Wenchuan Earthquake:

Restoration and Reconstruction

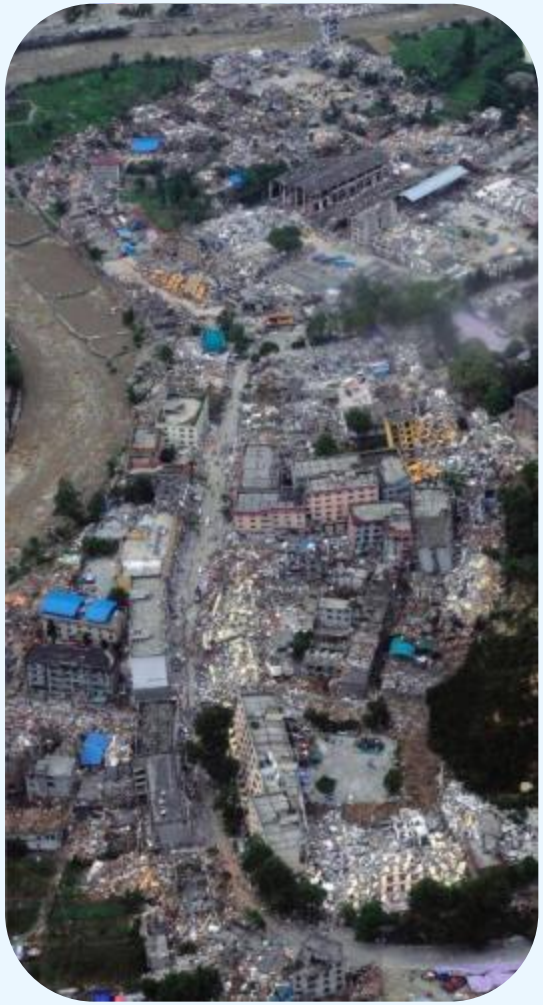
The earthquake that hit Wenchuan of Sichuan Province on May 12, 2008 is the most devastating one that affects larger areas and has caused the biggest losses since the founding of New China.

Map of Sichuan Earthquake Epicenter and Affected Areas

The satellite terrain picture of Beichuan County in Sichuan before the earthquake (upper) and the satellite terrain picture of Beichuan County in Sichuan on May 14 after the earthquake (lower). (Photo by AFP)

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Beichuan City after the earthquake



Yingxiu Town of Wenchuan County after the earthquake

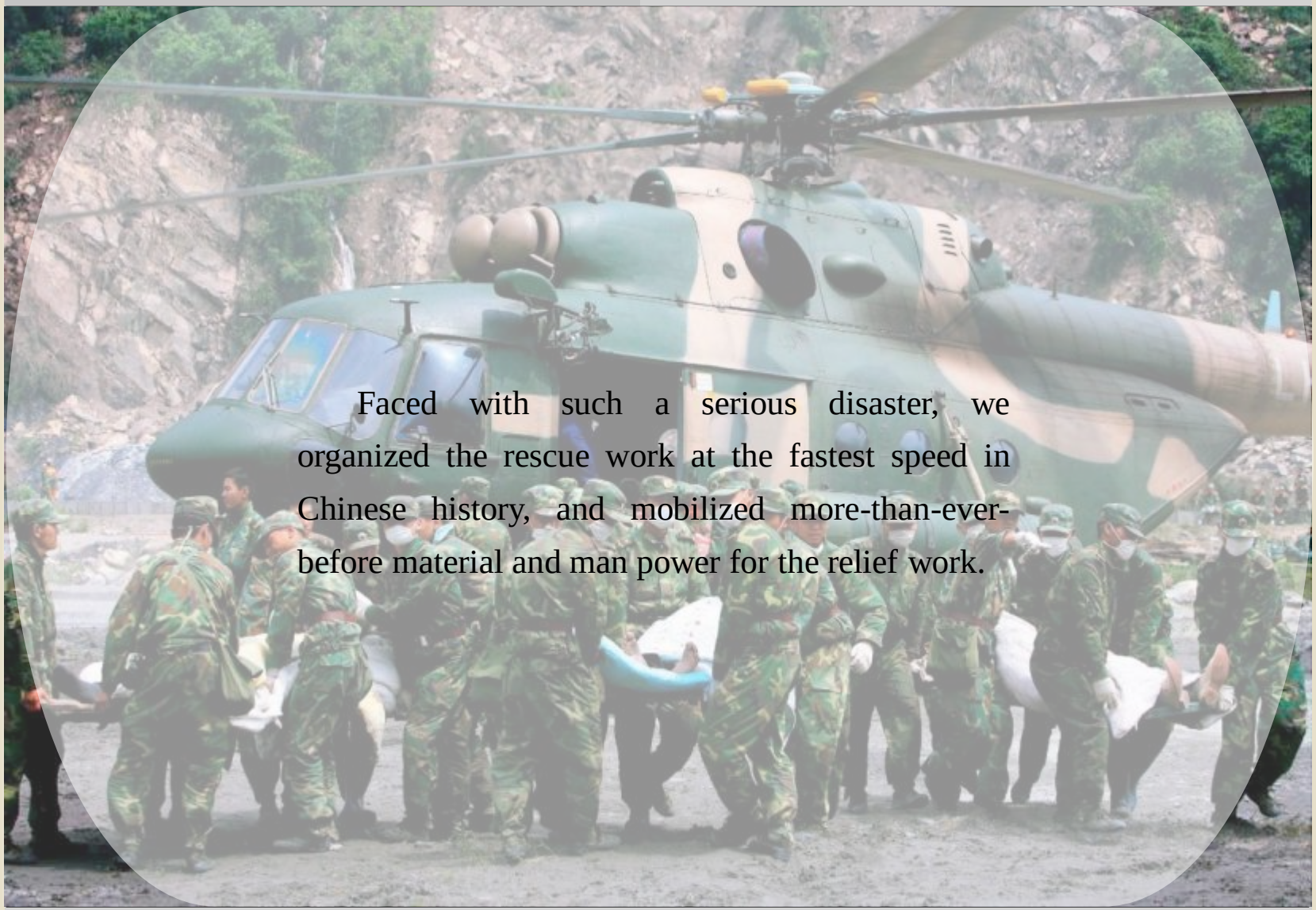
Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

The Erwangmiao Temple at Dujiangyan, which has a history dating back 1,500 years, was severly damaged due to the earthquake.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

The Mi-26 helicopter carried heavy machineries such as bulldozer and excavator to the vicinity of quake lake in Tangjiashan, Beichuan County in order to dig diverting channel to prevent a flood on May 26, 2008.

Tangjiashan quake lake viewed from the air on May 26.



Faced with such a serious disaster, we organized the rescue work at the fastest speed in Chinese history, and mobilized more-than-ever-before material and man power for the relief work.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

'I truly believe that the heroic Chinese people will not yield to any difficulty!' said Chinese President Hu Jintao to people in the quake-striken area.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao took a minihelicopter to Yingxiu Town of Wenchuan County on the afternoon of May 14, 2008, to inspect the disaster. Photo shows Wen, also a Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, callsed on the injured children.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) was lifting the injured out from the rubble.

Altogether, 84,017 people were rescued from the rubble, 1.49 million stranded people were rescued, and more than 4.3 million sick and wounded people received timely treatment –more than 10,000 seriously injured were quickly transferred to 375 hospitals in 20 provinces and autonomous regions.

15.1 million people were evacuated to receive the basic proper living arrangements, and 8.81 million people were given relief aid.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

On May 18, the professional search teams from various places continued searching for survivors in ruins in Yingxiu Town, Wenchuan.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Rescuers saved a three-year-old boy named Lang Zheng from the debris in Beichuan County on May 13, 2008. The boy raised his uninjured arm weakly and saluted to the soldiers who saved his life, expressing his thankfulness.

On May 16, a PLA Air Force Division was airdropping materials to the quake-hit areas in Sichuan. For several running days, it had been airdropping and sending drugs, food and tents on a large scale to the disaster areas in Sichuan.

Relief materials including foods and tents were airdropped to Qingchuan County from a high altitude of 4,000 meters on May 24, 2008. Affected by the quake-created lakes and severe convective weather, several townships or towns of Qingchuan County still could not be reached. The air-borne relief materials become the only life channel to these townships or towns.

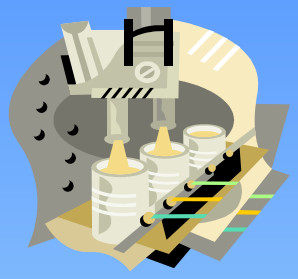
A couple look at their wedding photo after the devastating earthquake.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Victims were settled in temporary shelters.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Survivors had been rescued and transferred to other provinces and cities



We took effective measures to ensure that there were no major epidemics after the disaster, and worked hard to guarantee people in the disaster-stricken area have food to eat, clothes to wear, clean water to drink, a shelter to stay, and doctors to visit.

We worked hard to repair roads as well as power, communications, TV and broadcasting, water conservancy, water and gas supply facilities. Efforts were made to cope with lakes formed as the result of the earthquake, and timely and accurately made public disaster situation, and actively worked for funds to be disbursed and supplied.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Relief materials transported from various areas in an endless stream piled up like a mountain at the temporary relief material distributing center in the suburb of Dujiangyan City.

On May 15, officers and men with the Armed Police Fire Brigade brought drinking water to the earthquake victims in Beichuan.

On May 19, vehicles with CDMA satellite mobile communication equipments passed from night to morning from Wuhan to get to the Yingxiu Town of Wenchuan County where the communication had been interrupted from the outside world for one week. At the very night, the wireless mobile communication service was resumed in the town.

In the process of doing earthquake relief, the Chinese people and the Chinese Government showed the indomitable national spirit and the courage to overcome the great disaster with one mind. United as one, they bravely won a major victory in quake relief.

The leaders of many foreign countries, governments, political Parties, social organizations and embassies, UN organizations and international agencies in China as well as foreign and international friendly personages actively provided us with relief materials and relief funds; they also sent rescue teams and medical teams to help with the relief work, providing us with valuable support.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

After the Sichuan Earthquake, Chinese from all over the World actively donated money and relief supplies, and mourned the dead victims in various ways.

As the Wenchuan earthquake was the most destructive in New China, reconstruction in the stricken area meets great difficulty. The Chinese Government adopted a series of policy measures to facilitate the work.

Less than a month after the earthquake, the State Council promulgated the Regulations on Post-Wenchuan Earthquake Restoration and Reconstruction.

Four months after the earthquake, the State Council issued the Overall Planning for Post-Wenchuan Earthquake Restoration and Reconstruction. Proceeding from the actual conditions of the disaster-stricken area, it demands that “every family has a house to live, every household has members who are working”; and the disaster-stricken areas “enjoy economic development and sound eco-environment.”

The Chinese Government created a 300 billion Yuan fund to finance efforts for recovery and reconstruction, and, at the same time, worked out policies and measures for the restoration and reconstruction in the fields of taxation, finance, land, industry, employment, and social insurance.

During the recovery and reconstruction period, Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi provinces have set up three offices for unified leadership, organization, coordination, monitoring and supervision of to he disaster recovery and reconstruction work. The city and county governments were responsible for implementation of specific tasks.

A shot of the Danling County Wen Wei Middle School on September 2, 2009: The school was rebuilt with funds amounting to 4 million Hong Kong dollars raised by Hong Kong Wen Wei Po. The school reopened on September 1.

When disaster strikes, help comes from all sides. This is a fine tradition which the Chinese cherish dearly. Soon after the disaster, the Chinese government decided on the principle for each province or city to give help to one county in the disaster-stricken areas.

As the end of February 2011, a total of 4,116 aid projects were determined, including 4,035 projects which started construction, and 3,957 projects which were completed and put into use.

Currently, various provinces and municipalities have completed their aid projects, which are serving the local people satisfactorily during the restoration and reconstruction period. his fully reflects the superiority of socialism in being able to pooling forces to do big things.

According to statistics, domestic and the international donation to the disaster-stricken areas reached over 76 billion Yuan, which have been used for the earthquake relief and reconstruction.

In September 2009, we commissioned a third party to conduct the mid-term evaluation of our effort made to implement our general plan and 10 special plans. We made timely adjustment of some of the planned projects more in line with the actual situation in the disaster-stricken areas.

Beginning in January 2009, the Audit Commission launched the biggest ever comprehensive tracking audits. As of the end of November 2010, the Audit Commission and local audit organs sent a total of 19,035 people to form 7,137 audit teams to do auditing in Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi provinces, which were seriously affected by the Wenchuan earthquake. A total of 22,551 projects involving a total investment of 697.2 billion Yuan were investigated.

Use of donated funds were also investigated, with the results made public in time. Various provinces and charitable organizations also informed donors of the use of donated funds.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

When the devastating earthquake hit Wenchuan, help came from all areas; and people in the the affected areas worked hard in the spirit of hardworking and self-reliance. “Life is possible so long has we have hands and feet, and all difficulties could be surmounted”; “things we should do must be done by us” – people in the disaster-stricken area help each other and work with might and main to rebuild their home. By the end of September 2010, Wenchuan earthquake restoration and reconstruction work was completed in the main – work that was scheduled to be done in three years.

On January 31, the rebuilt town of Yingxiu, the epicenter of the May 12 Wenchuan earthquake, held a 180-table feast for some 1,700 people to drink qingke barley wine, celebrating the first Spring Festival.

As of the end of February 2011, according to statistics released by Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi provinces, the three provinces have started undertaking 40,909 projects and completed construction of 37,592 projects in the disaster-stricken areas, accounting for 99.5 percent and 91.4 percent of the planned. They involve an investment of 871.86 billion Yuan, or 91 percent of the planned investment. By the third anniversary of Wenchuan earthquake on May 12, reconstruction projects completed are expected to make up 95 percent of the planned, with the rest of the reconstruction projects completed by the end of September 2010.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Above: The new county seat of Beichuan is still under reconstruction.
Below: Beichuan County Seat was destroyed by the earthquake.

Above: Dujiangyan's permancent residences ready for use.
Below: The previously damaged Dujiangyan's residences.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Juyuan High School in Dujiangyan, before and after the earthquake.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Beichuan Middle School, before and after the earthquake.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Above: The newly build People's Hospital at Hanwang Township, Mianzhu.
Below: The previously damaged People's Hospital of Hanwang Town, Mianzhu.

Above: The newly build Dujiangyan Chinese Medicine Hospital is now inoperation.
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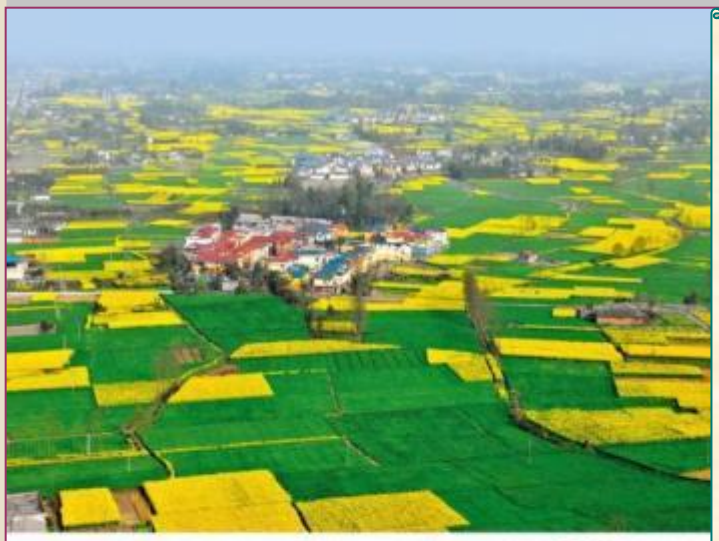
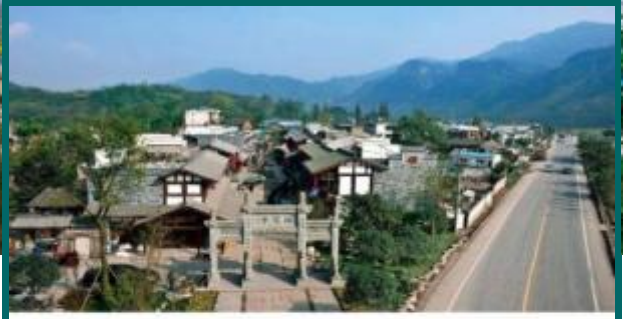
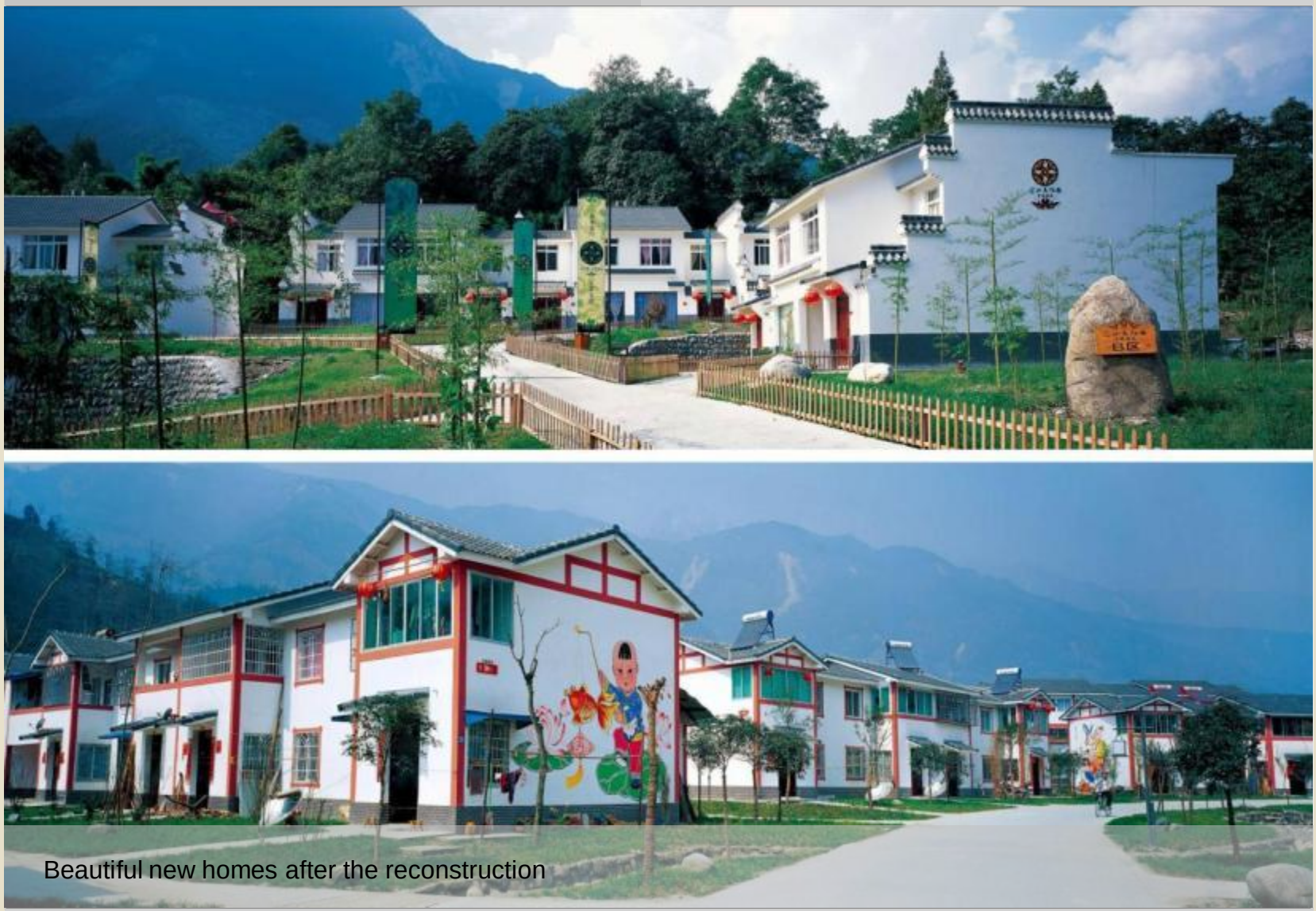
Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction





The reconstructed residences with Western Sichuan features in Xingchuang Town, Dayi.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction



Beautiful new homes after the reconstruction

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

The first urban railway in western China - Chengdu Metro Line 1, built and put into operation.

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

The first post-disaster reconstruction in Sichuan major railway projects - high-speed railway opens in Chengdu to Dujiangyan

The province's first expressway reconstruction - Cotton then opened to traffic speed in Suining

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

The affected enterprises have quickly resumed the production

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Disaster step on new steps industrial rejuvenation

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Disaster recovery of agricultural production

Although post-disaster reconstruction has been crowned with great achievements, but the impact of the earthquake will remain for a prolonged period of time. Currently, there are still many obstacles to sustainable development, such as the low level of industrial development, severe employment situation, a large number of the poor who needs help, arduous task of ecological restoration, and hidden geological and secondary disasters.

In accordance with the general requirement for earthquake relief, reconstruction and development, the disaster-stricken areas now enter into a crucial stage of revitalization and development. We will continue to work hard, help the disaster-stricken areas to get recovered and reconstructed, and help them enhance capability for sustainable development, so as to achieve the revitalization. Our goal is to let people live a good life and work for urban and rural prosperity. We have the confidence that people here will enjoy harmony between man and nature, and they will have a happy new home!

THANKS

Map of Sichuan Earthquake Epicenter and Affected Areas

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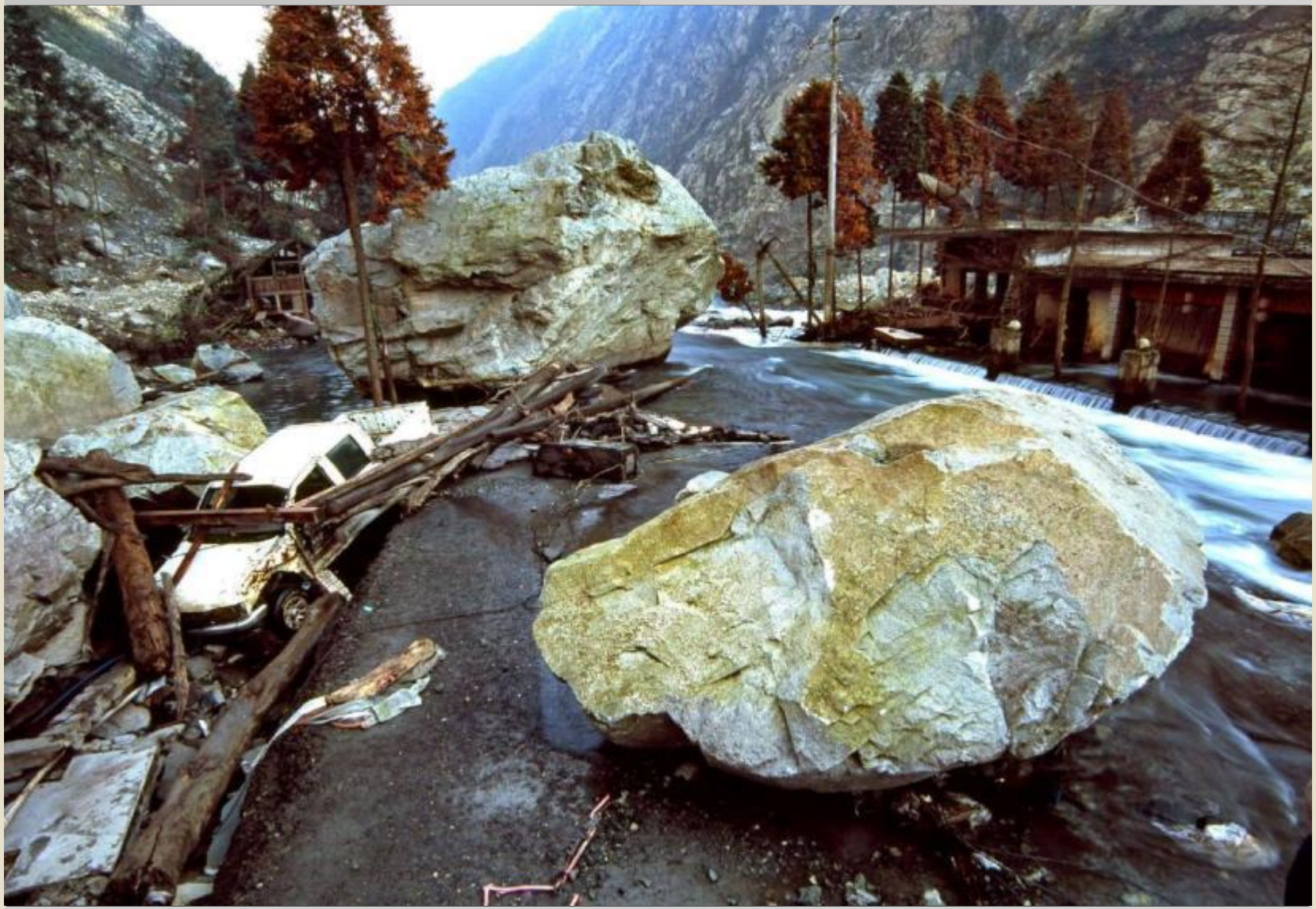

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Yingxiu Town of Wenchuan County after the earthquake

Return

On the evening of May 16, through over 8 hours' hard work, a man trapped for 104 hours in ruins was rescued successfully in Yinghua Town, Shifang City, Sichuan.

Return

Enterprise staff who survived helped each other.

Return

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

A soldier heading for the helicopter with two injured kids in his arms. Dozens of injured earthquake victims in the epicenter of Yingxiu towm are transferred by helicopters for better medical treatment in hospitals of Chengdu, May 16, 2008.

Return

Amphibious engineering team of the marine corps transferring injured earthquake victims with speed, May 21, 2008.

Return

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United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and representatives of the UN Security Council members stand in a silent tribute to the Chinese earthquake victims, during a Security Council meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, the United States, 20 May 2008.

Return

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon flew by helicopter to inspect quake disaster in Yingxiu Town of Wenchuan County on May 24.

Return

Former US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice visited the quake-hit area.

Return

The Duke of York, UK, and his daughter Princess Eugenie were presenting fresh flowers to the quake victims by the rubble.

Return

The Hon Stephen Smith MP, Australian Minister for foregin Affairs and tarde, visited the quake-hit area.

Return

A Chartered plane arrived at Chengdu with all kinds of relief supplies.

Return

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

By China in July 2008, the French people jul.21st assistance is linked by stein (SPF) delegation visited sichuan earthquake disaster areas with berg flower village, QingQuanCun mianzhu city tent on area DE town etc, for local people, extend value donated more than $23 million five thousand of tents and life need supplies.

Return

Spain's military aircraft at the chengdu Shuangliu International Airport with relief supplies.

Return

Singaporean rescue team at the frontline of the quake-hit.

Return

Canadian rescue team in Beichuan.

Return

Austrian aid arrived in the quake-hit areas.

Return

Denmark, Spain in mianzhu city of deyang jiulong town ERU water purification system, make the local victims on the clean drinking water

Return

Korean Volunteers at the quake-hit area.

Return

Foreign volunteers were acting as teachers to help school resume classes after the earthquake.

Return

Volunteers of Taiwan-based Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation in mianzhu.

Return

A shot of the Danling County Wen Wei Middle School on September 2, 2009: The school was rebuilt with funds amounting to 4 million Hong Kong dollars raised by Hong Kong Wen Wei Po. The school reopened on September 1.

Return

Bottling line of the Sichuan Qiangquan Brewery Ltd. (February 23, 2011): Built with an investment amounting to 12 million Yuan from Qingdao, the company is armed with German and Qingdao brewing technology, and adopts raw materials such as quality barley, wheat, and water unique to northern Sichuan. The production line has an annual output of 10,000 tons of high-quality beer. It succeeded in pilot production in February this year.

Return

Xuanxing Garden, a residential community composed of 260 sets of rooms, in Xuankou Town was built with aid from Zhongshan City, Guangdong. It was turned over to the township department concerned for distribution among the quake victims on March 30, 2010.

Return

On the morning of October 10, 2010, a total of 99 Hunan-aided projects were transferred to the local authorities. They fall into nine categories, involving a total investment of 2.01 billion Yuan. They were built in some 700 days. Picture shows a school student in a modern music class of the Lixian County Middle School.

Return

August 30, 2010 marked the opening day of the HKSAR-aided Nanchong City Shunqing Fujiang Road Primary School. Buildings of the school were damaged during the earthquake, and the rebuilt school covers a construction area of 5,200 square meters, plus a rebuilt stadium of 1,000 square meters.

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Below: The previously damaged Dujiangyan's residences.

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Above: The newly build the Hongbai county of Shifang city.

Below: The Hongbai county of Shifang city after the earthquake.

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Above: The newly build the Hanwang county of Mianzhu city.

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Above : The newly build People's Hospital at Hanwang Township, Mianzhu.

Below : The previously damaged People's Hospital of Hanwang Town, Mianzhu.

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Above : The newly build Dujiangyan Chinese Medicine Hospital is now inoperation.

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Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Above: Permanent residencies in the rural areas of Dujiangyan.

Below: The resdieces in Dujiangyan's Countyside were widely destroyed.

Return

Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Above: A resettlement area in Nianhua Village, Mianzhu City.

Below: The destroyed Nianhua Village in Mianzhu.

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Wenchuan Earthquake: Restoration and Reconstruction

Permanent residences in the quake-hit peasant village.

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Newly-build peasant houses scattered in the countyside of Shifang.

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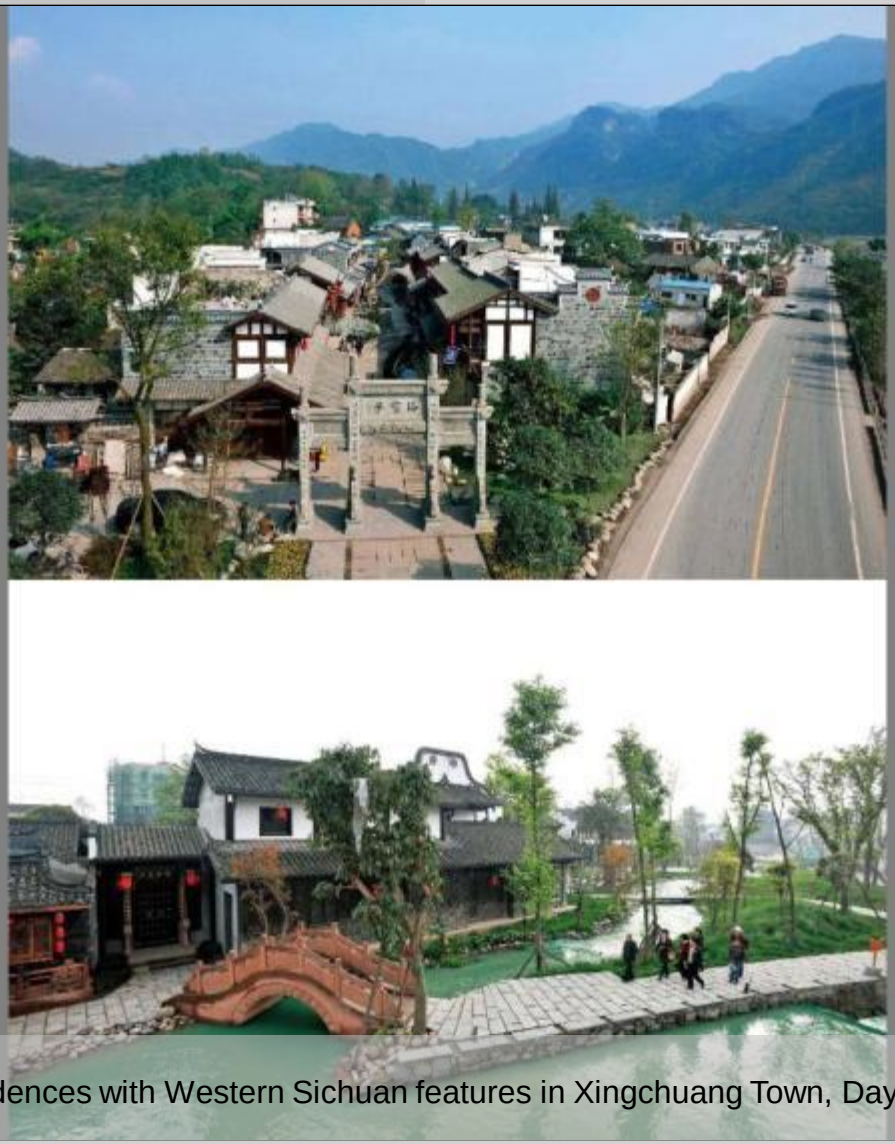

The reconstructed residences with Western Sichuan features in Xingchuang Town, Dayi.

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Wugui's resettlement area in Cuiyuchu Town, Dujiangyan.

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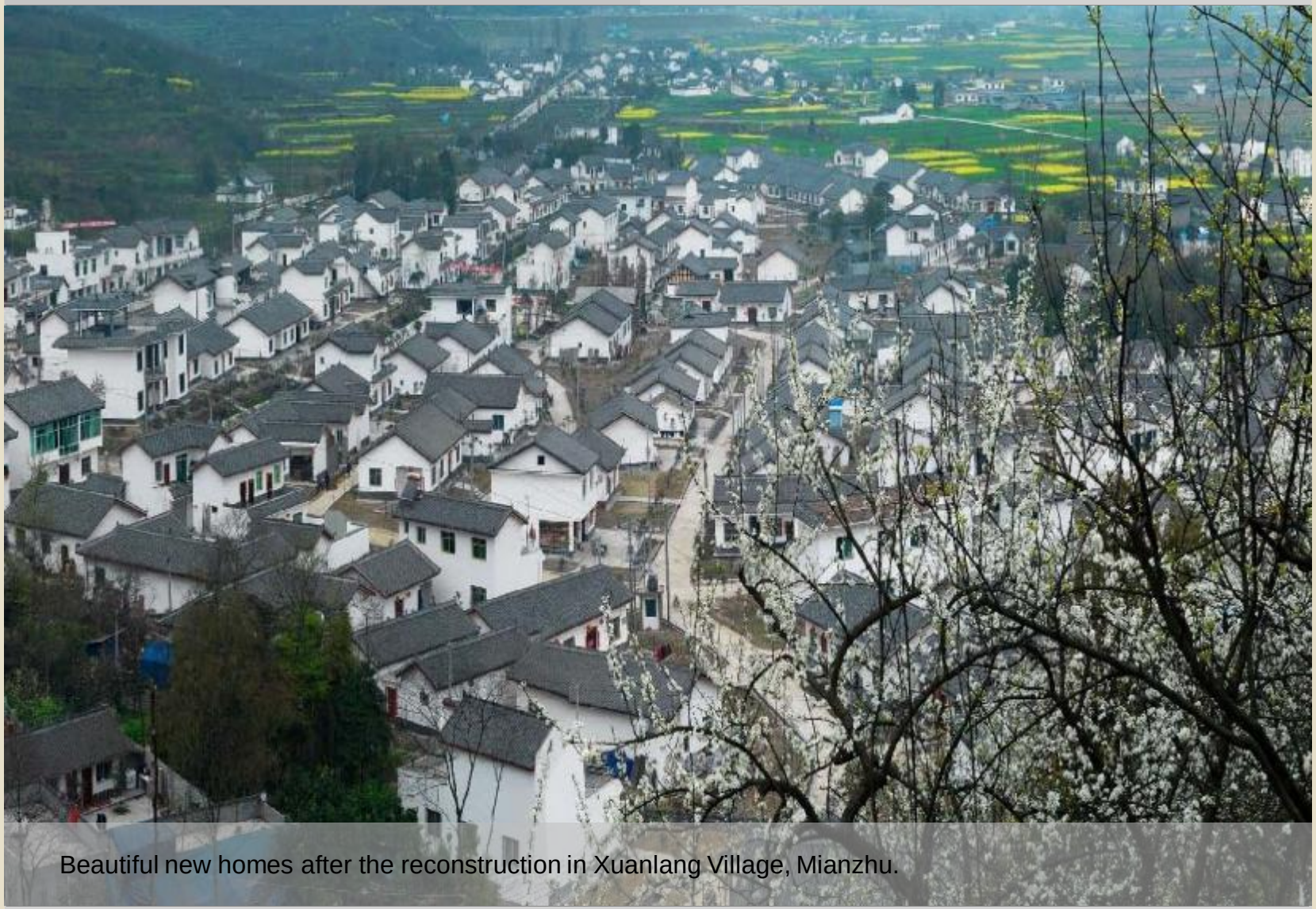

Beautiful new homes after the reconstruction in Xuanlang Village, Mianzhu.

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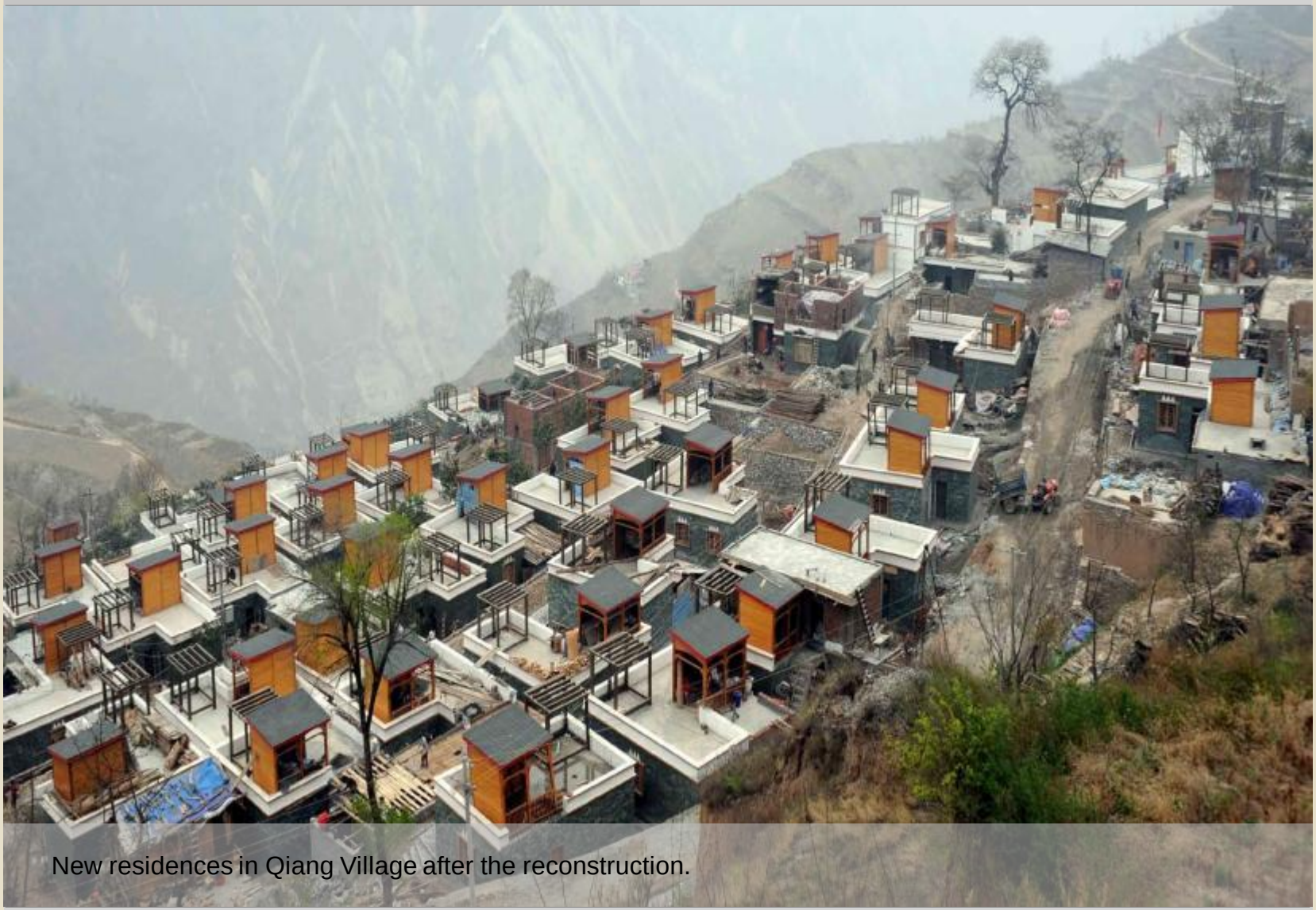

New residences in Qiang Village after the reconstruction.

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The newly Built Pingtou Village in Fengyi Town in Maoxian County.

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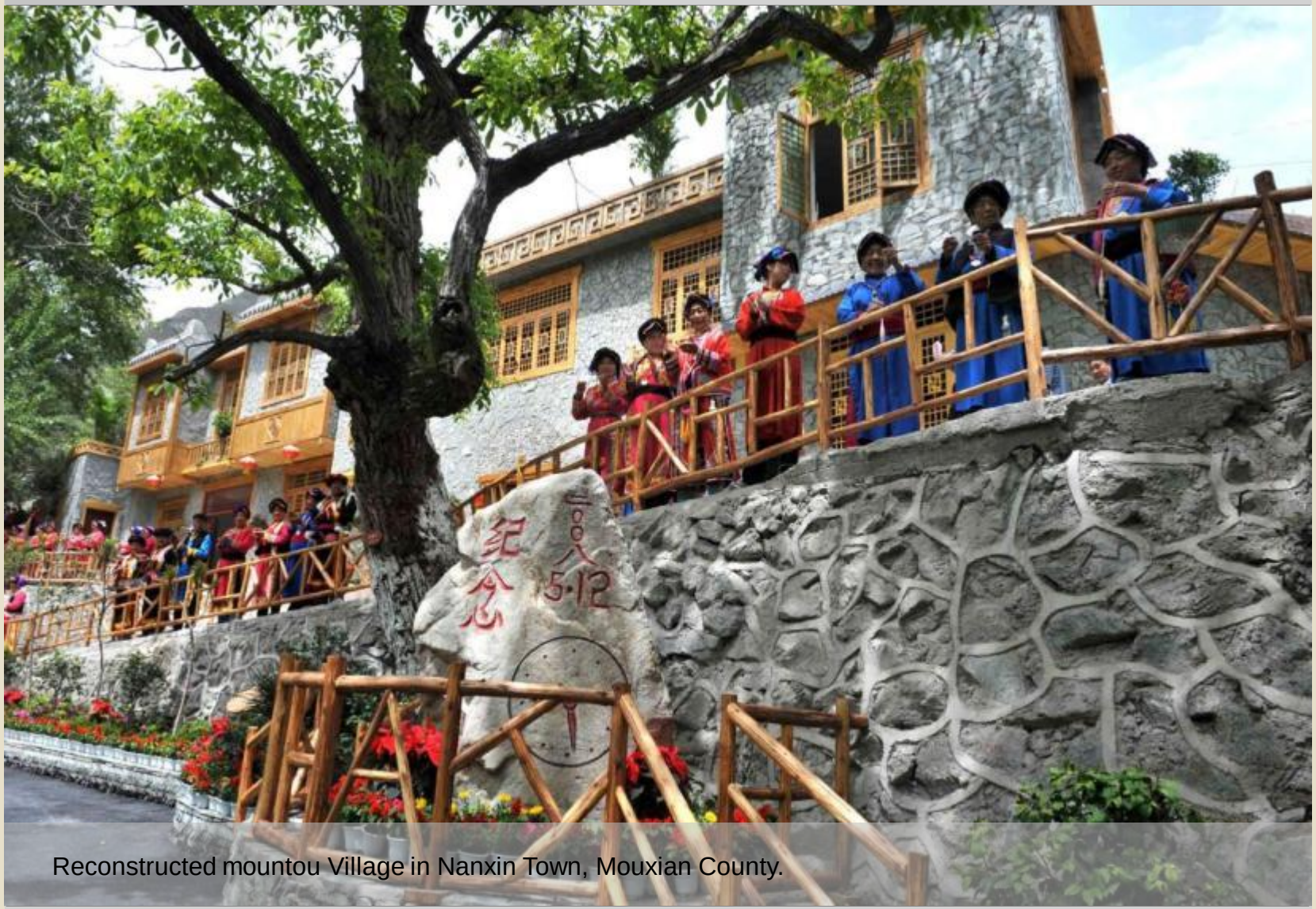

Reconstructed mountou Village in Nanxin Town, Mouxian County.

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