

Press Kit
May 12, 2009

A year after the earthquake in Sichuan: solidarity in action

A year after the earthquake in China, solidarity in action with Schneider Electric

On Monday, May 12th 2008, the province of Sichuan, in the west centre of China, was struck by a terrible earthquake, the most serious seism to occur in China since the quake in Tangshan close to Peking in 1976.

One year later, thanks to the extremely high level of mobilisation of its entire staff, Schneider Electric is taking an active part in populations' return to normal life and in rebuilding local infrastructures.

In the face of this catastrophe, right from the start in May 2008, Schneider Electric used its Foundation for launching a vast action of solidarity, composed of **emergency and rebuilding programmes**. All in all, the Group and its staff will have devoted up to 8 million Yuan (RMB) to help and assistance efforts in favour of populations of disaster victims in the province of Sichuan.



The emergency programme, now at an end, aimed at providing an immediate response to the stricken populations' essential requirements. Schneider Electric took part in actions coordinated by a number of NGOs, notably the Chinese Red Cross. The programme also included gifts of Schneider Electric equipment, used for renovating electricity networks in the province of Sichuan. Through donations from over 20 countries throughout the world, Schneider Electric and its staff have given 4 million Yuan (RMB) for these emergency operations.

Set up as a long-term operation, the objective of **the reconstruction programme** is to contribute to (re)creating an environment for promoting education and professional training that are available to populations who have paid such a heavy toll to the earthquake. Schneider Electric has joined up with the Operation Blessing China NGO. The programme has now been launched. Schneider Electric staff's commitment contributes very considerably to the success of these reconstruction actions. A team of staff from Schneider Electric China monitors the key stages in projects on a daily level, in close collaboration with the Schneider Electric Foundation. Our Chinese staff have mobilized themselves very extensively in these actions and their donations have attained a level of 2.3 million Yuan (RMB). Added to the emergency programme, the total contribution to the reconstruction programme made by Schneider Electric and its staff amounts to 4 million Yuan (RMB).

The Schneider Electric Foundation is undertaking to promote education and training for young people by means of long-term partnerships. It provides support in projects for building schools, for training young people and instructors in its professions and for creating jobs. It acts in the vicinity of its sites using support from local teams. By taking action after natural disasters, the Schneider Electric Foundation is enduringly committed to working with populations "from the bottom of the pyramid".

In the context of the emergency, four million Yuan (RMB) have been donated

From May 2008

> An immediate commitment

Immediately after the earthquake, Schneider Electric donated **1 million Yuan (RMB)** for meeting emergency requirements to the Chinese Red Cross.

Its Chinese subsidiary Delixi, and its employees, also decided to give support to this organisation by donating a further **1.5 million Yuan (RMB)**.

Help from Schneider Electric and its staff throughout the world

China > Chinese Red Cross
Australia > Australian Red Cross
South Korea > Korea Red Cross
United States > Save the Children
Hong Kong > World Vision Hong Kong
Indonesia > Singapore Red Cross
Malaysia > Singapore Red Cross
New-Zealand > New-Zealand Red Cross
Singapore > Singapore Red Cross
Thailand > Singapore Red Cross

Each geographical entity of Schneider Electric chose the beneficiary of its donations independently.

> Worldwide mobilisation for an emergency situation

Other humanitarian organisations benefit from support from Schneider Electric subsidiaries and receive donations from its staff, notably from Australia, South Korea, the United States, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand. The value of these donations amounts to **500,000 Yuan (RMB)**.



July 2008, Schneider Electric makes a donation in equipment to the province of Sichuan worth the equivalent of 1 million Yuan (RMB).

> Donations of equipment

All these actions were eventually completed by Schneider Electric's donation of equipment in China. Worth the equivalent to **1 million Yuan (RMB)**, the donation was made to the province of Sichuan in July 2008.

« I want us to give all our support to the people hit by these terrible events. »

Jean-Pascal Tricoire,
President and CEO of Schneider Electric,
Letter to staff
May 26th 2008

For the reconstruction programme, four million Yuan RMB have been donated

Between 2008 and end of 2009

In terms of reconstruction, Schneider Electric's objective is to contribute to (re)creating an environment for promoting education and professional training that is available to the populations who have paid such a heavy toll to the earthquake.

Developed in cooperation with the Operation Blessing China NGO, Schneider Electric is deploying three different complementary actions to be finalised by the end of 2009 and costing **4 million Yuan RMB** :

- > attribution of 1000 educational scholarships
- > equipping 40 libraries and a technical laboratory
- > rebuilding and renovating two schools

> Accompaniment and equipment

1,000 underprivileged students will be attributed educational scholarships. Building and equipping **40 libraries** will benefit **15,000 pupils from 6 to 18 years old**. **30,000 books** are made available in the

provinces of Mingshan, Anxian and Beichuan.

Staff from China, Colombia, Spain, France, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Romania, Switzerland, Taiwan, etc have taken part in reconstruction operations carried out by Schneider Electric in aid of the population of the province of Sichuan.

The Mingshan training centre homes **over 1,500 students** and provides professional education principally in the fields of tourism and electronics. Partially touched by the earthquake, Schneider Electric is giving support to setting up a new technical laboratory and it supplying electrical panels, PLCs and circuit-breakers.



A teacher at the Mingshan training centre, where Schneider Electric is giving support to setting up a new technical laboratory

> Rebuilding schools

The Guan Yinxiang primary school was completely destroyed. It was used by 1268 families. Schneider Electric is contributing to reconstructing a two-storey building with 5 class-rooms and an office with a total surface of 750 m². When works have been completed, **120 pupils from 6 to 12 years old and 9 teachers** will be occupying the premises.

The partially destroyed Wenjingjiang primary school accommodates **300 pupils**. Schneider Electric is helping by installing specific equipment for providing support in various activities such as IT, music, science, multimedia, art, etc.



Ceremony at the Wenjingjiang primary school, where Schneider Electric is helping by installing specific equipment for providing support in various educational activities

A few words on the Schneider Electric Foundation...

Created in 1998, under the auspices of the Foundation of France, the Schneider Electric Foundation participates in the Group's commitment to sustainable development. Its actions are more generally incorporated into Schneider Electric's internal "access to energy" programme, called BipBop.

> Energy at the service of the young

The Schneider Electric Foundation's mission is to undertake concrete long-term projects that privilege training and the insertion of young people into Group professions by inciting staff to take part in the process.

In 2008, 2,300 youngsters were trained in electrical professions

The Schneider Electric Foundation's mission is to support collective and associative projects turned towards young people from "the bottom of the pyramid" and for whom the gap with society tends to become increasingly wide. To help these young people in their professional insertion, the Foundation encourages national and international insertion associations and even training institutions, and gives them long-term support.

The company commits itself in the field to promoting real sponsorship between staff and young people, guarantees of regularity, perseverance, and maintaining local activity. No matter whether it is regional or international, the Schneider Electric Foundation's commitment is always relayed locally by work carried out by employees, called delegates, working benevolently and the only persons capable of reconstructing the social connection between these young people and society.

> The Foundation's conditions of intervention

An international mobilisation campaign, Luli

Luli is the week organised by the Schneider Electric Foundation in aid of local sustainable partnerships created with associations working on social integration for young people. In 2009, it will take place from June 29th to July 5th.

A relay for emergency mobilisation

Acting as such on request by its staff, the Schneider Electric Foundation gives regular support to emergency operations. In this context, emergency mobilisation campaigns have been proposed:

- > in 2005 for the Tsunami in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand,
- > in 2004, for the earthquake in Japan,
- > in 2003, for the earthquake in Algeria,
- > in 2001 when faced with the terrorist attacks in the United States,
- > in 2000 for the flooding in Germany and Algeria,
- > in 1999, for the earthquake in Turkey.

Unprecedented mobilisation for the tsunami in 2005

3,706,742 \$
total value of donations made by Schneider Electric and its staff

71
countries mobilised

50
projects supported (including 12 schools, 2 medical centres, 1 orphanage)

4
countries of intervention (India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand)

Schneider Electric present in China for over 20 years

Schneider Electric has been investing durably in China for many years. Today China is a major country in the Group's economic and human development process.

Schneider Electric in China

15,000
employees

22
factories

6
distribution centers

2
R&D centers

> actor in China's development since 1979

Schneider Electric began its relations with China in 1979, the year in which a reforming and outward-looking policy was launched in China. The Group then began cooperation with State companies. It more especially took part in building the first extra-high voltage line in the country. In 1987, Schneider Electric created a first mixed-capital company (Tianjin Merlin Gerin Co) and set up in China in concrete terms. From 1995 onwards, Schneider Electric has been opening new installations every year or developing new mixed-capital companies. In 1999, Schneider Electric inaugurates its first R&D centre in China. In 2007, Schneider Electric set up one of its world-wide test laboratories in Shanghai, for an investment of 7.6 million euros. Between 2007 and 2008, the number of personnel employed by Schneider Electric in China has increased by 8%. In 2008, China represented almost 10% of Schneider Electric's personnel throughout the world.

> A responsible social commitment

In November 2008, Schneider Electric appeared in the 2008 prize-list as one of the 50 best employers in China, the result of a survey on job-hunters and professionals in activity with between one and three years' professional experience. The same year, Schneider Electric won the prize for being the Best Employer in 2008, awarded by 51job.com, the leading job-hunting portal in China.

Since Schneider Electric set up in China, the Group has made enormous investments to promote its image, such as that of "selected employer" for young graduates, investing over 4 million Yuan (RMB) in university scholarship programmes, providing over 450 training courses and recruiting over 400 young graduates thanks to recruitment campaigns on different Chinese university campuses.

Other promotion actions, career guidance seminars and Employment Forums are organised in a certain number of Chinese universities. Moreover, a personalised tutoring programme was set up for newly taken-on employees, joining them up with experienced colleagues so as to facilitate and accelerate their integration into Schneider Electric.

Jean-Pascal Tricoire and China

Jean-Pascal Tricoire, Chairman of the Schneider Electric Management Committee, worked for the Group in China as commercial director from 1994 to 1999.

Since the beginning of 2009, Jean-Pascal Tricoire has been Chairman of the France-China Committee, whose role is to promote understanding and economic dialogue between the two countries

Key figures

8 million Yuan RMB

The total amount of donations made by Schneider electric and its staff throughout the world for the earthquake victims, including...

4 million Yuan RMB

The total sum dedicated to emergency programmes donated by Schneider Electric and its staff

+ 4 million Yuan RMB

The total sum dedicated to reconstruction programmes donated by Schneider Electric and its staff

1,000

The number of scholarships for underprivileged students



30,000

Books made available in 40 libraries that benefit from the construction and equipment programme

1979

Schneider Electric begins its relations with China

750

The surface of the Guanvincun primary School building in m², reconstructed thanks to Schneider Electric's contribution

Over 20

The number of countries where Schneider Electric staff mobilised themselves in the face of the catastrophe

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