Final Report
to
Kalle Mattila

Solar Water Heater Project in
Rgyas brag County

SUMMARY

What?  Solar water heaters for 138 Tibetan residents (23 households: 76 males and 62 females) and 720 head of livestock in a Tibetan farming village.

Where?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Prefecture</th>
<th>Province</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jizong 吉宗</td>
<td>Shuizi 水子</td>
<td>Danba 丹巴</td>
<td>Ganzi 甘孜</td>
<td>Sichuan 四川</td>
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When?  May-June 2012

Cost?  1) Sponsor = 24,883 RMB
       2) Local Contribution = 32,667 RMB
       TOTAL PROJECT VALUE = 57,500 RMB
Dear Mr. Mattila,

I'm so pleased to report the successful implementation of the solar water heater project that your generous contribution made possible. Your contribution encouraged a contribution of 21,500 RMB from a local retiree. In addition, recipients contributed 11,200 RMB. The total of 57,500 RMB allowed purchase of twenty-three solar hot water heaters that provide hot water to 138 Tibetan residents (twenty-three households: seventy-six males and sixty-two females) and 720 head of livestock in a Tibetan farming village.

Several official retirees and the solar water heater vendor offered technical support and advice throughout project implementation.

Rgyas bzang is a Tibetan farming village situated about 3.5 kilometers from Kha mdo Township Town. For generations, local villagers have trekked to the ever-diminishing local forest to cut firewood along a six kilometer winding, very steep, narrow, craggy track. The road is slippery when it is wet and snowy. Women and girls risk their lives fetching firewood for the valley is very far below. No families use livestock to haul wood. Dictated by local government policy, there is only one month to cut firewood (in autumn). Women and girls carry fifty to sixty kilograms of firewood on their backs, which become swollen and blistered. Painful feet mean that some women use a walking stick to walk while hauling wood. Children frequently stop attending class to help cut wood.

This project brought hot water to Rgyas bzang villagers and the amount of wood collected from the forest is now greatly reduced, which is a great benefit to women and girls, and to the forest.

I extend my sincere appreciation to you for this solar water heater project that better ensures the sustainability of the local forest and provides a better life for the villagers.

Sincerely,

G.yu 'brug
PROJECT IMPACTS

1. Approximately 6,388 kilograms of wood will not be burned annually per family. This also means that the smoke from such fires will not pollute the environment.

2. Significantly help to preserve the local environment.

3. The reduction in rare vegetation and wildlife are the result of their cutting wood—the heaters will bring a near end to cutting wood for fuel in the forest.

4. Children will no longer be taken from school for a month each year to help cut wood.

5. Women and girls will no longer risk their lives on the narrow, dangerous path to and from the forest cutting firewood, and hauling it back to the village.

6. The heaters provide hot water for the families to use in cooking and to mix with straw and corn meal for livestock feed.

7. Locals will spend less time cutting firewood and can use this time on other activities.
INTERVIEWS

1
Gyung drung mtso (b. 1944) said, "I’ve hoped that the condition for women and girls would change in the village. I never had such a convenient source of hot water and I never had the chance to rest during the firewood cutting season until I was no longer able to climb the mountains. I spent so much of my life cutting firewood and hauling it back to the village. This project has solved this most difficult problem. We learned a lot during project implementation and built better relationships with each other. We are grateful to the sponsor for bringing this wonderful gift to our community."

2
Lha mo (b. 1999) said, "I no longer need to stop attending school to help my mother cut firewood. We are lucky to have this project. Our village children and mothers no longer need to walk about six kilometer to cut firewood, which is the most difficult family duty. The more livestock we raised, the more difficult it was to heat water. We seem to spend our whole lives on this."
PHOTOGRAPHS
HAULING FUEL TO THE VILLAGE IS DANGEROUS AND CONSIDERED WOMEN'S WORK.
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HAULING FUEL TO THE VILLAGE IS DANGEROUS AND CONSIDERED WOMEN'S WORK. LESS FUEL WILL BE COLLECTED, THANKS TO THE SOLAR WATER HEATERS.
THE SOLAR WATER HEATERS ARRIVE IN THE TOWNSHIP TOWN.
TRANSPORTING SOLAR HOT WATER HEATERS TO THE VILLAGE.
Recipients with heaters
TECHNICIANS SET UP THE SOLAR HOT WATER HEATERS.
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WATER TEMPERATURE IN A SOLAR HOT WATER HEATER ON A CLOUDY DAY.
MIXING HOT WATER FROM THE SOLAR HOT WATER HEATER WITH PIG FEED. BEFORE THIS WAS DONE BY HEATING WATER OVER A FIRE.
Receipt for heaters.
RECIPIENTS