

NTU, Temasek help strengthen buildings in quake-prone China

MIANYANG (Sichuan) – The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Temasek Foundation are collaborating on a programme to construct safe buildings in earthquake-prone areas, by transferring know-how to various regions in China.

Some Singaporean visitors got a look at the \$1.7-million project, implemented by NTU's LIEN Institute for the Environment,

on Friday – coincidentally when a 6.2-magnitude earthquake hit north-west China.

The project covers two aspects, the first being to strengthen school buildings. The technique consists of sticking strips in a criss-cross manner across a brick wall and uses cheap, locally available materials.

Two schools which were retrofitted using the NTU technique, survived the

Sichuan earthquake last year. This success story has led two more schools in Mianyang city to adopt the method.

In all, 14 schools in six provinces will be strengthened and retrofitted to make them quake-safe.

The second aspect of the project is to work with local universities and the authorities in each province, to train local

masons in these techniques.

Temasek Foundation chief executive Benedict Cheong said: "The idea is that after the training is over, they can spread the methodology to others in the same industry."

In all, about 60 trainers and 240 local masons will be trained under the programme. CHANNEL NEWSASIA