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PANDAS
INTERNATIONAL



March 2009 Newsletter

New "Irish Blessing":

*May the road rise to meet you
May the wind always be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon the Pandas
and bring their Wolong Home back.*



Panda Newsletters

We apologize that we are behind in our monthly newsletters. We have lots of news to share, but too much for one newsletter, so we will try to do two a month until we get all the *Panda News* out to you.

Panda Special on Animal Plant

On March 8th, there will be a special on *Animal Planet's Untamed & Uncut* series on the Earthquake in China and the Pandas. Normally airs at 9 pm Pacific time but please check your local listings.

The Rebuilding of Wolong

Perhaps the most important news is in regard to the rebuilding of our beloved Wolong Panda Center.

*Source: China Daily 09:02, February 10, 2009 :
Quake-hit panda reserve awaits Hong Kong aid*

Work to rebuild Sichuan province's Wolong Nature Reserve, which was destroyed in the massive May 12 earthquake last year, is expected to start later this month after an aid program gets a nod from the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government.

The epicenter of the 8-magnitude earthquake was just 30 km (about 18 miles) from Wolong. The disaster left a panda dead and another missing.

Zhang Hemin, chief of the Wolong Nature Reserve Administrative Bureau, told China Daily yesterday that 14 of the reserve's 32 panda houses were destroyed, and the rest were severely damaged, rendering 61 pandas homeless.

The economic losses amounted to nearly 2 billion Yuan (\$293 million).

The bureau has jointly developed a reconstruction plan

*Source: People's Daily Online, February 10, 2009 :
Wolong National Natural Reserve to be rebuilt this spring*

Wolong National Natural Reserve, which had been severely damaged during the Wenchuan earthquake, will start post-quake reconstruction work in spring of this year, said Zhang Hemin, Director of the Administration Bureau of the Wolong National Natural Reserve.

Wolong National Natural Reserve is home to giant pandas and various other rare wildlife. During the severe May 12 earthquake last year, its infrastructure including scientific research and breeding enclosure facilities for giant pandas was badly damaged, with economic losses reaching nearly 2 billion Yuan.

After the earthquake, Wolong National Natural Reserve adopted measures including an insistence on large-scale wildlife monitoring, implementation of "management and protection contract" model in natural forests and consolidation of achievements in returning farmland to bamboo groves. These measures

with Peking University, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Beijing-based Turenscape Company.

According to the plan, the China Conservation and Research Center for Giant Pandas in Wolong will be relocated from Hetaoping to Gengda, also part of the Wolong Nature Reserve.

The new site in Gengda would feature a laboratory covering 650 sq m, panda houses covering a total of 1,500 sq m, a panda hospital, a training ground for preparing pandas in captivity to live in the wild, an environmental education center, and a bamboo forest for feeding pandas in captivity.

"The new panda houses are big enough for every panda to roll around inside," Li Desheng, the bureau's deputy chief, said. A giant panda disease prevention and control center will be built in Dujiangyan, a city under the administration of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan, he said.

Zhang said the reconstruction plan is expected to cost more than 2 billion Yuan, 1.3 billion of which is expected in aid from Hong Kong.

"The reconstruction can start in full swing this spring once Hong Kong's Legislative Council approves the program pertaining to 25 projects such as protecting pandas in the wild, panda research and a panda hospital, Zhang said.

He believed the council would approve the aid for Wolong but was not sure whether it would provide all the money that the reserve needed.

The Sichuan provincial development and reform commission has approved the feasibility plan for the 25 projects, he said.

successfully helped to ensure the safety of the habitat of wild plants and animals, including the giant pandas.

Zhang noted that the overall post-quake reconstruction plan for the natural reserve has been formulated, and that the design work for specific projects is now underway. Twenty five projects with a total investment of over 1.3 billion Yuan, which cover wildlife protection, scientific research, schools, hospitals and welfare centers in the natural reserve, have been included in a Hong Kong-funded aid program. Construction projects for 14 rural residential settlements with a total investment of over 100 million Yuan have been included in the Chaozhou and Jieyang second-batch aid program, with reconstruction planning already completed.

At the same time, the State Forestry Administration has arranged 270 million Yuan of central budget funding for Wolong National Natural Reserve. This money will fund 19 reconstruction projects including land acquisition, construction of workplaces, and protection of the basic facilities of the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda and the Center for Disease Control of the Giant Panda.



Following these articles we asked Dr. Li Desheng how Pandas International could help in the rebuilding - here is his reply on the needs of the Wolong Pandas Center

How can Pandas International help you over the next 5 years?

The US Esbilac milk formula powder, veterinary medicines, equipments for monitoring and hand-rearing donated by Panda International make great contribution to our giant panda conservation as well as our centers development. In the next five years, we hope you can continue to donate these to our center as they are hard to purchase in China.

Do you know where the new Wolong Center will be built?

Because of our centers great destruction by the earthquake and the secondary geological disasters, we have to choose a new site to reconstruct. In consideration of natural biology environment, researching capability, conservation groundwork, secondary disaster and other factors, the new site is chosen between Huangcaoping and Shenshuping in Gengda Town. The new center is planned to be a comprehensive base, integrating giant panda research, breeding and reintroduction. Meanwhile, CCRGPs disease control center will be built in Dujiangyan.

Do you know when it will be completed?

Hong Kong Special Administration Region assists our centers reconstruction. The plan will start in this spring. It is estimated to be finished in 2011.

After this center is completed, will you have everything you need or will there still be items you might need from Pandas International?

As soon as our center finishes construction, what we need most urgent is some special and advanced scientific research equipment. It is always very expensive, but the fund we get from the State is limited. If we can get generous donation from the international community, we will be very grateful.

You had mentioned planting bamboo in a valley for the wild pandas. Is this still a priority?

Yes, we will plant bamboo in the valley. But the first is to settle the local people. Meanwhile, we will undertake the recovery of bamboo and vegetation. We will carry out grain for bamboo project, which does not only accelerate the vegetation recovery and supply food for the giant panda, but also increase the income of the local people. In addition, we will do the relevant greening project by setting up a plantation for herb, shrub and arbor to speed the vegetation recovery. However, we need to hire about 20 local people to take care of the plantation. If Pandas International can help us to pay these peoples' salaries, we would be so grateful.

Will there be more focus on reintroduction?

We did reintroduction training and built relevant training fields last year. But because of the quake, we had to stop the program. This year, we will re-start it. Meanwhile, we also need some relevant equipment. (Collars & enclosures)

The buildings will be built, but will there be equipment needed?

First of all, thank Panda International for sending our center a lot of office equipments, apparatus and medicines after the quake. After we finish reconstruction, our new base acquires a variety of equipments and facilities. At present, we are discussing and will make out the plans.

Are there staffing needs or staffing education?

Till now, we don't carry out any special allowance to our excellent employees and the poverty-stricken families. We expect we can have the special funds (no less than 100,000 RMB each year) for our employees' further training and encouragement, including helping the ones whose family has financial difficulties.

As you can see from Dr. Li's reply, there is a lot of work ahead for Pandas International to accomplish in the next several years.

**Dress in Green for
St. Patrick's Day!**

**You still have time to get a green "Advice from a Panda" tee in
Adult or Youth sizes for the Wearin' o' the Green!**



Order

Chinese New Year Dinner



Because of the May 2008 earthquake, our fundraising dinner was focused on a rebuilding and replanting effort. Thank you to everyone who attended the dinner, donated an auction item, or made a donation to our efforts. A very special thank you to our major sponsors! Please support all of the companies who generously donated to the auction and dinner.

Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, the Honorable Terrance Carroll, welcomed those attending the 9th annual Chinese New Year Dinner.

Carroll described the new challenges faced by Pandas International as they try to provide support to rebuild the Giant Panda Captive Breeding and Research Center in Wolong, China, and, assist in the replanting of bamboo in the region. Both the Center and the main food source of the Giant Panda suffered severe damage as a result of the catastrophic earthquake of May, 2008.

Carroll, referring to the debate over the current state budget, told the more than 240 attending the dinner that he had recent and first knowledge of the difficulty in trying to find support for essential and valuable projects in the face of economic scarcity.



As if to prove the difficulty of trying to battle for the "good," Speaker Carroll at one point in the evening found his head inside a Lion's mouth. The Lion was part of the traditional Chinese Lion Dance performed by Wah Lum Kung Fu & Tai Chi of Denver. Carroll said he thought the "Lion" seemed to be partial to Democrats and that's why he wasn't "injured." The "terrifying" moment was preserved in a photograph.

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Donated Items so special we wanted all our Panda Lovers to be able to bid on them — so we will be listing them on eBay. We will include links in our email newsletters (watch for these in future editions!).

*Lauren Lehman & Diane Rees
Pewter Panda*

*Sandra Miller
Glicee on Canvas Panda*

*Dorothy Oxborrow
Whimsical Panda Painting*

*Shawn Shea
Glicee Fine Art Panda Print*



Valentine's Bear

Our Valentine Bears were a huge success raising money for the pandas
AND making lots of Valentines very happy —
as shown in the photo of Grace, Drew and Alex with their bears!



[TOP](#)



Pandas International is non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Giant Panda.

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