**Green Hope Above The Rubbles**

**Typhoon survivors adapt a new attitude towards a greener life**

Taiwan’s green building density ranks number one in the world, you can even find them in a remote area. Take Min-Chuan elementary school for example, which stands 20 meters above the troubled water in Na-Ma-Sha Township in southern Taiwan.

Min Chuan elementary school was completely wiped out by typhoon Morakot in 2009. The original site and the adjacent area still lie in eerily ruins covered with enormous amount of rubbles.

The school was situated right next to a river bank. The only part of the campus that barely survived the typhoon’s mudslide is the entrance arch that was cut in half hanging wobbly on the ground. It is the only visible evidence of the school’s existence.

Typhoons come every year. The mountain roads are challenged by the torrential rain and mudslides every summer and fall. But children’s dream in going to school cannot be shattered.

The idea of giving the school children a safe place to study drives architect Kuo Ying-Zhao and Delta Electronics to the rebuild of Min Chuan elementary school. The architect suggested steel and wood as basic construction material for the new school. And most importantly, green concept was introduced into the design with closely calculated data in wind, sunlight, rain, and various conditions.

The classroom area is a steel structure work; the library, the icon of the new school, is built entirely in wood, with a design that blends in natural sunlight and wind. In addition, solar system and wind turbines are employed to reach the goal of a net-zero energy building.

Practicality still comes first. After 2 years without their own campus, students and staffs are thrilled with the new school. The size of the classrooms, the height of the stairs, the native cultural touch here and there… all fit their needs and beyond. More importantly, to those whose homes were ruined by the natural disaster, the new student’s life becomes a brand new green life!

In 2012, the new Min-Chuan elementary school has won EEWH, Taiwan’s highest level of green building certification system. It is more than a green building, it sheds the light on the long journey still ahead in re-building the ruined village.