



Fondazione Amici di Qinghai

Report on the activities in 2017

Dear friends and donors

The *Amici di Qinghai* paid five visits to the highlands in 2017, including one week by Yolanda. As in previous years, Xiao Song, Erwin's loyal office clerk, joined all visits, and Ms. Liu Jing handled bono *fide* logistics and the relations with the Chinese banks, namely the Bank of China and the Agricultural Bank of China.

The purpose of the foundation's visits was:

1. To inaugurate the three additional nomad moving schools ,all financed and completed in 2017 (*Maniquguo, Kening and Qilong*).
2. To complete small projects such as the repair of the severely damaged roof at the *Duoning* primary school, two scholarship programs and distribution of additional e-books in earlier constructed schools that had not got this useful teaching tool.
3. To evaluate one new moving nomad school (*Baojie*) that was approved by the foundation's Trustees at their meeting in December 2017, and will be implemented in Spring of 2018. Two more moving nomad schools will be evaluated in April 2018.
4. To sponsor Long Life Ceremonies for the donors and friends of the *Amici-di-Qinghai* foundation , one at the ancient Heri Temple on the Zeku highlands, and another one at the Rekhong Temple on the way to the highlands .

Updates on the various projects have are being put on the website of the foundation, at www.fondazione-amici-di-qinghai.org/ - Please click on the name of the school you are looking for, under *major projects*, or under *small projects*.

The contacts with the local authorities and the nomad heads were very smooth again during the whole calendar year 2017, in spite of tighter controls applied to Non Governmental Organizations operating in China. Low key visibility of the foundation in the media, strict concentration on purely educational activities and practicing solid patience in the contacts with the authorities paid off.

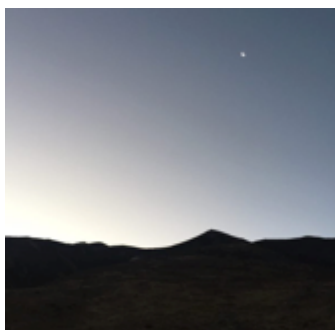
The provisional accounts of the *Amici di Qinghai* for 2017* were approved by the foundation's Board of Trustees on November 16, 2017**. The final accounts will be submitted to the external auditor, Mr. Cristiano Botta (Lugano) in Spring 2018, thereafter the accounts will have to be approved by the Trustees in their Spring meeting. Afterwards the whole documentation will be submitted to the federal authorities in Berne (EDI) for regulatory approval. The foundation continues enjoying tax exemption in Switzerland.

As the year of the trustworthy *Fire Dog* will start by mid February, we wish you and your beloved ones herewith for 2018 all fortunes of this world in abundance, above all continued excellent health and profound peace in your heart.

Renewing our heartiest thanks for your deeply appreciated, continued support, we remain

Yours truly & gratefully

Yolanda & Erwin,
Chiang Mai, in mid January 2018



* www.schurtenberger.biz/swiss/prov.accounts2015/pdf

** Avv. Eros Bergonzoli, Monica Cocchi del Ponte, Claudio Metzger, Yolanda and Erwin Schurtenberger

**1. To inaugurate the three additional nomad moving schools, all financed and completed in 2017:
Maniquguo, Kening and Qilong**

MANIQUGUO

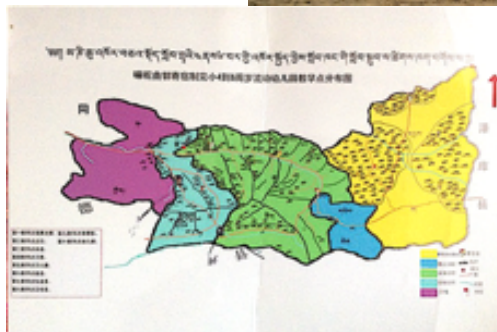
The *Maniquguo* district is located at 50 to 70 km West of Zeku, and has a population of close to 2300 people, including 198 pre-school and first grade primary school students. The teaching is given at different sites in winter (six) or summer (four), while the number of students remains the same during the whole year, namely 105 boys and 93 girls. The distance from one teaching site to another is between 3 and 25 km. As there is no pre-school education for the children concerned in the past, the parents and the village leaders submitted a request for pre-school education of their children via the education authorities.

After due discussion with the villagers and the Education authorities, and a pledge by the parents to bring their children to the teaching points assigned, the Trustees of the foundation agreed at their December 2016 meeting, to finance the project from the general funds of the foundation for implementation in Spring of 2017. The formal opening of the *Maniquguo* moving nomad school took place at the end of July when the school car has been “baptized”, in the name of the *Amici-di-Qinghai*.

Maniquguo region in winter



Maniquguo region in Summer



KENING

This new moving nomad school is located at around 40 km Southeast of the district city of Zeku and around 20 km from the township of *Duohemu*, and is deserving a population of around 1200 people, including 123 students on the pre-school and first to third grade primary school. After due discussion with the nomads concerned, with the village elders and the education authorities in early April, three teaching sites were designated: *Sangchining* with 26 students, *Daqionggei* with 16 students and *Xiuqiaduo* with 12 students, while the other 69 are visiting an already existing pre-school. The distance from one teaching site to another is between 3 and 10 km. The new moving nomad school has solved the pre-education situation for this relatively small village that is suffering from really harsh weather conditions in both, Summer and Winter,

Yolanda and Erwin visited several teaching sites of the *Kening* moving nomad school, located in both, the higher altitude sites in Summer and the lower altitude sites in Winter. Given the enthusiasm of the parents to get their children to attend the moving nomad school, the Trustees accepted to finance the project from the general funds of the foundation for implementation without delay. The school was realized without delay, and inaugurated on July 8, 2017.



QILONG

This new moving nomad school is located at around 60 km West of the district city of Zeku, at 3740 m above sea level. After an evaluation of the project on site by Yolanda and Erwin in April 2017, and discussions with the nomads and the Education authorities, a request for financing this moving nomad school was submitted to the Trustees for consideration. Two regular sponsors of *the Amici-di-Qinghai*, namely Mr. Ernst Bärtschi and Barbara & Paul Häring, kindly volunteered to fully finance this new moving nomad school.

The Qilong Ernst Bärtschi and B.&P. Häring moving nomad school can therefore offer, for the first time, to more than 70 children of the remote and sparsely populated region a pre-school and first grade education in reading and writing, Tibetan and Chinese, as well as some simple math and history and geography. Teaching is given at two sites at higher altitude during summer, and at three sites at lower altitude during winter, each site far away from each other. The school will give the kids the skills needed to compete with their peers when entering the compulsory boarding school established by the authorities in large scale regional centers

Erwin inaugurated the school on July 13, 2017, together with the education authorities and nomad elders in a simple, but very touching ceremony, attended by a number of teachers from other moving nomad schools. Given the generous contributions by the aforementioned donors, all 6-plus years old students got each a copy of the e-book with the name of the donor attached.



2. To complete small projects such as the repair of the severely damaged roof at the *Duoning* primary school, two scholarship programs and distribution of additional e-books in earlier constructed schools that had not yet got this useful teaching tool.

Repair work at the Duoning primary school

The extremely harsh weather conditions with rather high temperatures in Summer and extremely cold temperatures in winter have left heavy traces on the roof of the building. During a visit of the school by the chairman of *Buhler-Wuxi* and Erwin on October 13, 2017, a check of the roof showed indeed worrisome defects. Given the serious damages on the roof and on the ceilings of all rooms on the second floor of the building, the *Amici-di-Qinghai* asked for an estimate on how to correct the situation in an effective and speedy manner. A few days later, the villagers and school headmaster submitted a rough budget of less than CHF 4000.-- that was approved by the Trustees without delay. This allowed the construction of a PVC on top of the old roof.



Scholarships

Quma: 10 students of the village of *Quma* who visited the primary school in the past or do still today, got a scholarship for the school year 2017-18, namely RMB 1000 for two students each in primary, and RMB 1500 for eight students each in college or university.. The scholarships were remitted to the primary students directly and the ones for the older students to their parents, in a simple ceremony on October 12, 2017, at the premises of the *Quma* school.



2017年同仁县曲么村特困学生名单 (单位:人民币)

姓名	民族	性别	籍贯	家庭	联系电话	金额	就读学校	备注
索毛卓玛	藏族	女	曲么村	独居	15897562259	1500.0	西藏民族大学	大学期间
才让卡	藏族	男	曲么村	牛拉	15897562366	1500.0	浙江理工大学	
索海吉	藏族	女	曲么村	帮工	13119728889	1500.0	西藏大学	
才让德	藏族	女	曲么村	多农	13897536554	1500.0	甘肃政法学院	大学期间
冷措卓玛	藏族	女	曲么村	才让	13619736371	1500.0	西藏警官高等专科学校	大学期间
吉毛才让	藏族	男	曲么村	拉毛才让	13109731825	1500.0	甘肃政法学院	大学期间
索代央珍	藏族	男	曲么村	会保	13129733134	1500.0	华南农业大学	大学期间
索卓卓玛	藏族	女	曲么村	才让德	15609733836	1500.0	西藏民族大学	大学期间
仁增德毛	藏族	女	曲么村	仁增吉	18009732918	1000.0	浙江理工大学	大学期间
夏格才让	藏族	女	曲么村	扎西卡	13897130501	1000.0	浙江理工大学	大学期间
合计						14000.0		

Scholarships continued

This high altitude nomad school at 3860 m above sea has a day time and a boarding section, and was built in a series of steps (classroom, teachers building, boarding tract, canteen, sports area) over several years, while financed by various donors through the *Amici-di-Qinghai*.

The track record of the scholarship program implemented in the last 10 years is quite encouraging, as the performance of the more than 100 fellows have shown impressive success so far.

For the school year September 2017 to September 2018, RMB 1000 each were remitted to 20 students. Given the very remote high altitude of this nomad school, the children were transported by two trucks from the mountains down to the *Quma* school, where the remittance ceremony was held on October 12, 2017.



同仁县兰采学区（环曲手学校）贫困户学生花名册（享受爱心人士资助款）

序号	姓名	性别	年级	金额	备注
1	普毛卓玛	女	一年级(1)	1,000.00	普毛卓玛
2	万玛斯	女	一年级(1)	1,000.00	万玛斯
3	尕藏多杰	男	一年级(1)	1,000.00	尕藏多杰
4	扎西吉	女	一年级(1)	1,000.00	扎西吉
5	旦丹斯杰	男	一年级(2)	1,000.00	旦丹斯杰
6	扎西东智	男	一年级(2)	1,000.00	扎西东智
7	索南措	女	一年级(2)	1,000.00	索南措
8	余杰才让	男	一年级(2)	1,000.00	余杰才让
9	多杰才且	男	二年级	1,000.00	多杰才且
10	旦正加	男	二年级	1,000.00	旦正加
11	多杰卓玛	女	二年级	1,000.00	多杰卓玛
12	普毛措	女	二年级	1,000.00	普毛措
13	才吉措	女	三年级	1,000.00	才吉措
14	卓玛吉	女	三年级	1,000.00	卓玛吉
15	贡保仁青	男	三年级	1,000.00	贡保仁青
16	扎西吉	女	三年级	1,000.00	扎西吉
17	仁青措	女	四年级	1,000.00	仁青措
18	吉措	女	四年级	1,000.00	吉措
19	拉先吉	女	四年级	1,000.00	拉先吉
20	拉玛才让	男	四年级	1,000.00	拉玛才让
合计				20,000.00	

Distribution of more “e-teachers”

The overwhelming success with the so-called e-teacher in various moving nomad schools of the Zeku district since 2012-13 has motivated the *Amici di Qinghai* to continue providing more young students in these very sparsely populated areas with the most helpful tool to improve their self-education. The “electronic teacher” consists of a set of printed books that, when touched by a battery-driven pin, pronounces the given text in the chosen language (Tibetan, Chinese, English); the battery is a recharge-able solar battery. The new method allows the young pupils to get ready during their 2 years pre-school education for the time when they must attend the nearest boarding school for formal primary classes. Moreover, the textbooks allow the youngsters to learn by themselves basic Tibetan, Chinese, arithmetic et al in the days when there is no teacher around. The results of the new method have proven to be of very effective help in improving the pre-school education level since its introduction in 2012.



3. To evaluate one new moving nomad school (*Baojie*)

This new project is located at around 90 km Northeast of the county town of Zeku and around 60 km South of Tongren at 3360 m above sea level. The administrative “village” of Baojie is covering a wide and very sparsely populated area and has two sub administrative units, namely *Garang* and *Gongqiang*. The area has a population of 1758 people at present, including 132 children in the education age, and 26 in the pre-school and first grade. The Education Bureau wants to offer teaching by a moving nomad school at five different places, be it in Winter or in Summer, namely *Xideduo*, *Surilongwa*, *Tangtsai*, *Sanahelai* and *Tangna*. There is no formal pre-school and first class teaching at this stage, but the villagers have employed a young teacher to teach the kids some basics. Moreover, they have financed a small, but cosy brick house at Tangna, to start with.

The villagers will pay for a teacher trainee to help the students the days when there is no class

The Education Bureau of Zeku will finance a regular teacher and cover all daily costs of the moving nomad school of *Baojie*.

The car and the initial teaching equipment (including solar powered TV set, et al) will be financed by the *Amici*.

The car will be controlled and maintained by the Education Bureau of Zeku.

The foundation’s trustees approved the project submitted to them at their December 2017 meeting for implementation in Spring of 2018.

Furthermore, two more moving nomad schools will be evaluated in April 2018, by Yolanda and Erwin during their visit in April 2018.



A second ceremony was held by the monks of the more than 250 years old Rebkhong Temple, located close to the main road from Tongren to Zeku, on October 10 and November 25 2017.



Provisional accounts 2017

Balance on Dec 31, 2016	CHF 139'201 +
at UBS-Bern 235-498363.40 C	
Income in 2017 (donations)	CHF 65'290 +
Expenses 2017	
Quma pre-school equipment (project 2016, but money transferred on 15.5.2017 only)	CHF 8'100
Maniquguo Moving Nomad School (7.6.2017)	CHF 27'000
e-books 7.6.2017	CHF 7'100
Qilong Moving Nomad School 20.6.2017	CHF 27'000
Kening Moving Nomad School 27.6.2017	CHF 27'000
Scholarships first group 29.8.2017	CHF 5'400
Scholarships 2 nd group 2.11.2017	CHF 3'185
Duoning roof 2.11.2017	CHF 3'163
e-books Gawuang 2.11.2017	CHF 1'778
Audit EDI 22.6.2017	CHF 400
External auditor, Botta S.A. Lugano	CHF 1'156
CHF 500 were reimbursed by Mrs and Mr. Botta as a personal donation)	
Banking costs	CHF 250
Total expenses 2017	CHF 111'532 -
Balance on Dec 31, 2017	CHF 92'959 +

The final accounts will be approved by the Trustees at the April meeting, then sent for control to the external auditor, Mr. Botta, and finally submitted to the Federal Ministry of Interior EDI before the end of June 2018.

PS: The salary paid by the *Chongren* Foundation for Erwin's work in 2017 of US\$30'000 was credited to the accounts of the *Amici* on January 7, 2018 only. The actual income of the foundation in 2017 amounted, therefore, to CHF 94'690, and the balance on Dec 31, 2017 to CHF 122'359.