

## Lien Aid gets China charity award

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In Beijing

A Singapore non-profit organisation has been awarded one of China's top charity awards for bringing much-needed water and sanitation to more than 30,000 Chinese in drought-prone rural areas.

Lien Aid, a collaboration between Lien Foundation and Nanyang Technological University, received the Global Charity Award in the Great Hall of the People yesterday at one of China's major events of the year honouring philanthropic work.

Held by the Chinese ministry of civil affairs and the prestigious Soong Ching Ling Foundation, the ceremony honoured more than 50 individuals and organisations for their contributions to Chinese society.

Lien Aid, the only Singapore recipient at this year's awards, was ranked by popular vote as an outstanding contributor among the top non-profit organisations for its 14 projects in Yunan, Sichuan and Shanxi.

Drawing on Singapore's water hub status and expertise, it invested \$2 million over three years to build 870 wells and improve water and sanitation conditions in 20 schools.

"The Chinese view water pollution and the scarcity of water as the nation's most critical environmental problems, weighing even above the issue of climate change," said Mr Lee Poh Wah, Lien Aid's chairman.

"Lien Aid is in the right space of tackling China's water challenges."



PHOTO: LIEN FOUNDATION

Pupils using toilet facilities at Ci Xiang Primary School in Ziyang city, Sichuan, one of 20 schools where Lien Aid pumped in money to improve water and sanitation conditions.