anti earthquake precautions of both schools are fully in line with their request for optimal safety. The 4/20 earthquake did not cause any structural damage, neither at the Wangu nor at the Lianjiang school, as you can read in the Above mentioned Safety Assessment Report and noticed from the photos in following pages.

For Chongren, June 8, 2013

Chen Li, engineer
Erwin, coordinator

四川省芦山“4·20”7.0级强烈地震烈度图



● Wangu

● Lianjiang

Lianjiang Integrated Primary School

Lianjiang, being at around 40 km from the center of the earthquake, suffered only minor damage in the painting. The local Government renovated, nonetheless, the painting in the early days of May.



Wangu Primary and Junior Middle School

The delay in the construction of Wangu, due to the heavy piling works (772 deep pillars CFG for the L-shaped classroom building, and 448 deep pillars CFG for each dormitory and 348 for the canteen), proved to be the right decision. No structural damage in any of the new buildings.

As the annexed Safety Assessment report states, no cracking or deformation occurred on the concrete structure and/or frame joints of any of the buildings. The cracking off at the wall plaster layers, or the interface between infill walls has been repaired before the end of May, in line of the instructions by the provincial authorities.

CFG pillars during the construction.



Although the earthquake turned movable things in the school upside down, there was little damage to the equipment, even not to the computers.



All repair works were financed by the local Government, thus no need for any support by Chongren.





The students at Wangu, when asked by Chongren, confirmed that they were really frightened by the severity of the quake, but were happy to have been at home when it struck. Moreover, they have expressed full confidence in their future, as their smile makes us guess.