

Special communication intended for sponsors and patrons of Couleurs de Chine

The NGO Couleurs de Chine was founded in 1998 by Françoise Grenot-Wang, who recognised the unique situation of girls from the Miao ethnic minority in northern Guangxi, most of whom were deprived of access to education for both cultural and material reasons.

Thanks to the efforts of its founder and the volunteers who supported her for ten years until her accidental death in 2008, and who have since continued their tireless commitment to ensuring the association's presence and activities in the region and in Europe...

Thanks to the hundreds of sponsors and patrons who have chosen to fund the education of these young girls from disadvantaged families, Couleurs de Chine has enabled around 12,000 young people (aged between 6 and 25) to acquire a basic education and, for many of them, to achieve higher education and rewarding professional positions...

In recent years, the situation has changed considerably in this once very isolated and disadvantaged region of China, which is now accessible. Education has become compulsory for all children in the country, both girls and boys... Conditions for ethnic minorities have improved greatly, particularly in the wake of the country's overall economic growth and the spectacular expansion of road and rail infrastructure to even the most remote regions... In 1998, it took more than eight hours to reach Danian from Guilin, but today it takes three times less time thanks to the high-speed rail and motorway.

Since 2016, the Chinese government has made significant adjustments to its policy on the management of foreign non-governmental organisations, adopting laws and regulations aimed at standardising their activities in China. The Couleurs de Chine association has actively sought to comply with these requirements, completing a series of compliance procedures, such as registering its representation in Guangxi Province, managing its staff and using cross-border funds. Since 2017, the association's representative office in Danian has always conducted its activities in accordance with the law, ensuring the normal continuation of projects. However, these regulations have also imposed certain limitations on the association's operations, affecting, for example, fundraising in China and direct interactions with beneficiary students.

At the same time, the association's headquarters in France has faced several challenges, including a significant decline in the number of donors and difficulties in recruiting volunteers, which has increased pressure on its sustainability. After two years of efforts to maintain its activities and considering that the social problems that motivated its creation have been fundamentally improved, the headquarters decided

to gradually wind down the association's activities after completing the funding programme for the 2025-2026 academic year.

This includes closing the office in Danian, shutting down the website and ceasing all communication on behalf of the association.

It is heartening to note that, thanks to the active involvement of caring individuals in China, the special 'Fang Fang Education' fund has been set up within the Shanghai Overseas Chinese Foundation. This fund plans to take over the list of students previously supported by the association from autumn 2026, striving to continue the framework of services and associated activities. The main fundraising activities will now take place in China through this special fund.

Foreign donors (individuals or companies) can still contribute to this special fund on an individual basis or as a company (without foreign NGO status), but these donations will not be eligible for tax deductions applicable in France.

In conclusion, the general meeting to be held in February 2026 will be the last for the Couleurs de Chine association as an organisational entity.

The members of the board of directors will continue to perform their duties until the association is liquidated and are available to provide donors with the necessary explanations and assistance.

All current sponsorship funds will be allocated in full to the intended beneficiaries, and transferable assets, in accordance with regulations and the wishes of donors, will be transferred to the special fund.

Finally, on behalf of all the members of the association, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to each donor, partner company and volunteer who has supported us over the years. It is thanks to you, who have sown the seeds of love and illuminated the lives of thousands of children with your great generosity, that these children have been able to transform their destinies and open themselves up to a wider world. This kindness and dedication, like an unchanging flame, will continue to be passed on through the special 'Fang Fang Education' fund, lighting the way for many other young people.