

## Construction of Mangya ChangAi New Hope School under way

In March 2012, ChangAi Children's Project donated RMB 1 million, of which RMB 350,000 was contributed by Kasikornbank, for Mangya ChangAi New Hope School, a primary school in Yingjiang County, Yunnan. A trip to the site in April confirmed that construction is well under way.

The school is located in Yingjiang where a year ago, a 5.8-magnitude earthquake happened on the same day as the Japanese quake, thus it received little coverage and subsequent support. There were over 20 deaths and many injured. Many of the schools were declared unfit for further use. The county government then decided to centralize the schools, build better buildings, as well as better equip and staff these schools. While centralized primary schools will create a certain burden for village kids who live far away, larger schools will alleviate the teacher turnover problem which has been a headache for local education authorities.

The new school will cover 12 villages, the furthest of which is 12 km away. It will merge three smaller schools, building on the grounds of Mangya Primary School, to more than double the existing capacity to 12 classes and 360 students (expandable to 500). The new buildings will be "grade 8" earthquake proof. The school will have 15 teachers, sports grounds, a canteen and dormitories for kids living in further away villages.

In April 2012, ChangAi sent a team from Beijing including a construction expert to check on the construction progress. The team found that work was in line with schedule, with construction of school and dormitory buildings already reaching second floor while ground floor foundation of the canteen was almost complete. Material specification and prices were according to the standards set by the local government.



ChangAi team inspects school construction

### Project activities up close:

#### March 2012

- ChangAi donated RMB 1million to the construction of **Mangya ChangAi New Hope School in Yingjiang County, Yunnan**. The donation was marked by a signing ceremony attended by Joe Horn, co-founder of ChangAi, and Lu Ping, Vice Chairman of Yunnan China Youth Development Fund and Chairman of Yunnan Youth League.
- Ruili Women's Federation held workshop on **sugarcane planting** in Village 1 and Village 6 with over 90 participants.
- Children in Village 4 and Village 3 attended **dance workshop** where they learned basic techniques, traditional Dai dance and hip hop taught by Cultural Affairs Bureau.

#### January-February 2012

- Wanding Women's Federation invited experts from the Agricultural Bureau to advise microcredit beneficiaries in Village 4 on **rubber and sugarcane planting and pig raising**.

#### December 2011

- **Pig raising training** was held in Huyu and Nongdao towns for over 100 villagers, led by an expert from Ruili Animal Husbandry Bureau.

### Upcoming activities

This summer ChangAi team will make another visit to check on construction progress of **Mangya ChangAi New Hope School**. Look out for the photos on our Facebook page and for the trip report on our website.

### Sponsorship, donations & support

ChangAi acknowledges the following people for their support:

- Rosemary Weatherly  
*AUD 450 for painting classes in Suoyang*
- Zhi Yubing, Federico Abbasciano and John Paul Egan  
*Donated their time to check progress of the construction of Mangya ChangAi New Hope School and toilets in Handeng village, as well as helped with translation work*

November 2011 - April 2012

## 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 :

E-mail: [waan@chang-ai.org](mailto:waan@chang-ai.org)

Website: [www.chang-ai.org](http://www.chang-ai.org)

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/7659226860>



## 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.

## Activities and training - photos

### 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 [waan@chang-ai.org](mailto:waan@chang-ai.org) for more information.

ChangAi can make small funds go a long way:

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

**310 RMB** covers the same expenses for a primary school child.

**90 RMB** covers the cost of three training sessions for one person.



Villagers participating in pig raising training.



Villagers attending workshop on sugarcane planting.



Children learning traditional Dai dance and hip hop.