



## FORM BEST PRACTICES CONTEST

Municipality .....Yanyang..... Country .....China.....  
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Name project

Creative Renovation Project for Deserted Primary Schools

Category Certification Criteria: mark the category of your project

- Energy and environmental policies (politiche energetiche e ambientali);
- Infrastructure policies (politiche infrastrutturali);
- Quality of urban life policies (politiche per la qualita' urbana);
- Agricultural, touristic and artisan policies (politiche agricole, turistiche, artigianali);
- Policies for hospitality, awareness and training (politiche per l'ospitalita, la consapevolezza e la formazione);
- Social cohesion (coesione sociale).

Summary project

In recent years, a few primary schools in Yanyang were deserted due to the implementation of China's family planning policy and the concentration of the education resources. In order to make better use of these deserted primary schools, we implemented the creative renovation and development for them, in accordance with the basic conditions and surrounding supporting facilities and the Cittaslow philosophy of economization and environmental protection.

The first renovated school is Taiping Primary School in Daping villiage. It was built in 1992 while deserted in 2009. We transformed it into a hostel with campus theme named Meizhou Schooltime Youth Hostel in 2012. We aim to create an atmosphere to guests that they are staying in the campus, so in the process of renovation, we keep the original teaching building, schoolyard, sports facilities, teaching props and so on, in order to revive their memory of student years. In this hostel, some classrooms are transformed to guest rooms, and the hostel is equipped with coffee house, bicycle lease lot, barbeque grill and so on. It advocates the concept of safety, health, friendship, comfort, economy and environment protection, encourages guests to have a tour by bicycle or on walk, and activities are held at regular intervals without charge such as lecture of slow life and reading party. Moreover, the food ingredients used in the canteen are also taken from the free-range chicken, vegetables and so on in local Yangyang. Meanwhile, this hostel was highly appraised for its concept by international youth hostel organization and awarded the name of "International Youth Hostel" in November 2014, and became the first international hostel in Meizhou.

The second renovated primary school is Changjiao Primary School in Changjiao Viliage. It was built in 2008 while deserted in 2013. This primary school is surrounded by ancient houses with Hakka characteristics, which attracts artists, writers, and students in school of art to come here to



collect folk materials, so it has been transformed to an artistic creation base in 2014. In the process of renovation, we retain the original basic facilities of the school and add much Cittaslow element such as the logo of snail and humanity element such as three-line love letters hung on the trees in the yard created by students. Moreover, many activities are held at fixed period such as lecture of traditional culture and quality-extended training and it becomes a very important site for community activities.

#### Goal project

1. Reuse the resources of deserted schools and turn waste into wealth.
2. Provide accommodations with different characteristics such as campus theme and artistic creation style.
3. Promote the Cittaslow philosophy by holding lectures of slow life at regular intervals.
4. Employ the local villagers and turn them from farmers to service personnel.

#### Result project

Both of Meizhou Schoolttime Youth Hostel and Changjiao Artistic Creation Base gain a good reputation from tourists and employ over 20 local villagers as their staff. Since its opening, Meizhou Schoolttime Youth Hostel received over 6000 tourists. Most of the rooms are reserved in weekends and vacations and lots of tourists come here to hold a class reunion and family gathering. Meanwhile, Changjiao artistic creation base signed cooperation agreement with more than 10 Chinese famous universities such as Sun Yat-Sen University, and numbers of university students will come to Yanyang for folk materials collection and social practice every semester.

#### Finance (costs and benefits)

Meizhou Schoolttime Youth Hostel is invested by government with a total investment of RMB 3 million (€426.000) , and a specialized company named Meizhou Schoolttime Youth Hostel Company is set up to carry out all the operation and management. Since its opening, the number of check-in rooms has been over 2000 and it has received over 6000 tourists. While Changjiao Artistic Creation Base is invested by government with a total investment of RMB 1 million (€142.000) and it has received over 2000 tourists since its opening.

#### Staff (staff involved and use of time)

About 20 local villagers in Yanyang are employed to carry out the operation and management of Meizhou Schoolttime Youth Hostel and Changjiao artistic creation base. The whole renovation project lasts for half a year.

#### Additional information (if necessarily)



(Before: deserted Taiping Primary School → After: Overview of Meizhou Schooltime Youth Hostel, which keeps the teaching building, schoolyard, basketball court, etc)



(The hostel keeps the table tennis tables and adds bicycle lease service, calling for healthy sports and low carbon trips)



(All the food ingredients used in this hostel are taken from local free-range chicken, pork, vegetables, etc. It also provides cooking experience projects: the guest is making Chinese dumplings as in the right picture)



(The hostel keeps the dormitory beds, desks and chairs and recyclable cups, calling for environmental protection and nature)

Link website .....<http://www.yhachina.com/ls.php?id=457&hostID=2>..... (if available)

Once filled in this form please send it to: [info@cittaslow.net](mailto:info@cittaslow.net)  
- Participation Deadline 15 May 2015 -