



Dear Children's Dream Supporters,

When I was thinking about what subject I could choose to accompany this year's newsletter of our school, pictures from 2008 came to my mind. From a time when I often travelled to China on business, including Sichuan province with its capital Chengdu. From there, the terrible images went around the world, triggered by the earthquake that shook this region. On the afternoon of 12 May, entire villages and districts collapsed in a few moments; the bursting earth engulfed whole streets, factories and schools collapsed.

The figures recording the extent of the catastrophe were overwhelming. In the end, more than five million buildings were severely damaged or even completely destroyed. The earthquake, which registered 7.9MW on the magnitude scale, killed more than 69,000 people. 375,000 people were injured and months later 17,000 were still missing. The number of people made homeless alone - 5.8 million - was five times the population of Cologne!

But it was not so much the images of the inconceivable destruction that came back to my mind. Rather, it was the message conveyed by Chinese President Xi Jinping when he visited the surrounding hospitals shortly after the quake. When he stood by the beds of the surviving children rescued from the rubble of their schools - next to the future of China. When, attention! here comes the Big Picture, he asked the wounded children to study and learn even more diligently after their recovery. So that as adults, thanks to their acquired education, they can help reduce the scale of such disasters, to be better prepared for the calamitous dangers and to alleviate suffering intelligently. Through their improved architecture, improved earthquake early warning systems, improved rescue options, improved emergency care and, and, and ...

There is so much to learn and improve, I thought at the time. Not only in China. Everywhere in the world where there are children whose education improves primarily their own lives and secondarily all of ours. This inevitable path towards all improvements - that of education - came to my mind while writing this newsletter, - reinforced by my personal experience with *Child's Dream* and the building of our school in Cambodia in 2018.

In a quiet moment, I mentally transferred the knowledge gained from the assembled pictures to all countries, cities and villages, to all schools and children, resulting in a new, beautiful Big Picture. Accompanied by the awareness that this is a globalised dream - which in turn is the incentive for learning, which in turn leads to improvement and is therefore indispensable for the fulfilment of a dream.

This chain reaction - from dream to education to dream fulfilment - is reflected in the spirit of *Child's Dream*: Thanks to our education, we are able to help underprivileged children gain access to education. The fulfilment of their dream - to be able to go to school and learn - is our challenge.

Looking back at what we have achieved in just four years is remarkable! - also because it fulfilled my own childhood dream of building a school for needy children. Since we started

fulfilling children's dreams in 2018, a total of 80,663.12 euros has been donated! Of this, 55,772.75 euros were used for ...

- ... the Saysa Morn school construction and the backpack campaign that accompanied the school opening,
- ... the land filling and playground for the Saysa Morn School,
- ... for book-shelves and school-books.

This results in a current credit account balance of 24,890.37 euros.

Next year, in 2023, we would like to fulfil the next child's dream under the auspices of Child's Dream. We have saved together for this. And the more we save, the bigger and more beautiful is the dream fulfilment that can be seen in the shining eyes of the beneficiary children.

Bank:	Bankhaus LÖbbecke
Account holder:	Maecenata Stiftung
Account number:	DE89 1003 0500 1061 0007 01
BIC:	LOEBDEBBXXX
Kennwort:	Child's Dream Association: Querweltein Unterwegs

The following links lead to further information on the

"Querweltein Unterwegs donation account"
managed by Child's Dream, bank details and donation receipt

and the

"Child's Dream stories on the construction of our school in Cambodia".

On behalf of the beneficiary children and the entire *Child's Dream* team, I would like to thank you once again: for your loyalty and for continuing our common child's dream. Accompanied by a quote from the French poet *Charles Baudelaire* (1821-1867): "*The deed is the sister of the dream*".

I wish you and your families a reflective Advent season, a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, life-filling year 2023!

Together we can make a difference

Child's Dream Association



Stephan Thiemonds

Ambassador Germany