



Fondazione Amici-di-Qinghai

Report on the activities in calendar year 2023

Dear friends

The activities of the *Amici-di-Qinghai* during 2023 had to be carried out and monitored largely by digital means. However, as the Covid triggered travel restrictions were gradually lifted, starting in late January, Erwin was able to visit China three times last year, including a one week trip to the highlands of *Zeku* in December. Furthermore, Mr. Song, the loyal Beijing office assistant, made two trips to Qinghai on his own. And Ms. Chen Li, engineer at the Beijing office, did the extensive paper work with the authorities. The *Amici's* on-site visit to three schools and, above all, the exchange of opinions with the authorities, nomads and students were highly encouraging. No discrepancy could be discovered between the digital impressions obtained by the *Amici* via *WeChat* and *emails* on the one side, and the information collected from the physical reality on the other side.

As in the so-called Covid-years (2020-21-22), the contacts with local authorities continued being smoothly during 2023. Each project was discussed with and approved by the authorities, and agreed in separate contracts. Thanks to a strict focus on purely educational activities, the foundation was thus able to continue working smoothly in 2023.

1. Renovation of the schoolhouse of GABU
2. Financing of an additional moving nomad school, KENING 2
3. Implementation of the annual scholarship program: QUMA, HUANQUHU, ZEKU, JICANG, DUOHEMO
4. Distribution of e-books

The accounts 2023 for the auditor in Switzerland was prepared by Mrs Veronica Mannhart, CEO of Mannhart Management Co. Ltd. in Chiang Mai, *pro bono* as in past years. The documents were submitted to and examined by the Board of Trustees at its meeting in Ascona on January 17, 2024; it was agreed to approve the accounts at a digital meeting in March, after due detailed exam by each member of the Trustees. The approved accounts will then be submitted to the external auditor, Mr. Cristiano BOTTA in Lugano, and finally sent to the Supervisory authorities at the Department of Interior (EDI) in Berne.

As the year of the **WOOD DRAGON** has started on February 10, we are sending to you and your beloved ones our very best wishes for continued good health, for all fortunes of this world in abundance, and last but not least, for profound peace in your heart. While we have little influence on the turbulent developments in today's world, we have happily the means to preserve peace in our own heart, thus enabling us to safely navigate through turbulent waters.

With our renewed thanks, we remain

Yours truly and gratefully

Yolanda & Erwin,

Chiang Mai, mid January 2024



<https://amici-di-qinghai.ch>
<https://amici-di-qinghai.org>
<https://fondazione-amici-di-qinghai.org>
<https://fondazione-amici-di-qinghai.ch>

Members of the Board of Trustees:

RA Lara Toma Pelucca, RA Rocco Bergonzoli, Monica Cocchi del Ponte, Maurizio Checchi, Yolanda and Erwin Schurtenberger

1. Renovation of the GABU school building

The construction of the elementary school in GABU (*Jianzha* district) was financed by the foundation in 2009. Due to the extreme differences in temperature and humidity in the region between the very dry, cold winter and the very hot, humid summer, the school building was increasingly suffering. As the local Government was not in a position to finance the renovation of the damaged building, it asked, therefore, the Foundation for help. The Board of Trustees finally agreed to a sensibly reduced budget of CHF 18,300. After an impressive final spurt by the construction company, the lessons could resume at the start of the new school year in the beginning of September.

Before the renovation



After the renovation



2. Financing of the moving nomad school, KENING 2

The moving nomad school KENING 2 is located in a very remote region of the *Duohemo* sub-county. A total of 1515 nomads and 37 pupils of pre-school and/or first grade age live in the area in question. The affected area is extremely sparsely populated and lies at an average altitude of 3500 meters above sea level. The area of the nomad school concerned is extremely wide and is known for very harsh winter months ranging from minus 20°C to minus 35°C.

Teaching is alternating between 15 days at the central boarding school and 15 days at three teaching locations: - in *Jiacang* for 15 students, - in *Sangchining* for 8 students and - in *Xiuchaduo* for 14 students. The three teaching locations are 10-20 km away from each other, so that the teacher gives lessons in equal parts at each of the three locations in small prefabricated accommodations. Lessons for the pre-school, first and second primary classes are held, as mentioned above, alternately for 15 days at the boarding school and at the three locations of the moving teacher. This approach helps to ensure that the separation from the parental home is gradual rather than abrupt.

The formal launch of the *KENING 2* nomad school took place at the beginning of October, on the first school day after the Chinese National Day. The naming of the vehicle by the *Amici* was made during their visit in December 2023.



3. implementation of the extended scholarship program

For the school year from September 2023 to June 2024, a total of 210 scholarships were awarded to needy nomadic students, most of whom live on the Zeku plateau (120), the others to students from *Huanquhu* (30), *Quma* (10), *Jicang* (25) and *Duohemo* (Eros Bergonzoli School).

Quma: 10 scholarships RMB 15,000 CHF 2,200

Jicang: 25 scholarships RMB 25,000 CHF 3,700

Huanquhu: 30 scholarships RMB 36'000 CHF 5'270

Duohemo: 25 scholarships RMB 27,000 CHF 3,450

Zeku: 14 nomadic schools, 120 scholarships RMB 144,000 CHF 21,000

A total of 210 scholarships CHF 35,620

ZEKU

The 120 scholarships of RMB 1,200 each were distributed to pupils in a total of 14 nomad schools on the *Zeku* highlands. Erwin was connected via *WeChat* on two occasions and was able to exchange a few words with the students. 120 scholarships were distributed exclusively to children of nomads who have no regular income: The parents concerned usually only own goats, sheep and yaks, i.e. they have no regular cash income unless they sell animals. The scholarships of RMB 1200 each were distributed at the beginning of the 2023-24 school year, in early September. The scholarship holders received RMB 1200 in cash and confirmed receipt with their finger-print. The money is administered by the parents or the responsible teacher, with the possibility of the foundation to inspect the accounts.



QUMA

10 to middle school students at RMB 1,500 per scholarship. Scholarship holders who were attending classes at the university or college in the city when the scholarships were handed over were given the scholarships to their parents. the scholarships to their parents.



HUANQUHU

High mountain school for mountain students at 3800 meters above sea level 30 scholarships of RMB 1200 for each student. The scholarship holders were transported by truck from Huanquhu down to the village school in Quma, where they were able to receive the money.



JICANG

A total of 28 scholarships: 13 scholarships to primary school students at RMB 500 each, 7 to secondary school students at RMB 1000 each and 8 to university students at RMB 1500 each.



DUOHEMO

17 scholarships of RMB 1000 each to primary 1 and 2 pupils and eight scholarships of RMB 1200 each to primary 3 and 4 pupils. This nomadic school was financed in memory of the esteemed lawyer, foundation board member and highly esteemed friend of the nomads of the Zeku highland.



4. Distribution of e-books

For the 2023-2024 school year, a total of 38 copies of the electronic teacher were distributed to nomad students, which prove to be very helpful and significantly improved the results of the Nomad children in the annual school year exams. 13 copies each at the *Jicang* school and 25 copies at *Eros Bergonzoli nomad school*. The "*electronic device*" teaches students the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography and more. The language can be set to North Tibetan, Chinese or English. As soon as a word is pressed with the pen, it sounds in the selected language. The children understand the logic of self-teaching with incredible speed. The e-book method has indeed significantly improved the results of the nomadic children in the annual school year exams.

Jicang, 13 e-books	RMB	6'500	CHF	810
Eros Bergonzoli school, 25 e-books	RMB	12'500	CHF	1'550

Insgesamt 38 e-books	RMB	19'000	CHF	2'360



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Accrual Basis

Fondazione Amici di Qinghai
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2023

	Dec 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 · UBS 235-498363.40C	169,769.30
Total Checking/Savings	169,769.30
Total Current Assets	169,769.30
TOTAL ASSETS	169,769.30
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	159,853.47
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	52,574.63
Net Income	-42,658.80
Total Equity	169,769.30
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	169,769.30

The Foundation's balance on December 31, 2023 was CHF 169,789.30

This amount will allow the foundation to continue financing the same activities for another 3-4 years.

Erwin Schurtenberger

20.2.2003

Fondazione Amici di Qinghai
Profit & Loss
 January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
6000 · Donations	36,000.00
Total Income	36,000.00
Expense	
4000 · Supporting projects	
4001 · School projects	
7. Gabu new school, Jianzha	18,300.00
9. Kening school, Zekuxian Jiaoy	21,000.00
Total 4001 · School projects	39,300.00
4002 · Scholarships	35,220.00
4003 · e-books	2,360.00
Total 4000 · Supporting projects	76,880.00
62100 · Contract Services	
62110 · Accounting Fees	1,324.70
62140 · Legal Fees	217.10
Total 62100 · Contract Services	1,541.80
65000 · Operations	
4910 · Banking charges	237.00
Total 65000 · Operations	237.00
Total Expense	78,658.80
Net Ordinary Income	-42,658.80
Net Income	-42,658.80