

World Water Day (March 22nd) and our charity project Saipiwu Village

This March 22nd in 2010 marks the 18th international World Water Day (www.worldwaterday.org), which was established in order to bring attention to the importance that fresh water and water treatment access has to society and health. While often large desert areas are in most need of clean water access, there has also been this year a once-in-a-century drought across southwestern China.

Besides some of our colleagues in China may have family or friends stricken in the serious drought areas, we also have two volunteer teachers in the small village Saipiwu in Yunnan province. If you go to our website www.osmcharity.com you can see some information about our volunteer teacher problem.

In any case, we just had our last two volunteers Gui Di and Johnny Wang finish their assignment and two new volunteers came on board, Gary and Sina.

Gary is from Shandong province. He wanted to be a volunteer like his older sister who was a volunteer for Beijing Olympic game in 2008. Now, he made it!



Sina has a dream that she could help the children who live in remote villages to receive interesting education.



Gary and Sina came to Saipiwu village on 26 Feb, and they noted the lack of water available for cleaning clothes, dishes, cooking, never mind taking showers. We are still discussing with them whether we should temporarily cancel the teacher's program until the drought is over.

Saipiwu is especially hit hard, below you can see a picture on the left where there used to be a river through the village last year and on the right is the only fresh water available locally.



Having to limit water usage due to shortages, pictures showing situations like the below on left (re-using the dish washing water) easily point out how digestive system diseases result from such kinds of drought. On the As part of rationing, children should take their own supply of water to school.



In order to alleviate the pressure on the children at Saipiwu village and accommodate better our volunteer teachers, OSM Charity has hired a farm tractor/truck to deliver water from the nearest water source every second day. We also purchased some buckets (for storing water) and water filtration systems for the school.



Sina and her friends in Guangzhou have raised a lot of money to buy the drinking water for the school. This pretty girl is dealing between the school and shops in the nearest developed towns to bring clean drinking water to the village.



Not to be outdone our previous volunteers Gui Di and Zhong Jing Yan raised donations in Beijing about 2000 Euros and arranged a shipment on March 14 for 5.5 tons of drinking water to be provided to another 3 schools in the Saipiwu area, with a second delivery on 25 March.



So with this news in mind about our volunteers' (both new and old) contributions out of their own initiative to help out the less fortunate during a serious drought, the support of the local government and the careful utilization of water resources, we bring attention to World Water Day, 2010. Postscript -We received the good news that the villagers found out the new water resource on 26 March under local government support; and it rained a little on March 27.