
**Report on the visit to Sichuan by
members of Panel on Development and
Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of
other relevant committees of the
Legislative Council of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
in connection with post-quake
restoration and reconstruction**

24 to 26 September 2009

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Background

The 5.12 Wenchuan earthquake and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's support for Sichuan Province

- 1.1 On 12 May 2008, a serious earthquake, the worst one since the Tangshan earthquake in 1976, jolted Wenchuan County, Sichuan Province. According to the State Council Headquarters for Resisting Earthquake and Providing Disaster Relief, as at 10 July 2008, the death toll of the earthquake stood at 69 197, with 374 176 injured and 18 377 missing. The total number of victims was over 46.24 million. The earthquake affected a wide expanse of 440 000 square kilometres ("km²"), of which 125 000 km² was hard-hit; 417 counties, 4 656 villages/towns and 47 789 village sub-areas in Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi and Chongqing were affected. In Sichuan alone, the quake-stricken area reached 250 000 km², of which 100 000 km² was hard-hit. Premises of over 4.5 million households collapsed or were seriously damaged to the extent that they became uninhabitable. Beichuan, Wenchuan and Yingxiu counties were nearly flattened. A total of 22 000 kilometres ("km") of expressways, trunk-roads and village roads, 940 bridges, 16 national/provincial trunk-roads, and six railway lines including the Bao-cheng Railway were broken.
- 1.2 Two days after the earthquake, i.e. on 14 May 2008, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") Government proposed and the Finance Committee approved the injection of a sum of \$350 million initially to the Disaster Relief Fund in aid of the earthquake victims. On the advice of the Central People's Government ("CPG"), a sum of \$300 million was channelled to the earthquake victims through the State Council Headquarters for Resisting Earthquake and Providing Disaster Relief. The remaining \$50 million was set aside to cater for applications for grants under the Disaster Relief Fund by major relief organizations to provide emergency relief to the earthquake victims.

1.3 Subsequently, upon further communication with the CPG and the Sichuan Provincial Government, the HKSAR Government obtained the understanding that the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions were requested to assist in --

- (a) the reconstruction of public service facilities, such as schools, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, homes for the aged, orphanages, women and children healthcare centres, and cultural and sports facilities, in the hard-hit counties of Sichuan;
- (b) the key elements of specific infrastructural projects of Sichuan, including roads and bridges; and
- (c) the reconstruction of Wolong Giant Panda Reserve.

Besides, the HKSAR could also offer assistance, such as medical and rehabilitation services, emotional support and counselling services, and other areas of professional training, in accordance with the actual needs of the stricken areas.

1.4 As the Sichuan earthquake reconstruction support work falls outside the ambits of the Disaster Relief Fund and "The Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporated -- Donations" dedicated account, the HKSAR Government proposed the creation of a new commitment of \$2 billion for the establishment of the Trust Fund in Support of Reconstruction in the Sichuan Earthquake Stricken Areas ("Trust Fund") as the HKSAR's financial commitment to the reconstruction support work in the initial stage. During the period, twenty Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members including the President visited the earthquake stricken areas in Sichuan from 4 to 6 July 2008 to understand the situation in the stricken areas. The HKSAR Government briefed the Finance Committee on the proposal on 14 July 2008 and the proposal was considered and approved by the Finance Committee on 18 July 2008.

- 1.5 The HKSAR Government subsequently briefed the Panel on Development on 28 October 2008, 3 February 2009 and 18 June 2009 on the progress of the HKSAR's reconstruction support work in Sichuan. The Government also consulted the Panel on 3 February and 18 June 2009 on the proposed financial commitments of \$4 billion for the second stage and \$3 billion for the third stage reconstruction support work. The two funding proposals were approved by the Finance Committee on 20 February and 3 July 2009 respectively.

LegCo Members' concerns on post-quake reconstruction

- 1.6 At the relevant meetings of the Panel on Development and the Finance Committee, Members expressed deep sympathy with the circumstances of the people of the earthquake stricken areas and recognized that post-quake reconstruction was an arduous task and would take at least several years to complete. As such, support from all sides and concerted efforts of the whole nation were needed to overcome the severe challenge. While Members were generally supportive of the reconstruction projects and funding commitments at different stages proposed by the HKSAR, they were very concerned about the monitoring of the quality and implementation process of and the management of funds for the reconstruction projects. In this regard, the Administration had provided the Panel with information papers and assured Members that the Administration would provide sufficient and effective monitoring through supervision engineers and independent professional consultants. The Administration also pledged to provide regular reports on the progress and expenditures of the support projects to Members through the Panel on Development on a half-yearly basis.
- 1.7 At its meeting on 22 May 2009, the House Committee considered a proposal for a visit to be undertaken by LegCo Members to Sichuan. Members considered that it was necessary to visit Sichuan to obtain first-hand information on the progress of the reconstruction work and utilization of the funds approved by LegCo for the purpose, and the visit should be led by the President of LegCo. Subsequent to the meeting, the Chairman of the House Committee wrote on behalf of Members to the Chief Secretary for Administration requesting the HKSAR Government to assist in arranging the visit.

- 1.8 At the meetings of the Panel on Development on 18 June 2009 and the Finance Committee on 3 July 2009, Members noted that all the 20 first stage reconstruction support projects of the HKSAR had proceeded to the substantive implementation stage of design, tendering and site construction. As for the 100 second stage reconstruction support projects, the Sichuan authorities had completed the preparation of the feasibility study reports of the projects, and the necessary vetting and approval work was in progress. In view of the progress, Members considered that it was opportune for LegCo Members to visit Sichuan to better understand the actual implementation situation of the reconstruction projects, and urged the Administration to request the Sichuan authorities to expedite the arrangements for the visit.

Composition of the delegation

- 1.9 On 2 September 2009, the Sichuan Provincial Government sent a letter to LegCo inviting members of the Panel on Development, as well as Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Finance Committee, House Committee, Panel on Education, Panel on Health Services, Panel on Home Affairs and Panel on Welfare Services to visit Sichuan from 24 to 26 September 2009. The Sichuan Provincial Government also invited the President to lead Members in the visit. Members were informed of the invitation of the Sichuan Provincial Government on the same day. In view of the tight timeframe for logistical arrangements, the Secretariat issued a circular on 3 September 2009 to the invited Members requesting them to indicate whether they would join the visit. The President and 13 other Members indicated that they would join the visit.
- 1.10 With the concurrence of the Chairman of the Panel on Development, a paper on the visit (LC Paper No. CB(1)2594/08-09) was issued on 14 September 2009 to members of the Panel on Development to invite members to note the invitation of the Sichuan Provincial Government and the proposed logistical arrangements for the visit. The paper was copied to members of the Panel on Education, Panel on Health Services, Panel on Home Affairs and Panel on Welfare Services as well as the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Finance Committee and House Committee. As no comments on the visit were raised by its members, the Panel on Development submitted a paper reporting on the visit to the House Committee on 21 September 2009.
- 1.11 The delegation comprised 14 members as listed below --
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing | (President of LegCo and leader of the delegation) |
| Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai | (Member of the Panel on Development) |
| Hon James TO Kun-sun | (Member of the Panel on Development) |
| Hon CHAN Kam-lam | (Member of the Panel on Development) |

Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun	(Member of the Panel on Development)
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong	(Member of the Panel on Development)
Hon WONG Yung-kan	(Member of the Panel on Development)
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee	(Chairman of the House Committee)
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long	(Chairman of the Panel on Health Services)
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming	(Member of the Panel on Development)
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing	(Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Panel on Development)
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau	(Deputy Chairman of the Panel on Health Services)
Hon IP Kwok-him	(Chairman of the Panel on Home Affairs and member of the Panel on Development)
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho	(Member of the Panel on Development)

- 1.12 There were five staff members accompanying the delegation. Apart from the Secretary General of LegCo Secretariat, two staff members were responsible for the logistical arrangements and the other two for the media arrangements.
- 1.13 Appointed by the Development Bureau and the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, officials responsible for issues relating to reconstruction support work in Sichuan participated in the visit to provide information on the technical and financial arrangements of the reconstruction support projects covered by the visit programme. The list of accompanying officials is appended below --

Mr MAK Chai-kwong	(Permanent Secretary for Development)
Mr Howard CHAN Wai-kee	(Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs)
Mr David TONG Sek-por	(Principal Assistant Secretary for Development)
Mr Edwin LAU Chin-man	(Assistant Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs))

Besides, the HKSAR Government's Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu also provided support services for the visit.

Purpose of the visit

- 1.14 The purpose of the visit is for the delegation led by the President of LegCo and comprising members of the Panel on Development and Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of other relevant committees to understand the actual implementation of reconstruction work through site visits and observations of certain post-quake restoration and reconstruction projects in Sichuan, and to obtain first-hand information on utilization of the funds approved by LegCo for the purpose. At the same time, the delegation would also gain a better understanding of the overall situation in connection with post-quake restoration and reconstruction through communication with officials of the Province.

Visit programme

- 1.15 The delegation of the three-day visit departed on 24 September in the morning and arrived at Chengdu, Sichuan Province at noon. The visit programme from 24 to 26 September is as follows --

Date/Time	Programme
24 September 2009 (Thursday)	
Afternoon	Visit to Baita Junior Middle School in Nanchong
	Visit to Fu Jiang Lu Primary School in Nanchong
25 September 2009 (Friday)	
Morning	Visit to the site of Xuankou Middle School to receive a briefing on the 5.12 Wenchuan earthquake and the situation of the school, and to pay tribute as well as present flowers to mourn those who died in the earthquake
	Observe the construction work of the Provincial Road 303, receive a briefing on the project, and have conversations with those engaged in the construction
	Visit to Shuimo Middle School in Wenchuan County
Afternoon	Visit to Xiang'e Xiang in Dujiangyan to receive a briefing and to visit a residential buildings project
	Visit to the Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Centre of the Sichuan Province People's Hospital to understand the planning and construction of the new rehabilitation centre
	Visit to the Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled of the Sichuan Province People's Hospital to express sympathy to those in convalescence who became disabled after being hurt in the earthquake, and exchange views with the "Stand Tall" volunteers
Evening	Dinner hosted by the HKSAR Government's Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu
26 September 2009 (Saturday)	
Morning	Visit to Jinsha Site Museum
	Meet with representatives of the Sichuan Provincial Government, and receive a briefing on post-quake reconstruction
Noon	Lunch hosted by the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Sichuan Provincial Government
Afternoon	Departure for Hong Kong

Chapter 2 : Site visits and other visits

Baita Junior Middle School



- 2.1 The first site Members visited was the Baita Junior Middle School in Nanchong. The teaching building of the original Baita Junior Middle School was seriously damaged during the 5.12 earthquake and needed to be demolished and reconstructed. Upon completion of reconstruction work, the school would comprise a 6 000 square metres ("m²") teaching building, a 3 000 m² campus square, a school main gate, other ancillary facilities, sports ground, etc. The total funding for all such facilities amounts to RMB \$12 million. The reconstruction project is in the charge of the Association of Chinese Evangelical Ministry Limited with a funding of HK \$10 million (circa RMB \$8.7 million) from the Trust Fund. The remaining amount would be raised by the Association and the Gaoping Regional Education Bureau.
- 2.2 On the day of the visit, students lined up neatly on the school playground to welcome Members who travelled a long way to visit them. Members visited the classrooms and enjoyed performances presented by students, including singing, prose recital, drawing, etc.

After the performances, students presented thank you cards to Members. Members then joined the students in singing "A Grateful Heart". Members received a briefing from the principal of the school, HE Ping. Members noted that in the past, the school had 24 teaching classes comprising a total of 1 700 students. Upon completion of the reconstruction work, the school capacity would be enhanced to 36 classes, providing 2 200 school places. With the reconstruction work commenced in November 2008 and the reconstructed teaching building formally entered into operation in June 2009, this was the earliest commenced and completed item of post-quake support work among the affected schools in Nanchong. The campus square project had also been completed in August 2009. The two items of sports ground and school main gate plus ancillary facilities would all be completed in 2010.



Students presented prose recital for Members



Members encouraged the performing students with applause



Students presented thank you cards to Members



Members joined students in singing "A Grateful Heart"

Fu Jiang Lu Primary School



- 2.3 Upon leaving Baita Junior Middle School, Members headed towards Fu Jiang Lu Primary School right away. Fu Jiang Lu Primary School was established in September 1956, and the school building was seriously damaged during the 5.12 earthquake, thus requiring demolition and in-situ reconstruction. Before the completion of the reconstruction works, all students (about 1 700 in number) of the school had to resume classes in the function rooms or teaching rooms in other schools rented for use as temporary classrooms. Upon completion of reconstruction works, the school can accommodate some 1 800 students in 40 teaching classes. The some 70 000 school-age children in the three communities nearby are the target clients of the school.
- 2.4 The new school building has an area of about 7 200 m², comprising a teaching building and an office complex. In addition, a new sports ground with an area of some 3 200 m² would need to be built, and some 24 000 books and a total of some 2 200 sets/items of teaching instruments would need to be procured as well. The total cost of reconstruction amounts to some RMB \$20.5 million. With

the RMB \$6 million provided by the Nanchong Municipal Government to commence the reconstruction works, the progress of the project was comparatively faster than other school reconstruction projects supported by the HKSAR. In this connection, the HKSAR has provided a funding of RMB \$15.3 million. The teaching building of the school had already been completed and entered into operation. As regards the office complex and ancillary works which commenced in September 2009, they are scheduled to complete by February 2010.

- 2.5 During the visit, students of the school collectively drew for Members a long scroll of picture about the close relationship between Sichuan and Hong Kong, expressing their heartfelt thanks to the people of Hong Kong. In his address, President Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing said that despite the hardship and sorrow everybody had experienced in the wake of the earthquake, he was both gratified and excited to see students learning happily and delightfully today. He thanked teachers and students for their hospitality and gave them his best wishes. President Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing even wrote a message of "working hard, flying high" in the form of calligraphy to encourage the students.



Members signed their names on the picture scroll drawn by students



President Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing wrote a message in the form of calligraphy to encourage the students



The long scroll of picture about the close relationship between Sichuan and Hong Kong drawn by students

The site of Xuankou Middle School



*Members paid tribute to the earthquake victims
in the front yard of the site of Xuankou Middle school*

- 2.6 In the morning of 25 September, Members started the day with a visit to Yingxiu, one of the most hard-hit areas during the earthquake, and paid tribute to the victims of last year's earthquake in the front yard of the site of Xuankou Middle School. Xuankou Middle School was a major middle school of Aba Prefecture. It was originally built in Xuankou, Wenchuan County, and moved to Yingxiu to make way for the construction of the Ziping Reservoir. The school had an area of 33 000 m², 1 527 students and 133 teachers. The 5.12 earthquake cost the lives of 43 students, eight teachers, two workers and two relatives, and seriously injured 27 students and two teachers. Xuankou Middle School would be incorporated into the Shuimo Middle School in Yingxiu, which was a reconstruction programme supported by the HKSAR Government. The site of the school had now been preserved for educational and research purposes. LegCo Members had also visited the site in July last year. On their way to Yingxiu, Members saw and were shocked by the severely broken massifs resulting from the earthquake but were deeply touched by the great enthusiasm and total commitment of the people of Sichuan in restoring their homeland.

Provincial Road 303 Yingxiu to Wolong section



- 2.7 Upon leaving Yingxiu, Members proceeded to observe the construction work of the Provincial Road 303, so as to get a picture of the implementation and management of the project. Mr MAK Chai-kwong, Permanent Secretary for Development who accompanied Members on this visit, briefed Members on HKSAR's financial and technical involvement in this project. Provincial Road 303 Yingxiu to Wolong section is one part of the Provincial Road 303, running from Yingxiu in Wenchuan County, Aba Prefecture, to Wolong via Gengda, with a total length of 45 km. The reconstruction project is mainly to restore the section of the Provincial Road which was seriously damaged during the 5.12 earthquake, and the entire road section was designed as a national Class II carriageway.
- 2.8 Permanent Secretary MAK Chai-kwong informed Members that Provincial Road 303 was an important access linking northwest Sichuan and Tibet, it was also one of the major roads forming the carriageway network of Aba Prefecture. The Yingxiu to Wolong section was the major carriageway leading to the Wolong Reserve,

which was the most hard-hit area during the 5.12 earthquake. It was the life-line for Wolong Reserve, bringing basic necessities of life and relief materials to the area's 5 000-odd residents as well as the giant pandas conserved and raised in the Wolong Reserve. The reconstruction project was the major transport infrastructure ensuring the smooth implementation of post-quake reconstruction of the World Heritage Wolong National Natural Reserve, and contributing to the region's economic and social development in future.

- 2.9 The total estimates for the reconstruction project amounts to RMB \$810 million, of which RMB \$765.6 million is funded by the HKSAR. The scheduled implementation timeframe is 24 months, including 13 months for road foundation works (April 2009 to May 2010), 16 months for tunnel works (April 2009 to August 2010). All works would be completed by 1 April 2011. According to Permanent Secretary MAK Chai-kwong, since the commencement of the project in late April this year, the Development Bureau had for four times sent its engineers to the site to conduct technical inspections. Among the commenced project items, bridge infrastructure and road foundation works were the ones progressing at a more satisfactory pace. In addition, the Development Bureau had signed a consultancy agreement for the technical inspections of the project on 20 August 2009. The consultant concerned would conduct technical inspections for the project in late September.
- 2.10 From their own on-site observations and the briefing received from the engineering staff working at the site, Members learned that the construction works of the carriageway was faced with all kinds of difficulties. As the carriageway was located in the vicinity of the 5.12 earthquake seismic centre, the impact of the earthquake on the carriageway was exceptionally grave. In particular, over 80% of the Yingxiu to Gengda section was seriously damaged, resulting in severely broken massifs, a large number of landslide-dammed lakes and debris flow incidents. On the Aba plateau, the period starting from November until February in the following year would be a frozen period, while the rainy season would last from June to August. As such, the effective works period for the project was very short. With the many special projects in the hard-hit areas, it was very difficult to collect and deploy raw materials. Besides, the terrain there was also very narrow. All these factors posed

huge threats to the works safety of the project. Since late June this year, the area had experienced several huge rainstorms that were rarely seen in history. In addition, disasters like falling stones, landslips and debris flow incidents also took place very frequently, disrupting transportation and seriously hindering the post-quake reconstruction projects. The engineering staff working at the site informed Members that the relevant units were held responsible for the quality, progress and safety management of their respective project items, thereby ensuring that the post-quake reconstruction of the carriageway could be completed within the scheduled timeframe and of good quality, and that works safety would always be put in the first place.



Members received a briefing from engineering staff working at the site of the Provincial Road 303

Wenchuan County Shuimo Middle School



- 2.11 Wenchuan County Shuimo Middle School is one of the projects in the first stage of the restoration and reconstruction programme supported by the HKSAR. This school is jointly supported by the HKSAR and Foshan, Guangdong Province. Hong Kong mainly supported the construction of teaching building No. 2, hostel No. 1, and sports ground facilities, with the remaining facilities supported by Foshan, Guangdong Province. The total funding provided by Hong Kong amounts to RMB \$55.7 million. The seismic design of the school would meet the latest standard of the Mainland (with seismic resistance capacity up to level VIII). The original Shuimo Middle School was first built in 1969, and was seriously damaged during the 5.12 earthquake. Upon completion of reconstruction works, Shuimo Middle School had become a comprehensive middle school, accommodating not only the students of the original Shuimo Middle School but also the students from the senior middle school section of Yingxiu Xuankou Middle School. The students who had gone to different provinces for their studies after the 5.12 earthquake now returned to the new school campus with comprehensive facilities to resume classes and to board, and to work hard in their studies.

2.12 The new school campus covers a total area of some 37 000 m², including two teaching towers (about 18 000 m² in total area), three student hostel towers (about 10 300 m² in total area), a canteen (about 4 200 m²), teachers' quarters (about 3 600 m²), and ancillary facilities (about 910 m²). In addition, a sports ground with an area of some 24 800 m² has also been built. The planned capacity of the school is up to some 2 400 students, distributed among 52 teaching classes. The beneficiary targets include the some 20 000 population living in the 30-odd villages in Shuimo town, Xuankou town and Sanjiang Xiang, which have some 1 200 school-age children every year.

2.13 The Principal of Shuimo Middle School, DONG Yiqiang, gave Members a briefing on the reconstruction work. He pointed out that with the concerted efforts put in by all parties, the construction work of the new campus took only six months to complete. He also pointed out that that the building standard of the school was even higher than that of similar projects in other big cities. Not only were the original students proud of being in the school, more than 200 students of Sichuan who had gone to other places for their studies had returned in order to study in this school.



Members visited Shuimo Middle School, wearing the Qianghong and Hada presented by teachers and students



*Members received a briefing from school principal DONG Yiqiang
on the reconstruction works*

Residential buildings reconstruction project in Dujiangyan's Xiang'e Xiang

- 2.14 Dujiangyan's Xiang'e Xiang is located at the north-eastern part of Dujiangyan, 60 km away from Chengdu and 18 km from the urban area of Dujiangyan. The topography comprises mainly of hilly areas and low mountains. This was a typical agricultural town with a total population of 15 000-odd. 95% of the residential buildings in Xiang'e Xiang were damaged during the earthquake, and Shanghai city was the one-on-one supporting city responsible for the reconstruction of Dujiangyan.
- 2.15 After the earthquake, about 94.5% of the agricultural households chose the "centralized planning and construction" (in a centralized residential area) approach to reconstruct their residential buildings. A total of 550 000 m² of residential buildings have been reconstructed, of which 450 000 m² are located in villages and 100 000 m² in small towns, accommodating 3 486 agricultural households comprised of 11 699 residents. The reconstructed residential buildings are located in 16 centralized resettlement areas. The smallest resettlement area has only 69 households with 200-odd residents, while the largest one covers some 800 acres in area, accommodating 600-odd households comprised of more than 1 500 residents.
- 2.16 Upon receiving an on-site briefing by Xiang'e Xiang's Party committee secretary, FU Mintao, Members then divided themselves into three small groups to visit three households, so as to gain a better understanding of their post-quake living conditions, and to send them the warmest wishes from the people of Hong Kong. As seen from the site, the living environment of the reconstructed residential buildings is fairly agreeable. Households are provided with ancillary facilities such as drainage system, natural gas, optical fibre televisions, etc. As for municipal public facilities, residents are provided with village activities centres, medical posts, cultural rooms, police offices, convenience stores, etc. The quality of the public services enjoyed by these agricultural households is comparable to that by residents living in cities and towns.



Xiang'e Xiang's Party committee secretary, FU Mintao, gave Members a briefing on the residential buildings reconstruction project



Members visited the residents to gain a better understanding of their post-quake living conditions

Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Centre

- 2.17 After visiting Xiang'e Xiang, Members then moved on to Sichuan Province People's Hospital. Members first visited the work site of Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Centre to gain an understanding of the planning and design of the Rehabilitation Centre. The Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Centre is the flagship project among the medical projects supported by the HKSAR Government. The Rehabilitation Centre will serve as a part of Sichuan Province's rehabilitation network and a base for professional development and Sichuan-Hong Kong training. In addition to comprehensive physical and psychological rehabilitation services, the Rehabilitation Centre will also provide professional and other related training for the rehabilitation services providers and other workers of the Province. The Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Centre, which is the core component of the comprehensive rehabilitation services network still under construction in Sichuan Province, will provide specialized rehabilitation treatment at provincial level. As for the county level, the HKSAR Government plans to provide a rehabilitation centre for the disabled in each of the 34 victim counties through 27 rehabilitation centres for the disabled and seven comprehensive social welfare centres with rehabilitation facilities for the disabled.
- 2.18 The new Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Centre is about 27 059 m² in area, comprising an out-patient department, a physiotherapy department, an occupational therapy department, clinical psychological services, a prosthetics and orthotics department, etc. It will also be equipped with 300 rehabilitation treatment beds. The estimated cost of the project amounts to RMB \$224.54 million, and the estimated construction period will last for 36 months, from December 2009 to December 2012. On 2 September 2009, the construction agency signed a design agreement with the designing agency "Guangzhou Nanfang Architectural Design Institute". At the present stage, the two agencies are in the process of enhancing the design and drafting the implementation plans.



Members, Permanent Secretary MAK Chai-kwong and Professor CHAN Kai-ming, the initiator of "Stand Tall", posed in front of the model of Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Centre

- 2.19 Members then visited the Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled (currently located inside the Sichuan Province People's Hospital) to give comfort to the recovering patients who became disabled after being hurt in the earthquake. Members also exchanged views with the executive staff and volunteers of the non-profit making organization "Stand Tall", which provided professional training and technical support for the Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Centre. Members received warm welcome from some 50 children and youngsters who became disabled in the earthquake. Members paired with the rehabilitated in wheelchairs to play table tennis, and clapped hands to show support for the rehabilitated who practised with their prostheses to walk and even to run at the site. In addition, Members also joined the local medical professionals and the rehabilitated in singing the songs "Invisible Wings" and "Descendants of the Dragon".



Members played table tennis with the rehabilitated



*Members clapped hands to show support for the rehabilitated
who practised walking with prostheses*

- 2.20 Professor CHAN Kai-ming, the initiator of "Stand Tall", pointed out that "Stand Tall" spared no efforts in promoting the project of "Sichuan-Hong Kong Rehabilitation Training and Development Centre", so as to achieve the objective of providing professional and comprehensive rehabilitation services for those who had been injured during the earthquake, and helping to develop rehabilitation medical care for Sichuan Province and even the whole country. The estimated cost for the whole project stood at HK \$90 million.

The project would be implemented in three stages, with the total cost for the first two stages adding up to HK \$45.96 million. "Stand Tall" had recently submitted an application for the third stage funding, which was about HK \$45 million, to support its work from May 2010 to December 2012.

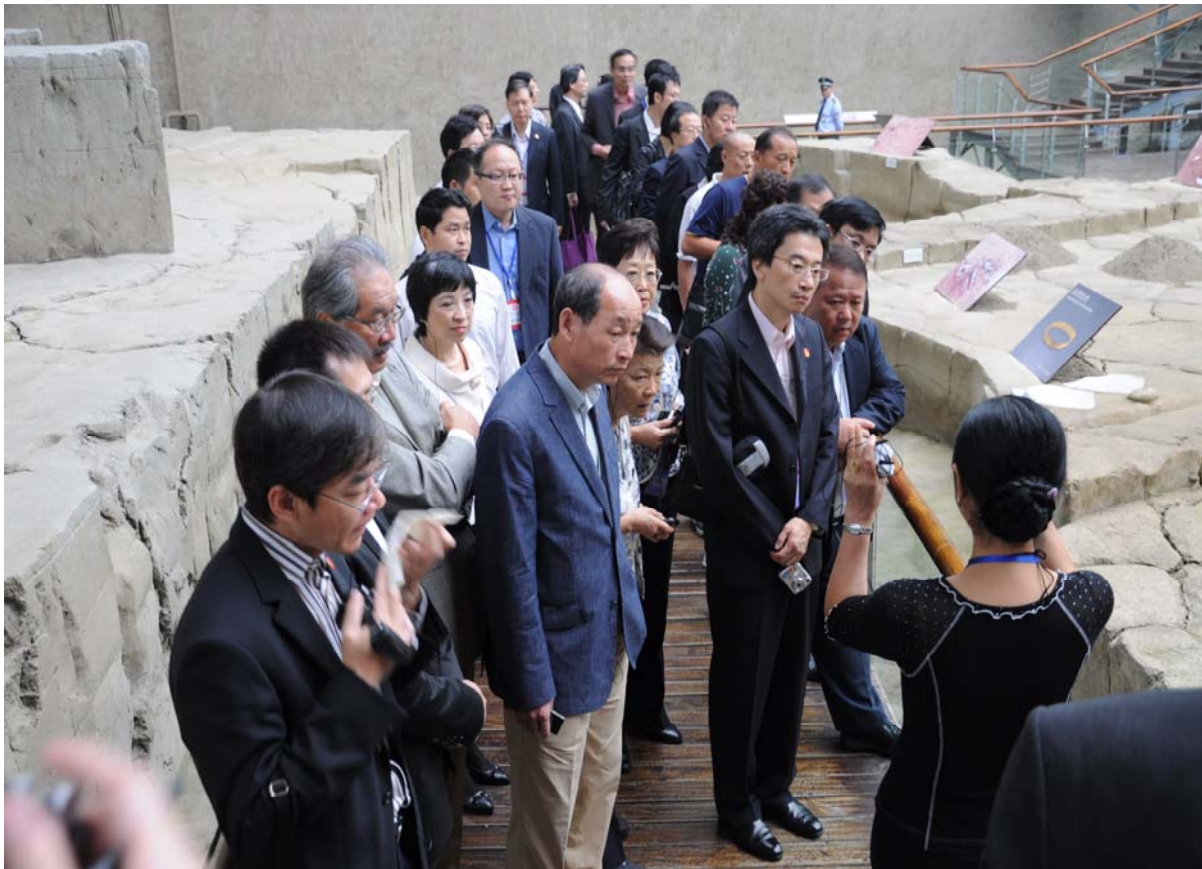
- 2.21 Professor CHAN Kai-ming informed Members that "Stand Tall" had been in operation for more than a year, during which the organization noticed that the existing rehabilitation services of the area were too inadequate to cater for the massive needs of the patients injured during the earthquake, and that many of the existing techniques could by no means deal with the many complicated cases. As many of the injured were students at the age of growth, the amputated ends of their limbs would still be growing, and they must therefore receive regular check-ups and replacement of prostheses. However, to the injured, the expenses on rehabilitation services and prostheses were huge sums beyond their affordability. As such, "Stand Tall" hoped that on top of their original work, they could apply successfully for an additional funding of HK \$70 million to make good use of the initial few years of golden time for recovery to provide 1 000 patients injured during the earthquake with rehabilitation services and the necessary prostheses or other ancillary equipment for a period of five years (from 2009 to 2013), so that the patients in need could be benefited directly.



The Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled presented Members with a cross-stitch picture featuring the word "fortune"

Jinsha Site Museum

2.22 In the morning of the last day of visit (26 September), Members visited the Jinsha Site Museum. The Jinsha Site was discovered in February 2001. The Jinsha site as recognized by archaeological studies covers an area of some five km², with a history of some 3 200 to 2 900 years, tracing back to late Shang Dynasty until the mid "Spring and Autumn Period". The Jinsha Site is the centre point of the peripheral historical sites of the Shang Dynasty and Zhou Dynasty, which are traceable to the same time in history. It was the second major city of the ancient Shu state discovered after the Guangan Sanxingdui, comprising facilities such as places for worship, large buildings, residential premises, cemeteries, etc. The layers of accumulation added up to four metres thick, and a total of more than 6 000 precious objects of archaeological discovery had been unearthed.



Members visited Jinsha Site Museum

Chapter 3: Meeting with officials of the Sichuan Provincial Government

- 3.1 In the morning of 26 September, Members met with leading officials of Sichuan Province at 11 am after visiting Jinsha Site Museum. Officials attending the meeting included WEI Hong, member of the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial Committee and Executive Vice-Governor, XUE Kang, Deputy Secretary General, and LIU Jie, the Director of the Sichuan Provincial Development and Reform Commission.
- 3.2 Vice-Governor WEI Hong spoke on the overall post-quake restoration and reconstruction in Sichuan and mentioned that the emphasis of the restoration and reconstruction work had been put on the livelihood projects which were closely related to the daily life of the people in Sichuan, such as residential buildings, schools and hospitals, so that people would have homes to stay, students would have schools to attend and patients would receive proper treatment. In accordance with the overall requirement of "basically completing the three-year reconstruction tasks within two years", the implementation of the restoration and reconstruction work in Sichuan was being expedited in full scale. Currently, considerable progress had been made in the reconstruction work. About 1 238 900 permanent farm houses had been built in the Sichuan earthquake stricken areas, representing 97.1% of those in need of reconstruction. Work had been started to rebuild 2 904 schools, accounting for 86.9% of those in need of reconstruction. Work had also been started to establish 1 226 medical and health facilities, accounting for 91.5% those in need of reconstruction. Planning for the reconstruction of 38 municipalities and towns had been completed and work had been commenced for all of them.
- 3.3 Vice-Governor WEI Hong said that the support of the HKSAR had contributed to the good progress of the reconstruction work. Although the financial crisis caused adverse effects on the HKSAR, The LegCo of the HKSAR still approved the second and third batches of applications for reconstruction support funding, for which people in the earthquake stricken areas were fully grateful.

At present, agreements had been signed for more than 110 of the 152 reconstruction support projects confirmed by the HKSAR Government and work had been commenced for 24 of them. Among the 20 projects in the first batch, the drawing up of plans for the reconstruction of the Wolong Giant Panda Reserve Centre had been completed and projects such as Shuimo Middle School in Wenchuan had also been completed. Most of the 100 projects in the second batch would have commenced work one after another by 1 October. As regards the 32 projects in the third batch, a Project Cooperation Arrangement had been signed for the high priority project "Mianmao Highway", and the preliminary design and tendering process had been completed while the construction work was expected to commence shortly.

- 3.4 Vice-Governor WEI Hong also pointed out that for the past year or so in which Hong Kong provided reconstruction support for Sichuan, both sides had incessantly regulated and perfected the work flow in compliance with the requirements of the LegCo of the HKSAR. The progress of the reconstruction support work had been further expedited and the reconstruction support projects had been implemented smoothly, realizing the deep affection of Hong Kong compatriots. Sichuan was confident that the reconstruction support funding would be managed properly to ensure that the reconstruction support projects could be completed in a quality and efficient way.
- 3.5 Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, the LegCo President, said that he felt very happy and excited to see such massive results achieved by the Central Government and the Sichuan Provincial Government in their post-quake reconstruction work within a short time, the good spirit of the people in the earthquake-stricken areas, and the smooth implementation of HKSAR's reconstruction support projects. He wished Sichuan could create a new scenario of economic and social development in the midst of the post-quake reconstruction projects. President TSANG also remarked that the visit enhanced HKSAR LegCo's understanding of the post-quake reconstruction and HKSAR's reconstruction support projects in Sichuan. This would help Members put forward more reasonable and practical suggestions when discussing and examining reconstruction support projects submitted by the HKSAR Government in future.

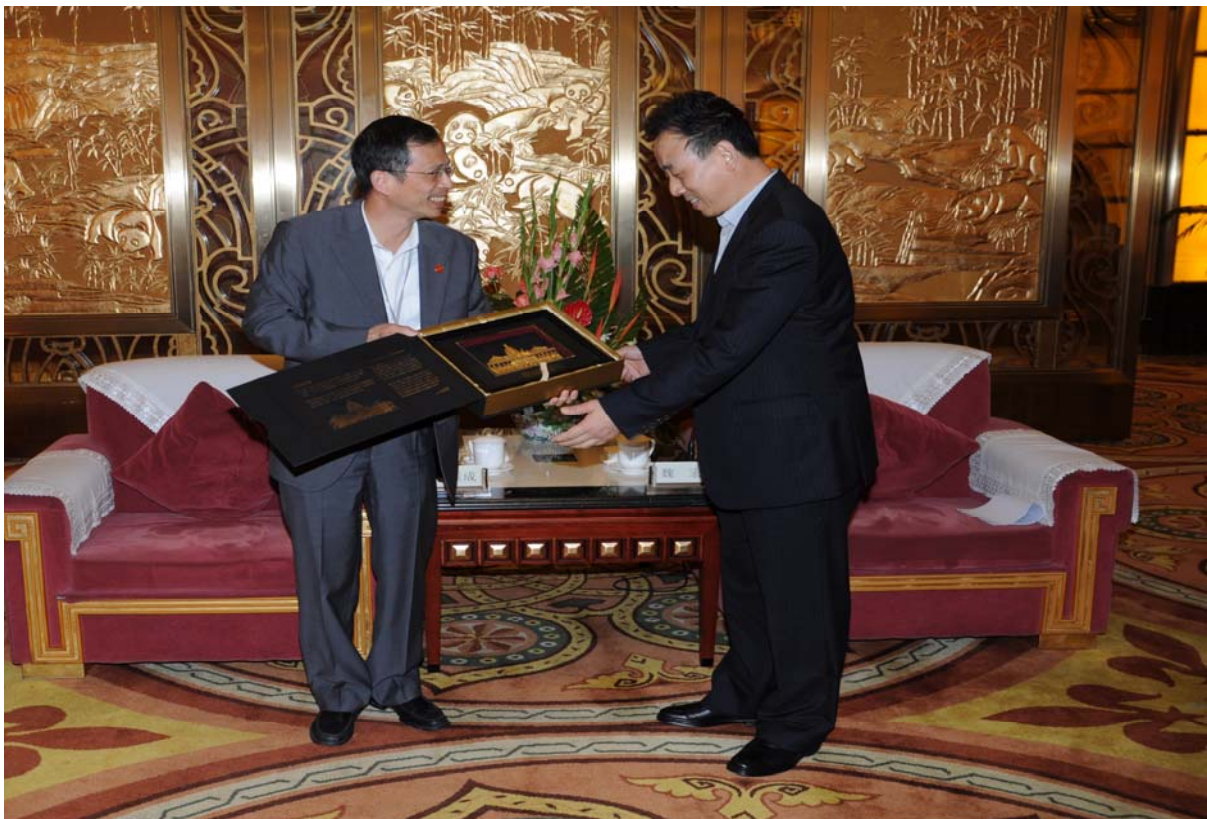
- 3.6 Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai was happy to see that the progress of Hong Kong's reconstruction support projects was more satisfactory than expected. He suggested that the Sichuan Provincial Government could make reference to Japan's earthquake education for all citizens and conduct earthquake drills regularly, so as to increase people's earthquake knowledge. Vice-Governor WEI Hong said that the Provincial Government attached great importance to the detection of aftershocks and the prevention and treatment of geological disasters. In addition to implementing seismic resistance and prevention measures, efforts had also been made to actively increase people's general knowledge in escaping from danger and self-saving during earthquakes.
- 3.7 Hon James TO Kun-sun was concerned with the quality of Hong Kong's reconstruction support projects, and suggested that the Sichuan and Hong Kong Governments should establish systems and procedures to help reflect the problems encountered in monitoring the quality of the projects. He also asked whether "tofu-dreg" projects were involved in the buildings which collapsed during the earthquake and enquired about the outcome of the relevant investigation. Mr TO also expressed concern over an accusation made by Sichuan police officers earlier about the possession of drugs by Hong Kong reporters and their hindrance to media's coverage of the trial of rights activist TAN Zuoren. He urged the Central Government to investigate the incidents thoroughly and that the Sichuan Provincial Government should apologize to the news agency concerned. Mr TO also pointed out that opportunities should be given to all interested LegCo Members to join similar visits in future.
- 3.8 Vice-Governor WEI Hong said that as buildings were constructed at different times, the building standards varied. If there were irregularities, the Provincial Government would certainly pursue legal liabilities. The Central Government conducted a very serious investigation after the earthquake and the investigation report was completed and uploaded to the Internet. As regards the incident that Sichuan police officers searched Hong Kong reporters on suspicion of drug possession, Vice-Governor WEI Hong said that he did not know the details of the incident and pointed out that Chengdu was only a municipality of Sichuan and the city was further divided into more than a dozen districts. It was a local police station that conducted the search after receiving a

notification of suspicion of drug possession. He was aware of the situation only after the occurrence of the incident. He reiterated that the Sichuan Provincial Government welcomed Hong Kong media coverage. As to the number of LegCo Members invited, Vice-Governor WEI Hong pointed out that as the workload of reconstruction was extremely heavy and some roads were still under restoration, it was not appropriate for the delegation to have too many members. Hence, the Provincial Government invited members of the most relevant committees to join the activity. He thanked LegCo Members for showing care to the people of Sichuan Province and support for the post-quake restoration and reconstruction work in the province.

- 3.9 Hon CHAN Kam-lam said that the people of Hong Kong as a whole were concerned with the post-quake reconstruction projects in Sichuan, especially those supported by Hong Kong. He suggested that the Sichuan Provincial Government could consider holding exhibitions in Hong Kong to help Hong Kong people to better understand the post-quake reconstruction work in Sichuan. Governor WEI Hong considered it a very good suggestion, and indicated that the Sichuan Provincial Government would actively consider the suggestion and compile exhibition materials in due course.
- 3.10 Members then attended a lunch hosted by the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Sichuan Provincial Government and returned to Hong Kong after the lunch.



Members received a briefing from leaders of Sichuan Province on the reconstruction work



*President Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing presented a souvenir
(a gilded picture frame showing the LegCo Building) to WEI Hong,
member of the Standing Committee and Executive Vice-Governor of Sichuan Province*



After the meeting with leaders of Sichuan Province, Members briefed reporters on the contents of the meeting and answered their questions

Chapter 4: Observations

- 4.1 The delegation considers that the visit provided a precious opportunity for Members to come to Sichuan in person to understand the latest development of the post-quake restoration and reconstruction work. Through the visit, Members gained a better understanding of the latest development of some of the reconstruction projects in Sichuan Province, especially those supported by the HKSAR. This would facilitate Members' discussion and examination of proposals, progress reports and auditing reports, etc submitted by the HKSAR Government on the post-quake restoration and reconstruction work in Sichuan in future.
- 4.2 Members visited three schools and received a warm welcome from their teachers and students. Seeing that the faces of the students no longer showed sorrow and that they harboured great expectations for the future, Members were deeply touched. Concerning the investment amounts in the three school projects (about RMB \$9.8 million for the Baita Junior Middle School, about RMB \$20.50 million for the reconstruction of Fu Jiang Lu Primary School and Hong Kong's total commitment of RMB \$55.70 million for Shuimo Middle School), Members considered that in terms of the scales of these three schools, the investment amounts were very reasonable and the funding provided by Hong Kong was well spent and value-for-money.
- 4.3 Members visited the construction site of Provincial Road 303 Yingxiu to Wolong section and realized that the section was a vital access road for the transportation of basic necessities of life and relief materials to more than 5 000 people in the Wolong Reserve and the giant pandas conserved and raised there. Thus, it was necessary to expedite the progress of the project to ensure that this infrastructure facility could be completed as scheduled. Upon an on-site inspection, Members deeply appreciated that the project was very arduous and faced with many challenges and difficulties. Members considered that while it was very important to expedite the progress of the project, it was also necessary to ensure

construction quality and safety. Members noted that all parties in the construction unit recognized this principle.

- 4.4 During the visit, Members saw with their own eyes that youngsters and children who became disabled during the earthquake could live determinedly and actively after receiving rehabilitation services provided by the government and voluntary organizations for one odd year. Members were deeply moved by the unswerving determination that they showed when faced with the predicament. Through exchanging views with the voluntary organization "Stand Tall", Members understood that after the earthquake Sichuan people had a great need for medical and rehabilitation services and it was necessary for such services to last for several years or even a longer time. In this regard, Members consider that follow-up work is needed in many areas: it is necessary for both the Governments of the HKSAR and Sichuan Province to keep providing appropriate support and assistance for these disabled youngsters and children; and Members are supportive that voluntary organizations in Hong Kong continue lending these youngsters and children a helping hand during their course of rehabilitation. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should actively consider whether additional funding should be provided for the rehabilitation services and other relevant training work already started by some non-government organizations, in order to benefit more Sichuan people in need of such services.
- 4.5 As Hong Kong people are very concerned with all aspects of the post-quake restoration and reconstruction work in Sichuan Province, especially Hong Kong's reconstruction support projects, and the majority of them do not have an opportunity to visit Sichuan in person to understand the situation, the delegation concurs with the suggestion of Hon CHAN Kam-lam that the Sichuan Provincial Government could consider holding exhibitions or other functions in Hong Kong to present directly to the people of Hong Kong the latest development of the post-quake restoration and reconstruction work in Sichuan Province.
- 4.6 Members note that unlike other provinces and municipalities, HKSAR has not adopted a one-on-one mode to support the reconstruction in Sichuan, but decided on the support arrangements for individual reconstruction projects with the Sichuan side through discussion. Therefore, Hong Kong's reconstruction support

projects are not concentrated in a particular or several counties/municipalities, but spread over different places in Sichuan. Accompanying representatives from the Development Bureau have indicated to the delegation that officials responsible for monitoring the work had often spent much time in travelling to the sites of various reconstruction support projects for on-site inspection. In this regard, Members consider that the HKSAR Government needs to arrange the monitoring work more cautiously and systematically, including the arrangement for appointing independent professional consultants, to ensure that the monitoring work can be conducted in a cost-effective way.

- 4.7 Finally, the delegation is grateful to the staff of the Sichuan Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Chengdu for providing outstanding support services for the visit. The delegation is also grateful to Mr MAK Chai-kwong, Permanent Secretary for Development, and other government officials involved in the visit for providing very useful information for Members during the visit.