

## Press Release

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

**Singapore NGO – Chinese government-affiliated NGO partnership successfully pioneers a holistic and comprehensive approach to mitigating drought in rural China**

**Lien AID focuses on implementing long-term, sustainable and stable solutions for drought-stricken rural Chinese communities in Yunnan Province.**

15 July 2011, Singapore

At Yuan Yang County (元阳县) in the Yunnan Province today, **Lien AID**, the international development body founded by **Lien Foundation** and **Nanyang Technological University (NTU)** commemorated the completion of the pilot phase of its **Lianyuangongcheng (LYGC, 连源工程) program**, a multi-year drought mitigation initiative in rural China.

Jointly developed and implemented by **Lien AID** and **China Primary Health Care Foundation (CPHCF)**, the LYGC program is a complementary partnership between a Singapore NGO and a Chinese government-affiliated NGO. This collaboration draws on the strengths of each organization. Singapore NGO, Lien AID, is experienced in water and sanitation and developmental work in Asia. CPHCF is a government-affiliated NGO (under the administration of the Ministry of Health, China) and has immense experience in primary and public health, with a presence in 29 provinces in China.

LYGC program aims to provide poor rural communities with a practical and cost-efficient solution to mitigate drought, protect livelihoods and improve their quality of life. Adopting a **4-D Methodology**, namely *Discovery, Deployment, Defend* and *Dissemination*, LYGC starts with sustainable water discovery, implementation, management, environmental protection and behavioral change, with each process involving the community. Community involvement is an integral aspect of the LYGC program. “We were able to rally people to participate in the entire LYGC process. For example during the pilot phase, 6,000 trees were planted (*Defend*) and each household sent at least one representative to help with the construction of the water storage tank for their village (*Deployment*),” elaborates Mr. Koh.

This pilot phase focuses largely on 3 villages, namely Dazhai, Xiaozhai and Yanzijiao within the Yuanyang Rice Terrace, a UNESCO world heritage site, and also 2 villages in Kaiyuan and Sancun. The Yuanyang Women’s Association (Fulian) is roped in to help, primarily to make sure that women, who are usually responsible to collect water for cooking, cleaning, drinking and sanitation, are

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well represented in major decision-making and also participate in key activities such as focus group study, public health workshop, tree-planting, etc. **The pilot phase has benefitted an estimated 3,500 poor rural villagers.**

With the successful completion of its pilot phase, the LYGC program is primed to be rolled out in more rural communities. **“We’ve received positive feedback from grassroots, county, prefecture and provincial government and are excited to embark on the next phase of the program,” shared Mr. Koh Lian Hock, CEO Lien AID.** For the next phase of the program scheduled to commence in the next few months, Lien AID has **identified an additional 3 new project sites** in Shiping, Hebei and Yuanyang, which will benefit another 5,000 villagers. The program **targets to reach at least 10,000 beneficiaries in 2011.**

We urge interested organizations, companies and individuals to join us in breaking the dry spell.

### **Lien AID’s leading holistic drought mitigation approach strengthens poor rural communities’ ability to ride out extreme weather conditions**

Drought knows no geographical boundaries and has ravaged environments across the globe, from the United States to Africa and China.

Beginning in September 2010, the China Drought 2010-2011 has affected 2.57 million people and 2.79 million livestock due to lack of drinking water. Yunnan was one of the provinces badly hit by this drought. (Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, February 2011)

For poor rural communities the implications are manifold. With their health further compromised, livelihoods threatened and education sacrificed, they are unable to lift themselves out of the poverty cycle.

Considered a global humanitarian disaster, many international and national agencies step forward during such dry conditions, and engage in drought relief, bringing clean water and other emergency supplies to those affected.

Drought relief however, remains a temporary solution.

“The LYGC program intends to go one step further and provide a long-term solution by introducing measures that holistically equip rural communities with adequate resources that will effectively shield them from drought conditions well before its occurrence,” explains Mr. Koh.

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### *A Beneficiary's Perspective*

For Madam Zheng Feng Xin (71 years old), from Yunnan Province China, the LYGC program has enabled her to access clean water piped directly from the clean water source, into her home.

Previously, with no steady supply of water, she had to travel a considerable distance by foot at least thrice daily, to fetch about 40 kilograms of water on her shoulders, just sufficient for the basic needs of her family.

The 4-D Methodology has eased her burden.

With the closest water source **discovered** a considerable distance away, resources were **deployed** to improve her village's access to the clean water through building two new water tanks, refurbishing two existing ones and installing a water distribution system, piping clean water directly into each home. Hundreds of trees were then planted around the water source to **defend** it and protect it from contamination. Knowledge and skills were then **disseminated** through hygiene workshops and training, equipping beneficiaries with adequate know-how to sustain their access to clean water.

Madam Zhang recalls, "Fetching water is too tiring and the road is slippery. When it's too slippery, it's hard to walk and I cannot go home. Ever since they brought water into my home, there is no need to fetch water. Now drinking is convenient. It makes me very happy".

### **About Lien AID**

[www.lienaid.org](http://www.lienaid.org)

**Lien Alliance for International Development (Lien AID)** is an international development NGO headquartered in Singapore, with country offices in Cambodia, China and Vietnam. Its core mission is to build a firm foundation for human development by making safe water and sanitation accessible and affordable to poor communities in Asia.

Founded in 2006 by the Lien Foundation and the Nanyang Technological University, Lien AID's strength lies in its highly collaborative approach. It engages local governments, NGOs, educational institutions and the private sector in co-creating and delivering solutions to the communities at stake.

Since its start, Lien AID has successfully carried out 28 projects in 6 countries: Cambodia, China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia. Through its work, it has reached out to beneficiaries both directly and indirectly. To date, it has

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reached out to 161,000 people and continues to reach out to more than 251,000 direct beneficiaries in 2011, through 14 active projects.

### **Lien AID and China**

Lien AID's developmental work in China is focused in regions that are water-scarce and prone to drought. To date, more than 30,000 Chinese have benefited from the Lien AID's 14 projects. In the last three years, Lien AID has invested S\$2m in its initiatives for China.

### **About China Primary Health Care Foundation (CPHCF)**

China Primary Health Care Foundation (CPHCF, 中国初级卫生保健基金会) is a non-profit organization that aims at promoting basic health care services in China's poor regions. Established and sponsored by the Chinese Peasants and Workers' Democratic Party, CPHCF is an organization under the administration of the Ministry of Health. CPHCF has carried out projects in over 800 counties and has presence in 29 provinces in China.

### **About Yuan Yang Women's Association (Fulian)**

Yuan Yang Women's Association (元阳县妇女联合会) is based in Yuan Yang and seeks to improve the conditions within Yuan Yang. It works directly with the respective village heads and is strategically positioned to supervise the coordinating of the project on the ground.

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