

PRESS RELEASE

***Walk Wise*, supported by Chevron, expands road safety education to 23 new schools in its fifth year**

14 October, 2016 – Kai Zhou District, Chongqing Province

Walk Wise, supported by Chevron, launched its fifth year and announced it is expanding its road safety education programs to 23 new schools in the Chuandongbei (CDB) Gas Project area in the Sichuan and Chongqing provinces of China. The program now serves a total of 80 primary schools and about 90,000 students in the region.

More than 500 students attended the celebration at Zhaojia No. 2 Primary School in the Kai Zhou District of Chongqing Province. They were joined by parents, teachers, representatives from Chevron, and government officials, including representatives from the Kai Zhou District Government, the Department of Education, the Youth League Committee, the Women's Union, the Care of the Next Generation Office, and the Traffic Police. The launch event was preceded by a stakeholder meeting where AIP Foundation staff shared *Walk Wise's* successes over the past four years and solicited feedback.

"The safety of our children is our main priority. The *Walk Wise* project is a great chance for the education system to strengthen its safety education by better involving teachers and parents," said Mr. Chen, Vice-Director of the Kai Zhou District Education Committee. "For the past four years, we have worked with the schools, community, related government departments, and AIP Foundation on this project, and we look forward to bringing road safety tools to even more children and community members in Kai Zhou District."

Walk Wise provides trainings and educational materials to parents and teachers so they can then teach students about the importance of road and pedestrian safety. The project also creates traffic simulation corners on campuses, and provides students with reflective gear so they are visible along busy roads during their walks to and from school. A third-party evaluation of *Walk Wise* was completed in June 2016 and found that students' knowledge and positive road behaviors significantly increased compared to data collected in 2013. Students improved their scores on a road safety quiz from 60% to 85%, and more than 90% looked left and right while crossing the street.

"My child behaves very safely on roads now," the mother of a student from Hanfeng No. 8 Primary School in Kai Zhou District said. "He studied at Gaoqiao School where *Walk Wise* started a few years ago... My son taught me how to use a zebra crossing and stop at a red light."

"In 2013, it was reported that 26% of road crash death victims in China were pedestrians, a rate much higher than in many other countries," Xiaoyan Xu, Country Manager of AIP Foundation China, said. "Child pedestrians can often be even more prone to hazardous road situations. We hope that by expanding to these new schools we can provide as many students as possible with the skills to stay safe on the roads."

Chevron and AIP Foundation launched *Walk Wise* in 2012. In addition to implementing school-based activities, the project has hosted community events promoting the United Nations Road Safety Week, the National Traffic Safety Day, and general road safety awareness.

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About AIP Foundation

AIP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low- and middle-income countries. For more than 17 years, AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit www.aip-foundation.org or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

For media contact:

Frances Massing, AIP Foundation Communications Manager
18bis/19 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel: 08-6299-1409 Ext. 117; Email: frances.massing@aipf-vietnam.org