

Company
LOGO

Stories of Disaster Relief

Xu, Guodong

Beijing Norm University

Email: gdxu@ires.cn

WENCHUAN
EARTHQUAKE



Contents



Story 1: The miracle of life



Story 2: Three-day national mourning for quake victims



Story 3: The song of soldiers



Story 4: The Children, the hope



Story 5: Reconstruction in quake areas

Story 1: The miracle of life

Feature 1: Woman still alive after buried for 7 days



Seven days is widely considered the longest period a person is able to survive buried under rubble, but rescuers did manage to save an elderly woman a week after she was buried alive.

Feature 2: Man survives 196-hour ordeal



The man was rescued in Mianzhu city after being trapped for 196 hours under the rubble.

Comments:

After the earthquake, it is the first important to save more lives in the work of earthquake disaster relief. But, how to save more lives should be answered well. Maybe there are some good suggestions in the followings:

(1) Make accurate assessment and judgments on damage status to arrange relief manpower and materials reasonably.

(2) Prepare rescuing equipments and rescuers which has been trained well.

(3) Populace should have the awareness of disaster preparedness and the escaping skill.

Story 2: Three-day national mourning for quake victims

Monday marks the seventh day after the quake. According to Chinese tradition, memorial ceremonies on the seventh day are especially important. They were believed to help grant the dead a better afterlife.

China began three days of national mourning on May 19th. It's the first time ever that the nation has mourned its ordinary citizens in this way. The nation pauses now, to remember and to lament those who died in the deadly quake that struck Sichuan province, May 12th.

Feature 1: Flag at half-mast for quake victims



China's national flag flies at half-mast after the flag raising ceremony on Tian'anmen Square in Beijing Monday Morning, May 19, 2008

Feature 2: China's top leadership pay silent tribute to earthquake victims



Senior Chinese leaders including Hu Jintao, Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, mourn during a silent tribute to the dead in the earthquake hitting southwest China's Sichuan Province, in Beijing

Feature 3: Public recreational activities were halted during the mourning period.



The national mourning period is more than an adoption of international practice, but also a display of humanity and respect for life in a more open civil society.

Comments:

The three-day national mourning is the first of its kind held for victims of natural disasters since the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949.

Throughout China's history, the practice has been reserved for emperors and top state leaders.

The national mourning period is more than an adoption of international practice, but also a display of humanity and respect for life in a more open civil society. These traits were also shown during the country's all-out efforts to save lives this past week.

Story 3: The song of soldiers

Feature 1: Special aid air-dropped in worst-hit areas



This is first disaster relief mission for China's air force in the rugged plateau region, without ground guidance or signals in miserable weather.

Feature 2: Soldiers become teachers to quake-affected students



Children at the Yimxoi Primary School and Hongda Middle School are the first batch to be taught by soldiers inside tent classrooms.

Comments:

China's seven military area commands had all sent troops or medical forces to Sichuan to help in disaster recovery efforts. All the troops in the relief efforts had broken conventions, taken exceptional measures, and raced against time to finish all kinds of work as soon as possible, including rescue, medical treatment, anti-epidemic and disease prevention, Psychological support and so on.

In China, the People's Liberation Army and armed police is forever a pillar of strength for the Country, following the catastrophes.



Story 4: The Children, the hope

Feature 1: Schoolmaster saves students, but loses wife



One of the students who was saved by Xiao Mingqing.

Feature 2: Rescue of 3-year-old girl



Song Xinyi, a 3-year-old earthquake survivor, is saved in earthquake-hit Beichuan County, southwest China's Province, May 14, 2008. Song was saved after being buried in the ruins for more than 40 hours.

Feature 3: Psychological support provided for children and students



The kids have become the main focus as the medical team returns to Beijing.

Close your eyes slowly.

Take a deep breath.

Inhale slowly.



A psychological worker is comforting a student surviving this earthquake in Mianyang, Sichuan

Comments:

Children as the hope of the future, and this is often felt most keenly during times of tragedy. The smiling faces of some of the youngest survivors have moved thousands of people.

Every effort has been made to create conditions to ease the shock of the disaster and to allow children and students to return normal life.

How to help children and students to get through physical wounds, mental and emotional stress and other difficulties should be answered by us. Moreover, how to help the children affected by catastrophes to grow up is also a question should be answered.



Story 5: Reconstruction in quake areas

New site chosen for Beichuan county seat



This is the Bandengqiao area of Mianyang city, and it covers ten square kilometers. After a 20-day field research, experts decided to recommend this site to rebuild the Beichuan county seat.



Comments:

Reconstruction is also a key stage for disaster reduction. For a nice life in the future, reconstruction should be planned reasonably.

Many things should be taken into account in reconstruction plan including: region safety, population increase, economic growth, ecological environment and so on.



Discussions:

(1) Whether will the massive earthquake larger than M 7.0 not occur within 500 to 1000 years in the active seismic zone of Longmen Mountains? If not occurrence, it is not necessary to increase the seismic fortification standard in the region, and the reconstruction must not consider the potential massive earthquake. Is it a good idea or not? It is a challenge for the present acknowledgement.

(2) In China, about half of the budget of China Earthquake Administration was invested in the earthquake forecast. What is your opinion on the earthquake forecast? Should we invest a lot of funds to research the earthquake forecast? And if the Earthquake Department observed some abnormalities of geological phenomenon, such as some obvious changes of the resistance of geological body, of the level of ground water, of some radiated element's content, whether should the information be publicized or not?

Company
LOGO

Thank You!

