

ChangAi conducts initial assessment for toilet transformation project

In August 2009 ChangAi visited three project villages to conduct an assessment for a toilet transformation project. The average cost to build a new toilet is estimated at 2,200 RMB which can be broken down into two parts: 550 RMB for base flushing and waste management mechanism and 1,650 RMB for the outer housing structure. Training for villagers and local labourers on construction and good hygiene practices would also be required. At the meeting in Beijing with the Deputy Director General and Department Chief of the Bureau for Disease Prevention and Control, Ministry of Health, it was indicated that the central government would contribute 400 RMB subsidy for each toilet in individual homes as part of the rural development strategy.

Toilet types in the villages range from holes dug beside pigpen, and basic thatched bamboo huts connected to methane pits, to brick-wall and cement-floor structure and one walled toilet with solar-powered water heater. Most toilets have no flush and waste management mechanism.

After consultation with the Women's Federations and initial assessment by ChangAi officers, it was concluded that the toilet transformation project would have the most impact if implemented in a village with good hygiene awareness but where financial constraints prevent the villagers from installing hygienic toilets. The project should start with households who are willing to participate, and then roll out to remaining households.

Project activities up close:

June - August 2009

- A series of **art classes and calabash workshops** attended by over 80 students were held in two project villages during the summer vacation.
- The local Women's federation held **cucurbit flute classes** for 36 children at the ChangAi-sponsored Children Activity Centre.
- **Mathematics tutorial classes** proved effective in improving students' scores and raising their enthusiasm in study.
- Children attended **workshops on health, nutrition and communications**. The workshops were observed by ChangAi officers who conducted interviews with the beneficiaries.
- Dr. Dao Chengrong from the Health Department's Food Safety Monitoring Office gave a talk on **food safety awareness**, including how to detect poisonous foods and emergency measures in the event of a poisoning.

Ongoing support from ChangAi:

- **Education grants** assist primary, lower-middle school and university students attend and board at school.
- A **health fund** provides for medical expenses for sick villagers and families.
- **Micro-credit loans** and training assist villagers in pig-raising and crop-growing.

Sponsorship, donations & kind support

ChangAi acknowledges the following people and organizations for their support:

- Rosemary Weatherly and Jane Loughnan
1,000 RMB for art classes
- Santi and Oraya Opasakornkij
English language books & CDs
- EC Gannon
902 RMB
- Pat Adler
10,000 RMB



Mission Statement

Our aim is to bring hope and opportunity to China's poorest and most vulnerable children by working with their communities to improve children's health, education, environment and life skills.

Contact ChangAi :

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Project Overview

Founded in 2007, the ChangAi Children's Project operates in four villages in south-western Yunnan province which are deeply affected by disease, drug use and poverty. The Project works holistically on four levels to:

- Directly support vulnerable children.
- Enhance children's household environment.
- Improve the local community's situation as conducive to child development.
- Develop a model relevant for supporting children in poor villages across China.

From the Project's commencement in March 2008, ChangAi has a five year plan in which to work with local communities to enhance health and education opportunities for children.

How you can help:

How you help is up to you! A few suggestions are to provide:

- Your time or expertise**
- Toys or games**
- Art supplies**
- Computer equipment**

**Email admin@chang-ai.org for more information.

ChangAi can make little funds go a long way:

510 RMB covers the education and health-related costs of a junior middle school child for six months.

310 RMB covers the same costs for a primary school child.

230 RMB covers the cost of all-day English class for 30 students.

Conditions of toilets in the villages



A toilet with brick walls and cement floor.



A toilet connected to a methane pit built with brick walls, cement floor and iron roof.



The best toilet facility (not requiring inclusion in the project) with a solar-powered water heater on the roof.