



Chiang Mai, February 2014

## *Amici di Qinghai & Swiss Friends of Qinghai*

Activities report 2013, whole year

Dear friends and donors

The *Amici di Qinghai* paid seven visits to Qinghai in 2013, including an inspection by Max Vögtli, a Chinese speaking Swiss student. The purpose of these visits was:

1. To inaugurate projects decided in 2012, and completed with delay in 2013: The Huanquhu dormitory and teachers quarters, the Sicun classroom building and teachers quarters, two moving nomad schools.
2. To inaugurate five additional nomad moving schools, all fully realized without delay in 2013: Zexiongtang 2, Duohemao-North, Duohemao-South, Ningxiu, Maixiuzheng.
3. To control repair works (Nisantang) or upgrade IT-equipment (Quma).
4. To implement two scholarship programs (Mr. & Mrs. Ronner and Mr. & Mrs. Roth)
5. To evaluate new projects for 2014: *Luhexiang* primary school (district Tongren), three additional moving nomad schools (district Zeku) and the *Jiajia Lairong* primary school (district Jianzha).

Happily, the discussions for new school projects were smoother again, and are likely to remain so, in particular with respect to the moving schools for nomad children who live in very sparsely populated areas of the highlands. The two pilot projects that were implemented in 2012, won high esteem by the provincial authorities and got recognized as an innovative education scheme for remote nomad regions. Five additional moving schools could, therefore, be selected and implemented in 2013. Patience on our side, avoidance of any politics and concentration on purely educational goals have paid off.

Updates on the above projects have been published or will be put on the website of the foundation soon at [www.schurtenberger.biz/swiss/](http://www.schurtenberger.biz/swiss/)  
Please click on the name of the school you are looking for under projects 2012, 2013 or 2014.

The account of the *Swiss Friends of Qinghai*, administered by Anne-Marie Schmid, has been closed at the end of 2013. The remaining balance of CHF 17'000.-- has been transferred to the account of the *Fondazione Amici di Qinghai* and will be used for repair works of earlier built schools and/or for scholarships, in the same spirit and under the same conditions as in the past, namely no administrative fee whatsoever.

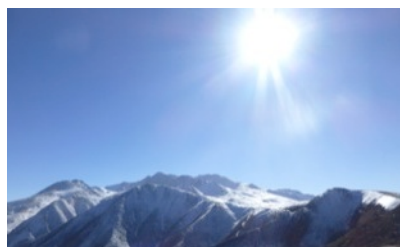
The accounts of the foundation *Amici di Qinghai* for 2013 were approved by the foundation's Board of Trustees in December 2013\*, and will be submitted to Mr. Cristiano Botta, Lugano, for external audit, and finally to the competent authorities in Berne (EDI) for regulatory approval. The foundation continues enjoying tax exemption in Switzerland.

As the year of the wooden Horse has started, we wish you and your beloved ones continued good health, profound peace in your heart and a generous portion of personal happiness. May the gentle Horse bring us all safely and skillfully through the uneven topography of world politics and the global economy of 2014 !

Renewing our heartiest thanks for your continued support, we remain

Yours gratefully

Yolanda & Erwin, Chiang Mai, February 2014



***"You are the sky,  
everything else is just the weather"*** (Nomad saying)

\*Avv. Eros Bergonzoli, Claudio Metzger, Yolanda and Erwin Schurtenberger

**1. To inaugurate projects decided in 2012, but completed in 2013 only: Huanquhu dormitory and teachers quarters, Sicun classroom building and teachers quarters, two moving nomad schools.**

-- *Huanquhu dormitory building*: Has 10 rooms of 5,4 m to 3,3 m for 8 students each, and a corridor isolating the rooms from the cold outside: Due to long heavy rain periods, the dormitory building could be completed in mid July 2013 only. The rooms were ready for the school year 2013-14 that started in September, with more than 150 students, including 70 boarding students. The building has been fully financed by the *Fidinam Foundation* (Lugano).



-- *Huanquhu teachers' living quarters*: Three bedrooms 5x3 m for the teachers and one larger common living room. This building, too, could be completed in July only. The building makes a noticeable difference for the teachers, and motivates them to give their best in providing the nomad kids with a basic education, enabling them to survive in the increasingly competitive landscape that is spreading even to the highlands of Qinghai. This project has been fully financed by the *Swiss Friends of Qinghai* (Mrs. Anne-Marie Schmid).



-- *Huanquhu canteen*: Due to budgetary restraints, the local authorities paid their share of 40% to the construction costs in Summer of 2013 only. The works for the new canteen started, therefore, with some delay, while the renovation and enlargement of the old canteen was done earlier. The *Amici's* contribution of RBM 220'000 for this project was financed with the annual contribution of the *Chongren Foundation* in Hong Kong, where Erwin is one of the two directors.





-- *Sicun classroom building*: The beautiful new classrooms of the *Camille & Charlotte School* were inaugurated on July 13, on behalf of the donor family who intends to pay a visit itself later on. Long and heavy rain had delayed the completion of the construction again and again. The quality is, nonetheless, well above prevailing local conditions for schools and public buildings, and is therefore highly appreciated by the people of the four villages of Sicun.



-- *The teachers quarters (Rita Flühler Building)*: For the same reasons as mentioned above some delay occurred in the completion of this nice four rooms building that has been built as living quarters for the teachers, two women and two men. The outstanding diligence of the four teachers has undoubtedly contributed to the top performance of the students of Sicun school at the annual year-end exams in early July, and will likely continue to do so. Formal inauguration was also performed on July 13.



## 2. To inaugurate five additional nomad moving schools that were realized without delay: Duohe-mao-North, Duohe-mao-South, Ningxiu, Zexiongtang 2, Maixiuzheng

-- *Basic information about moving nomad schools*

The purpose of these moving schools is to help the 4-6 years old nomad children to acquire basic knowledge in Tibetan and Chinese reading and writing, as well as basic arithmetic and a few words of English. The teacher in charge of each school concerned is visiting places close to the children's homes. This allows to rise the knowledge of the nomad children to a level sufficient to attend the boarding school, that they must attend for the primary education.



-- *Duohemao Wangxiao zhongxin* (formerly called Duohemao-North): The formal opening of the *Enzo moving Nomad School*, fully financed by a donor family from Switzerland, was held on July 14, under a wonderful blue sky and warm sunshine. This was a pleasant difference with the conditions in Winter, when the temperature was still at a freezing minus 20° to 25°C, with gusty winds and grey sky. Both, the students and the parents, expressed heartiest thanks to the donor for the opportunity that the new moving school will provide them with.



-- *Duohemao Wangqingning* (formerly called Duohemao-South): The Wangqingning moving nomad school, financed by the *Pende Foundation* in Ascona (Switzerland), is covering an area on the Qinghai highlands that is really not spoiled by mother Nature, given the extremely harsh winter with average temperatures of minus 30°C to 35°C and almost constant gusty winds. The income of the nomads comes exclusively from stockbreeding of yaks, goats and sheep. The few pleasant summer months are, however, a kind of compensation for the harsh winter.



-- *Ningxiu*: This moving nomad school, located at 12 km east of the district city of Zeku, has been jointly financed by the *City of Wädenswil* and *Mrs. Carmen Konzelmann* (Locarno). The inauguration was held on July 14 by Erwin, on behalf of the donors. The progress of the students who had started to enjoy the instruction as of last April, is surprising. In a short time, they succeeded to read simple Tibetan texts and a few dozens of Chinese words/characters, as well as to do some basic arithmetic.





-- *Zexiongtang 2*: This moving nomad school, located in the Qiakeri area, has been fully financed by a friend of the Buhler-Uzwil company, MIT Professor Ed Steinfeld together with his family (Suqing, William and Daniel), who visited the highlands in mid June to inaugurate the *Steinfeld Brothers School*. The nomads of the area offered them a real festival with multiple activities, they will hardly forget anytime soon.



-- *Maixiuzheng*: This moving nomad school covers almost 250 km<sup>2</sup>, west of the township of Maixiuzheng, at 3600 m above sea, in an extremely remote and very sparsely populated area. The school was jointly co-financed by *Mrs. Carmen Konzelmann* (Locarno) and *Professor Geisser* (Gersau). The inauguration was held in November by Erwin, on behalf of the donors.



-- *A special project: e-books to support nomads in self-teaching*

Each e-book comprises a set of books to learn Tibetan, Chinese, English, geography, history and arithmetic with an in-built voice system that can be activated by a wooden pen. According to the language chosen, the voice talks in any of the three languages. It was amazing to see how fast the nomad children have learnt the logic of the system and how even the parents started to use the e-books. The *Amici* distributed 120 sets in November, all paid by six individual donors from Switzerland.

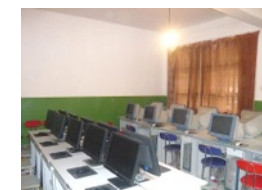


### 3. To control repair works (Nisantang) or upgrade IT-equipment (Quma)

*Nisantang*: The *Swiss Friends* (Mrs. A-M Schmid) financed a comprehensive renovation of this primary school, built by them in 2002, with the exception of the recently added dormitory. Furthermore, they financed the construction of a solid large sports ground for physical education. While the sports ground was of outstanding quality, the *Amici* requested to redo the interior painting in one of the classroom buildings for quality reasons, a request that was met without delay and to our satisfaction.



-- *Quma*: The *Amici di Qinghai* financed the upgrading of the IT-equipment at this exemplary primary school. Quma produces regularly a number of students in the top 100 students of the whole province of Qinghai at the annual final primary exams. IT-education has become of crucial importance in China's primary education all over the country.



### 4. To implement the scholarship programs of Mr. & Mrs. Ronner and Mr. & Mrs. Roth

In addition to the Quma scholarship program (Mrs. & Mr. Ronner), the *Amici* had the privilege to select 10 students at the high altitude Huanquhu nomad school, for a scholarship program offered by Mrs. Andrea and Mr. Thomas Roth (Zurich). Both fellow groups were selected in July and given their scholarship money in September.

#### *Quma*

Program offered yearly by Mrs. & Mr. Ronner to 10 students and/or former students of this primary school for the third consecutive year already.

#### *Huanquhu*

Program offered yearly by Mrs. & Mr. Roth to 10 nomad students of this primary school at 3850 m above sea, for the first time in fall of 2013.

2013 年接受文先生资助学生名单 2013.11.16

姓名	性别	出生年月	籍贯	所在学校	家长姓名	资助金额/元	签名
叶海康	男	1997	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	
曹维志	男	1992	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	
李元才	男	1994	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	
白玛松	男	1995	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	
周丹	男	1991	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	
周维才	男	1992	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	
周平松	男	1994	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	
周维才	男	1994	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	
李元才	男	1994	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	
李元才	男	1994	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	
李元才	男	1994	青海省 同仁县 隆务镇 隆务小学	中德二	李红	3000	



Scholarship awarded in Huanquhu school

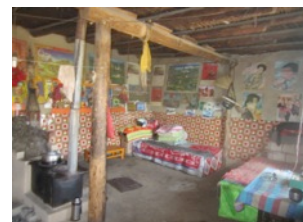
Name of student	Classroom / Education	Scholarship amount (USD)	Student's Sign	Parent's Sign
叶海康	Pre-school class	1000.00		
曹维志	Pre-school class	1000.00		
李元才	Grade one	1000.00		
白玛松	Grade one	1000.00		
周丹	Grade two	1000.00		
周维才	Grade three	1000.00		
周平松	Grade three	1000.00		
周维才	Grade four	1000.00		
李元才	Grade four	1000.00		
李元才	Grade four	1000.00		
Total amount		10000.00	To be paid by end of Sept 2013	

## 5. To evaluate new projects for the calendar year 2014

-- *Luhexiang* primary school: Due to a seriously threatening landslide, the authorities have requested the whole population of the Liuhexiang village to move their houses to a site around 6 km on the other side of the valley. The Government offered new jobs to the teachers in Tongren, and asked the children to attend a boarding school in the same city, including the 4-6 years old ones. The villagers expressed their worries that such a separation of the children from the parents at such an early stage would negatively influence their mind. After discussion with the authorities, the latter agreed to let the pupils staying at a school in the new village, as long as the Government does not have to pay anything for the construction of a new classroom building. The villagers asked, therefore, the Amici for help to finance the construction of a pre-school and 1-3 grades primary class building at the new site of the village. A final decision will be made by the Government in Spring.



-- *Ningxiu-Malema*: This moving nomad school is located at 50-60 km west of Zeku city, and is planned to serve the pre-school children of the sub-districts of Zhisai, Xiuqia, Renzong and Cuofudun. The area concerned has a population of 3100 people with 67 children in pre-school age. The teaching will be done at 9 learning sites, along the system of other moving nomad schools of the Amici. The funds for this project will come from the numerous individual donations to the foundation.



-- *Jiajia Lairong*: This pre-school and 1-2 grades primary school is located in the district of Jianzha. The population of the village comprises only 210 people and 20 children in the pre-school age. The building is in very bad shape. Without a renovation, the children will have to attend a boarding school during the week in a township of the district, which means separation from their parents at an early age already. The project will be re-visited by Erwin in Spring before any proposal is to be submitted to the foundation's Trustees.

-- Two additional moving nomad school have been discussed with the Zeku Education authorities in November 2013, but will be re-examined and finalized in Spring of 2014.



Thank you so much for your generous help !



Chiang Mai, February 2014  
For the *Amici di Qinghai*, Erwin