



Fondazione Amici di Qinghai

Report on the activities in 2016

Dear friends and donors

The *Amici di Qinghai* paid five visits to the highlands in 2016, including one week by Yolanda, and another visit by the foundation's lawyer, avv. Eros Bergonzoli. Furthermore, Xiao Song, Erwin's office clerk, joined all visits, and Ms. Liu Jing continued to handle logistics and domestic accountancy.

The purpose of the foundation's visits was:

1. To inaugurate the *Yangzhigou* primary school, financed by a charity foundation of Zurich, whose completion was delayed due to periods of extremely cold and dry weather in 2015-16.
2. To inaugurate four additional nomad moving schools, all completed in 2016, but two of them financed in 2015 already (*Duo Long* and *Ningxiu*), and two financed in 2016 (*Sangwangguo* and *Tangdegatuhe*)
3. To complete various small scale projects, easier to be done under the new, tighter regulations for charity work in China: Quma pre-school equipment, scholarships to needy nomad students and distribution of a large number of e-teachers.
4. To hold a celebration for all the 17 moving nomad schools financed and implemented so far by the donors of the *Amici-di-Qinghai*.
5. To evaluate one additional moving nomad school (*Maniquguo*) that was approved by the foundation's Trustees at their meeting in December, and will be implemented in Spring of 2017.

Updates on the various projects have been 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* 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, or under *small projects*.

The contacts with the local authorities and the nomad heads continued to be very smooth during the whole calendar year 2016, 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 gentle patience in the contacts with the authorities paid off.

The provisional accounts of the *Amici di Qinghai* for 2016* were approved by the foundation's Board of Trustees on December 7, 2016**. The final accounts will be submitted to the external auditor, Mr. Cristiano Botta (Lugano) in Spring 2017, and then sent to the federal authorities in Berne (EDI) for regulatory approval. The foundation continues enjoying tax exemption in Switzerland.

On July 27, 2016, the monks of Rebkhong's *Tashi Caphel Ling* monastery held a Long Life Ceremony for all the donors of the *Amici di Qinghai*, who offered last year again their generous support to the many nomads living with their families and children on the highlands of *Huangnan* Prefecture.

As the year of the trustworthy *Fire Rooster* will start very soon, we wish you and your beloved ones 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 late January 2017



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

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

1. To inaugurate the Yangzhigou primary school, financed by a charity foundation of Zurich, whose completion was delayed due to extremely cold and dry weather in 2015 and 2016.

YANGZHIGOU: The construction of this new primary school was co-financed by a charity foundation from Zurich and the Education Bureau of the Tongren district, while the villagers offered a significant amount of labor. A lengthy approval process for new school buildings (new anti-earthquake regulations) and long periods of extremely cold weather delayed the completion. Finally the new classroom building as well as the teachers living room and the administrative room were ready for the start of the new school year in early September. The formal opening was celebrated on November 14, 2016, by the Amici, the Education Bureau and the villagers.



2. To inaugurate four additional nomad moving schools, all realized in 2016, two financed in 2016 (Sangwangguo, Tangdegatuhe) and two financed in 2015 already (DuoLong, Ningxiu),

SANGWANGGUO: . This nomad moving school will cover an area of almost 30 km² in a sparsely populated area, at an altitude of 3400 to 3800 m above sea, and offers pre-school and first grade primary education to around 80 nomad students at five teachings sites, who had no opportunity to learn reading, writing Tibetan and basic Chinese, as well as some arithmetic before entering a compulsory boarding school in a township. The project was fully financed from the general funds of the the foundation. The Amici inaugurated the school in early April and made a follow up visit in late July.



TANGDEGATUHE: located at 25-40 km northwest of the township of Heri, famous for its old Sakiya Temple, this moving nomad school is covering a sparsely populated area of 35 km² (2500 people), at an altitude of 3400 to 3800 m above sea. Tangdegatuhe offers a pre-school and first grade education to more than 70 kids at nine teaching sites, given the big size of the “village”. The project has been fully financed by the Chongren Foundation in Hong Kong.



DUO LONG: Duo Long is at 30 km north of the district city of Zeku, in a very sparsely populated wide area with a population of 1800 people, and at an altitude of 3800 to 4800 m above sea, close to mountain Tula. This moving nomad school offers for the first time pre-school education to the nomad children in this remote area. The instruction is given at five teaching sites, namely at Saixiang, Gong-qiyu, Saga, Ningchang and Qumeiri. Duo Long is fully financed by a Geneva-based businessman, and has been named “Alexa Firmenich Duo Long Moving Nomad School”.



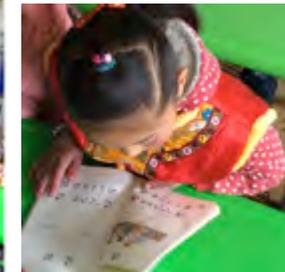
NINGXIU, formerly called Jisuzhi moving nomad school. Located east of the Ningxiu township, has a population of 3600 people, including 191 children in the pre-school age (4 to 7). 79 children who could not attend kindergarten and pre-school education before 2015, got hence the opportunity to learn basic reading, writing and some arithmetic at the new moving nomad school. The project has been co-financed by the Pende Foundation and the Amici-di-Qinghai. This school will raise the literary rate of these young nomad children to the level of other areas on the highlands and make them fit to attend the compulsory primary boarding school. Instruction is given at 7 teaching sites.



3. To launch and complete various small projects

Equipment for the pre-school classes in *Quma*

Given the long and very harmonious relationship between the Amici and the village of *Quma*, a model school by any standards (management, teachers dedication, students performance and continuation major universities). The Trustees agreed to finance some indoor equipment for the pre-school classes, such as chairs, tables, shelves, DVD player, et al. More than 60 kids attend at present the pre-school classes, and more than 140 the primary school.



Scholarships

Quma village: 12 students who are still at the *Quma* primary school, or who pursue their studies at a college or university, were given a scholarship for the fifth consecutive year, i.e. the same number of scholarships and same amount but not the same beneficiaries: RMB 1000 for primary and RMB 1500 for college students.

Huangquhu nomad school: 12 scholarships of RMB 1000 each were given to needy nomad students at the high altitude nomad school of *Huangquhu* (3800 m above sea). Youngsters transported these kids on their motorbikes from the school down to *Quma* village in 2 ½ hours for one way, like in last year.

Distribution of “e-teachers”

The overwhelming success with the so-called e-teacher in various moving nomad schools of the Zeku district during 2012-13 has motivated the *Amici di Qinghai* to provide 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 students 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 young students 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. -- A great number of donors have offered to finance a specific number of e-books to help the students in their efforts to improve reading and writing, et al.



4. Celebrating the successful operation of the 17 Moving Nomad Schools, established so far

On July 29, 2016 Mr. Eros Bergonzoli, the foundation's pro *bono* lawyer and Erwin joined a festival near Zeku, where all 17 moving nomad schools demonstrated their talents, be it by dances, songs, speeches, et al. The experience with these learning institutions in the very sparsely populated areas of the Qinghai highlands are insofar innovative as the teachers go to various teaching sites close to where the students parents live, instead of the students going to the teacher at a fixed site school building. The students in of the moving schools have achieved significantly higher marks since they can attend moving nomad schools.





2017 (1) approved in Dec 2016: [Maniaguwo](#), [Amici di Qinghai School of Hope](#)

2016 (4)
 麦秀柔哇沟寄宿制完小流幼儿园 > [Amici-di-Qinghai School of Hope](#)
 和日唐德土禾寄宿制完小流幼儿园 > [Chongren School of Hope](#)
 麦秀多完小附流幼儿园 > [Alexandra Firmenich School of Hope](#)
 宁秀 > [Pende Foundation and Amici-di-Qinghai School](#)

2015 (3)
 巴敦完小流幼儿园 > [Steinfeld Family School of Hope](#)
 王加中心完小流幼儿园 > [Amici-di-Qinghai School of Hope](#)
 曲中心完小流幼儿园 > [Ernst Bärtschi School of Hope](#)

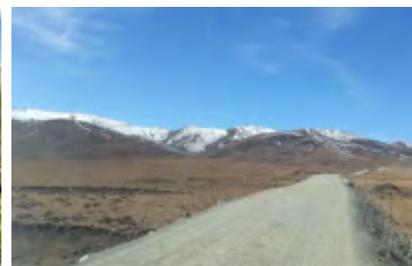
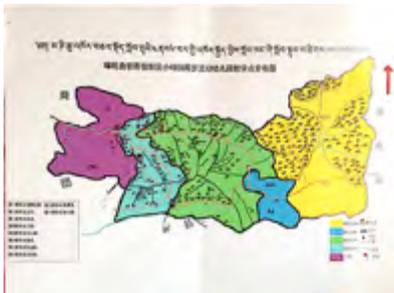
2014 (3)
 和日寄宿制中心完小流幼儿园 > [Firmenich School of Hope](#)
 宁秀寄宿制中心完小流幼儿园 > [Grieder Family School of Hope](#)
 宁秀哇寄宿制中心完小流幼儿园 > [Amici-di-Qinghai School of Hope](#)

2013 (5)
 多禾茂寄宿制中心完小流幼儿园 > [Enzo Nomad School of Hope](#)
 麦秀中心完小流幼儿园 > [Mrs. Carmen Konzelmann & Heinrich Geisser School of Hope](#)
 宁秀雄寄宿制中心完小流幼儿园 > [Wädenswil School of Hope](#)
 多禾茂万青宁寄宿制中心完小流幼儿园 > [Pende Nomad School of Hope](#)
 多禾茂万青宁寄宿制中心完小流幼儿园 > [Steinfeld Brothers School of Hope](#)

2012 (2)
 西卜沙流幼儿园 > [Amici di Qinghai School of Hope](#)
 恰科日流幼儿园 (第二流幼儿园) > [Lions Club Toggenburg School of Hope](#)

5. To evaluate one additional moving nomad school (*Maniaguwo*)

Maniaguwo, located at 50 to 70 km West of Zeku, 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 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 at present for the children concerned, the parents and the village leaders submitted a request via the education authorities. The foundation's Trustees agreed to finance this project for implementation in Spring of 2017.



Due to increased controls and limitations of money transfers from abroad to China, the foundation launched only two new major projects in 2016 (*Sanwanguo* and *Tangdegatuhe*). The expenses in 2016 were, therefore, below the informal ceiling of CHF 200'000 to 250'000 per calendar year. On the other hand, the number of small projects has increased.

Provisional accounts 2016

| | | |
|---|------------|----------------------|
| Balance on Dec 31, 2015 at UBS-Bern 235-498363.40 C | | CHF 94'806 + |
| Income in 2016 Donations | | CHF 141'495 + |
| Expenses in 2016 | | |
| e-books 21.3.2016 | CHF 3'750 | |
| Sangwaguo moving nomad school 17.5.2016 | CHF 27'000 | |
| Tangdegatuhe moving nomad school 17.5.2016 | CHF 27'000 | |
| Quma preschool equipment 2.2.1916 | CHF 8'100. | |
| e-books 15.6.2016 | CHF 7'400 | |
| e-books 8.8.2016 | CHF 8'500 | |
| e-books 5.10.2016 | CHF 9'800 | |
| Scholarships 5.10.2016 | CHF 4'100 | |
| Bank and administrative fees (approximately) | CHF 1'450 | |
| Total expenses | | CHF 97'100 - |
| Balance on Dec 31, 2016 | | CHF 139'201 + |

Final accounts will be approved by the Trustees at the April meeting, then sent for control by the external auditor, Mr. Botta, and finally submitted to the Federal Ministry of Interior EDI before the end of June 2017

Thank you so much for your generous help !



