

Call for Donations to Help Rebuilding Schools Named after McMaster in Earthquake Affected Regions in China

On May 12, 2008, a massive 8.0 magnitude earthquake hit Sichuan, a province in the southwestern region of China. The aftermath of the shocks is devastating. The death toll has reached 65,000 while more than 23,000 more are still missing. Among the hardest hit are the schools where thousands of students were killed and many more are without classrooms.

As part of our effort to help the earthquake victims, we, a group of Chinese faculty, staff, and students at McMaster, together with our McMaster colleagues, are launching an appeal to the McMaster community for donations towards helping the rebuilding of primary school(s) in the earthquake affected region. The initial target of our fundraising campaign is CAD\$75,000 (for one school). The donation will earn us the recognition of contributions from the McMaster community in the form of a plaque put up at the school(s) or even the right to name the school(s).

Methods of Donation:

The donations may be made in cheques, cash, or online. These will be collected by the McMaster Chinese Students and Scholars Association (MacCSSA). Receipts will be issued at the time of donation, or will be mailed out if donations are made by mail or online. A tax deductible receipt will be issued for any donation exceeding CAD\$20, unless indicated otherwise.

Cheques (payable to "Chinese Students & Scholars Association") or cash donations may be dropped to the donation booths located at:

- MUSC main hall, and JHE lobby, weekdays, 12:30-1:30 pm;
- MDCL 4010, working hours;
- HSC, Room 4H1 (lounge), weekdays, 12:30-2:00 pm;
- St. Joseph's Hospital, New Tower, 3rd floor hallway lunch area, weekdays, 12:30 to 2:00 pm
- Hamilton General Hospital, McMaster Clinic, Room 358, ext 44686

Online EMAIL-TRANSFER can also be made (by clicking the tab of on-line banking - see your bank website for details) to: MacCSSA2008@gmail.com

The first phase of the donation is from now to the end of June.

Please check for updates on our website, <http://acpm.mcmaster.ca/ACPM/>

Proposed by:

Dr. Gu Xu, on behalf of Association of Chinese Professors at McMaster University (ACPM)

Ms. Lin Song, on behalf of McMaster Chinese Students & Scholars Association (MacCSSA)

Supported by:

Dr. Peter George, President of McMaster University

Dr. Luke Chan, Associate Vice-President of McMaster University (initiator, ACPM)

Dr. John Berlinsky, Vice President of McMaster University Faculty Association

Ms. Rosemary Viola, Vice President of CAW Local 555

Dr. David Embury, University Professor, FRSC (initiator)

Dr. Gary Purdy, University Professor, FRSC

Dr. David Wilkinson, University Professor, Dean of Engineering

Dr. Max Wong, FRSC (ACPM)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where will the money go?

Donations will be collected by the McMaster Chinese Students and Scholars Association (MacCSSA). The donated total will be forwarded to the Project Hope of the China Youth Development Foundation (CYDF), who has been carrying out the school building projects in China for a number of years. (The Red-Cross societies, however, are not able to designate such activities). We will continue to seek the best administrative support for the donation to find the most cost-effective way for the school rebuilding project.

Detailed information of the CYDF may be found here: <http://www.cydf.org.cn/> or English version: <http://159.226.8.159/gb/english/index.htm#>.

Here is an article about the earthquake relief Hope School by CYDF:

http://www.cydf.org.cn/shiyong/html/lm_571/2008-05-19/182103.htm

or <http://acpm.mcmaster.ca/ACPM/cydf182103.pdf>

2. Why the goal of CAD\$75,000 and what if we would not reach the goal?

The CYDF estimates the current average cost of building a Hope School in the earthquake affected region to be USD\$73,000, which is higher than that in the rest of China due to the earthquake. Once being built with our support, the school will bear McMaster's name as recognition of contribution. In addition, a plaque of appreciation will also be put up at the school with the name of McMaster (in English and Chinese). In the unlikely event that we do not reach the targeted amount, the donations will be used to build one or more classrooms in a school, also bearing McMaster's name. Because the completion of the school rebuilding project could take more than a year, in the event of inflation, even we reach our initial goal of CAD \$75,000, there is a chance that we might have to opt to contributing to the rebuilding of only part of a school (e.g., some classrooms).

3. Is the donation tax deductible?

We are working with the Education Foundation of the Chinese Professionals Association of Canada (CPAC). CPAC is a nonprofit organization based in Toronto and its Education Foundation is a registered Canadian Charity registration #: 864306626RR0001) which will issue tax deductible receipts for any single donation equal or greater than CAD\$20. Detailed information about CPAC may be found at:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/haip/srch/sec/SrchInput03Render-e?bn=864306626RR0001>

<http://www.chineseprofessionals.ca/en/html/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=3&tag=1>.

4. Does the donation qualify for matching from the Canadian Federal Government?

The Education Foundation of CPAC is a qualified charity that donations towards the humanitarian disaster relief of the Sichuan earthquake will be matched by the Federal Government through the Canadian International Development Agency. Certain limitations apply for this matching, including single donation matching limit of CAD\$100,000 and the time of donation between May 12 and June 23, 2008. Details of the matching conditions may be found at:

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/En/NAT-51614315-P74>.

Please note that this matching will go to the Sichuan Earthquake Relief Fund managed by the federal government for the general disaster relief effort. It will not directly go to the school building project proposed here.

5. The operating cost of this project?

The MacCSSA will not charge administrative fee of any donation.

Since CYDF operates on Chinese RMB and US fund, there will be transaction cost of exchange from CAD to USD.

6. For additional information, please contact:

Association of Chinese Professors at McMaster University (ACPM), http://acpm.mcmaster.ca/ACPM	McMaster Chinese Students & Scholars Association (MacCSSA)	Chinese Professionals Association of Canada (CPAC)	China Youth Development Foundation (CYDF) http://www.cydf.org.cn/
Dr. Gu XU, President, ext 27341, xugu@mcmaster.ca	Lin SONG, President, maccssa2008@gmail.com	Helen Zhang, Communication and Development Manager Tel: 416-298-7885 Ex 116 Fax: 416-298-0068 h Zhang@chineseprofessionals.ca	Ms. Sheng Yuan Yuan, Project Manager of International Dept. Tel: (86-10) 6403-3904 Fax: (86-10) 6403-3895 shengyy@cydf.org.cn
Dr. Hongjin SUN, Vice-President, ext 24367, sunhong@mcmaster.ca	http://www.maccssa.org/engindex.htm	4168 Finch Avenue East, Unit G18, Toronto, ON M1S 5H6 Canada www.chineseprofessionals.ca	
Dr. Qiyin FANG, Secretary, ext. 24227, qfang@mcmaster.ca			