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杨尉人
NICOLAS YEUNG

主席

Vice Chairman

Board of Project Mingde

大堡的旅程勝過四度長，期間我們遇上了妖道，走過了彎路，攀上了諸坡，總算不算多
途艱難，但苦中着實吃了不少。總結起來，各人得到的教訓和經驗，又比苦難來得多。

沿途風物，使在城市長大的現代人對落後的農村增加了認識，對貧窮和封閉知識得更深
入。對少數民族的認同感，引起的感受，也對教育的目的和意義，增添了迫切的認識。

長途跋涉，讓人與大自然的距離縮短了，障礙逐漸消失，漸次變得，兩十年間對生命
秩序的反思，以及對和諧生活的嚮往。

沿途的風景和體驗，對著常人對使命的反省和目標的重新探索，為參與者思考如何平
衡理論與現實、藝術與功能、美觀與實用、理論與實踐、學習與實踐、科技與教育、成
本與效益，提供了實在的機會和場地。各自的主要和短處，帶來了各式各樣的失敗和落
差，但同時亦提供了接連的試驗、學習和體會；不斷的試驗和更新，衝擊著各人的知識
和能力，顫動著團隊思維的脈搏及百折不撓的態度，如何達致一個合理的和諧的成果，
也就成了大堡之旅最大的考驗和題。

大堡项目的目标是落成和移交，对项目学者而言，并非意味学习和追求真理之途的終結。我
们还有很长的路要走，有更多的挑战要面对，『路漫漫其修遠兮，吾將上下而求索』，明
德之路，我们不会放弃。

The Dabao journey was long and difficult. On the way we were side-tracked, went on detours, climbed
steep hills and endured all kinds of physical and mental sufferings. Indeed it would not be an exaggeration
to describe the journey as fraught with setbacks and obstacles. However, upon reflection, the lessons
and experience we gained from the journey far outweighed the difficulties we went through.

To us city folks, what we saw on the journey gave us first-hand knowledge of the backward villages and
made us understand what it meant to be living in a poor and closed society. It also gave us insight into
the desires and aspirations of the ethnic minorities and enhanced our appreciation of the meaning
and purpose of education. By bringing us close to nature, the long and arduous journey encouraged us to
observe the passage of time through the changing of the seasons, reflect on the order of life and yearn
for a lifestyle more harmonious with nature.

The obstacles and difficulties along the way prompted us to reflect on our mission and re-explore
our objectives. They also provided a practical opportunity and venue for participants to ponder
on how to strike a balance between ideals and reality, art and utility, beauty and functionality,
theory and practice, innovation and tradition, science and convention, and costs and benefits.
With each individual hampered by his own subjective thinking and blind spots, we made a lot of
mistakes and the results of our work sometimes fell short of our expectations. At the same time,
the endless trials and errors were valuable learning opportunities: they stretched our knowledge
and capability to the limit, pushed us to be meticulous in our thinking process, and taught us to
be dauntless despite repeated setbacks. How to achieve reasonable and harmonious results in
the face of adversity became the biggest challenge of the Dabao journey.

To Mingde students, the completion and handover of the Dabao project did not signify an end
to their journey of learning and pursuit of truth. We still have a long way to go and many more
challenges to overcome. "The road ahead may be long and endless, and yet I am determined to
search high and low in pursuit of the right path." We will never give up on the path of Mingde.

1 Borrowed from "Lian" or "Sorrow at Parting" written by Qu Yuan (340-278 BC), famous statesman and poet of
The Warring States period.

* Translated from Chinese by Zina Wong, 1972 HKU graduate.
INTRODUCTION

黄仕達教授
PROF. S.C. WONG
士木工程系主任
香港大學
Head
Department of Civil Engineering
The University of Hong Kong

自2004年_crc_導入學程化工程以來，轉換期已超過十年，在偏遠地區的建校項目一個
接一個完工。大專生明德工程文化中心是繼廣西省融水縣下里小學教學樓<明德樓>，融
水縣職中女生宿舍<格物樓>，貴池村仔入學部<朝聞館>，四川省安岳縣正龍街幼兒園，
及越南河內省怡安縣建興中學學術館之後，明德工程參與的第六個援建項目，於2012年
初選至當地建校，前後經過長達三年的努力，終於2015年底校方及社會當地正式授
予榮譽。

大保村位於桂北偏遠山村，全村共有上百戶人家，適齡學童約70多人。當地保存著悠久
的傳統耕種文化，亦非常重視對學童的文化教育。村內建有兩間木製結構教學之屋，
但經過60多年來的風吹雨打，原有的校舍已經破損不堪，隨時有倒場的危險，並不適宜
繼續使用。通過大保村愛心之家家長代表的多方協調，在明德工程的支持下，遵循基
層校舍的急切性，並參與這項援建工程。

考慮到農民出生率及不確定因素及可持續使用新校舍，在設計上除出原有的教室外，還
因應當地的需要加入醫療室、食堂、籃球場等民宅設施，惠及學童以及所有村民。設計
上由原本的教學樓擴展至現今的實用兼顧文化中心。

雖然只是一棟簡單的兩層高建築物，但由於大保村處於平緩位置，建築受風雨侵襲，
加上路途崎嶇，建造建築材料上山實在不易。再加之山區天氣不順，正是<天無三
日晴，地無三里平>，工程難度可想而知。項目最終在大家的共同努力下，實現了
建校的目標，並計劃於今後長期合作，為當地的教育事業作出貢獻。

自從此項大保村明德工程項目落成之後，參與學校領導及教師們獲得了大量實踐經
驗，為未來成為溫暖社會的熱心公益人士打下了堅實的基礎。這本書<大保>一書
記錄學生多年來為項目投入的點滴與記，相信會成為他們成長過程中一份珍貴的回憶。

More than a decade ago, Project Mingde was established at the initiation of our alumnus Dr. Nicolas
Yeung in 2004. During the past decade, Project Mingde has been involved in a continuous stream
of education related projects in impoverished areas. The Community and Cultural Centre at Dabao
Village was the latest and the 6th completed project, following Mingde Lou, a primary school at Xiali
Village, Guangxi Province; Gwou Lou, a dormitory for the vocational training school in Rongshui
County, Guangxi; Chaoyang Bridge at Yingdong Village, Guangxi; Zhengdong Jie Kindergarten at
Chongzhou, Sichuan Province and toilet facilities for Tan Hung Secondary School at Hung Yen Provi-
ence, Vietnam. The Dabao project commenced in early 2012 with a site inspection trip. After three
years of hard work, it was finally completed and handed over to the villagers by the end of 2015.

Dabao village is situated at the remote mountainous area of the northern part of Rongshui County,
Guangxi Province. There are about 100 families in the village with more than 70 children requiring
schooling. They are of the ethnic minority group of Yao and have kept their Yao tradition of placing
great importance on children education. The village had two simple wooden structures to serve
as their school, but after 60 years of use, the school building was dilapidated and close to collapse.
Through the referral of Mr. Meng Kelu of Love Seedling Community Service Centre and after the site
inspection, Project Mingde agreed to participate in this project to rebuild the school.

With due consideration of uncertainties such as future birth rate in the village and to make the building
more sustainable, the school building was designed to include a sanatorium, a canteen and a basketball
court. The building would therefore not only benefit the schoolchildren but also all the villagers.
The project was then changed from the provision of a school building to a multi-purpose community
centre.

The centre is a two storey structure. Dabao is situated in the mountainous area and constantly covered
with fog. With the treacherous roads uphill, it was difficult to transport construction materials to site.
The constant unsettled weather also increased the project difficulties. It was only due to the dedication
and selfless contribution of our students, teachers, alumni and all parties involved that the project was
able to come to fruition. I would like to give a special mention to our donor couple Mr. Tony Huang and
Ms. Elizabeth Lee for their generous donation in support of the construction costs and the provision of
the architectural design. A special thankyou also goes to the Lee Hyman Foundation for supporting the
travel and related expenses of our students.

With this Community and Cultural Centre, the learning environment of the village students has
markedly improved since young children no longer have to walk miles across the mountains to attend
school. The villagers are also able to use the Centre for meetings and large scale community events
and festivities. Our student volunteers have learnt valuable practical experience and enriched their
sense of social responsibility towards the less fortunate. This book has recorded many of our students'
thoughts for the project and will no doubt become part of their treasured memories too.
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Ms. Elizabeth Lee is the project architect for the Centre. Setting the Centre in harmony with surrounding environment within a sloping site near bottom of a valley is a real challenge in design. An extensive fascia formed from assemblers of bamboo tubes is a unique design feature and this fascia helps to integrate the building with surrounding environment. The limited site area has therefore been fully utilized and yet the natural setting of the valley is preserved.

Access to Dabao is not easy. It takes a 4-hour car journey from the nearest small village town driving through hilly roads mostly unpaved. Geographic location of the village in a valley attracts frequent rainfall which turns the sloping hilly unpaved road surfaces unfit for car access. Delivery of construction materials as well as travelling of construction workers to site has been under severe constraint. Surrounded by mountain ridges, rain patterns in Dabao are unpredictable and this renders planning of construction schedule meaningless. Further, remoteness of the village has created difficulties in acquisition and transporting of necessary supplies during construction.

In spite of the unfavourable situation, it was fortunate that the donor had been very understanding all along. With the patience of the architect as well as the encouragement and advice from the entire project team, the contractor proceeded to work with persistency and the project was successfully completed after some delay. It is believed that the eventual product has been able to transpire the original concept of the designer.

The project was managed by Project Mingde, members of which are mostly full-time students from The University of Hong Kong. The mission of Project Mingde is to offer university students a real-life experience through participation in actual engineering projects. This Centre provides a valuable lesson to students in particular in project planning and management. Site survey and engineering design has been comparatively straight forward but the unexpected circumstances mentioned above have created unforeseeable hurdles in project advancement. With an ever-changing set of parameters, construction costs and time has to be frequently adjusted. This is an experience cannot be easily apprehended and taught in the classroom.
THANKSGIVINGS ARE OVERFLOWED IN THE DABAO PROJECT:

- Thanksgiving to the heavy rainfall, landslide and uneven hill roads on the way to Dabao Village, we experienced the life of villagers.
- Thanksgiving to engineering constraints in construction, we learnt to solve problems when facing problems.
- Thanksgiving to witness the completion of school building, we shared the happiness of villagers.
- Thanksgiving to seeing the sunshine behind the cloud.
- Thanksgiving to knowing the harvest is plentiful.
- Thanksgiving to learning thanksgiving.
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WU YUJIAN

施工經理

Construction Manager

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Making a Difference through Virtue

Deep in the scenic mountains of Rongbixui County, another new school was erected by charity donors and volunteers. This was the Daba Primary School, also known as Daba Cultural Center.

Daba Primary School (cum Cultural Center) was built amidst mountains, rivers and terraced fields. The building was designed to harmonize with the mountainous terrain nearby as well as local customs and traditions. The main level of the building comprised two classrooms, each capable of accommodating 30 students, a small clinic, a staff room, a kitchen and an outdoor playground. The roof of the building was used as a venue for group activities. A uniquely styled bamboo screen wall on the south side of the building served to segregate the school from the road nearby. This building was not only a school, but also the cultural centre of Daba Village and the Yao ethnic minority. Being large enough to accommodate the hundred or so families in the village, it could be used on festival days for all kinds of traditional gatherings and celebrations. This would help to keep alive the heritage of the Yao ethnic minority.

The construction of Daba Primary School (cum Cultural Center) started in November 2013. Although the building consisted of one level only, its construction took one and a half years, about four times the normal construction time for similar projects. The time taken reflected the difficulty of undertaking such construction projects in the remote mountains. Daba is located in the hinterland of Yuanbao Mountain, the second highest mountain in Guangxi Province. The precipitous terrain and the absence of proper roads made it very difficult and sometimes dangerous to transport construction materials to the building site. It was not unusual for our transportation lorries to be stuck on the muddy paths for two to three days. There were occasions when the lorries were stuck in mud for seven days, resulting in the materials deliveries being delayed for ten days or more. The paths were so steep that they were easily damaged by heavy rain during the wet season. In order to transport materials to the school site, we had no choice but to rebuild the road surface as we went along.

Another difficulty we had to face was poor communications in the mountain. There were no mobile signal connections at the construction site and we had to go up to the hilltop to communicate with the outside world. I often failed to reach the engineers and workers at the site causing delays to the project. While all construction projects in the mountain suffered from difficulties in transportation and communication, the Daba project had a special problem of its own - to strike a balance between the first-class design concepts and the harsh conditions on site. The design concept of Daba Primary School embodied the designer’s dream of integrating modern education values with local folklores and customs. Further, the school was in the middle of terraced fields and surrounded by mountains on all four sides with snow covering the mountain tops in winter time. There were lots of considerations and deliberations before the site was chosen and the foundations laid.

In the beginning, probably due to a lack of understanding of the geographical constraints and the unique working conditions on the Mainland, the first person in charge sent by Project Mingde from Hong Kong did not leave behind sufficient information on the levelling datum for the project before he left. He went away with only one instruction, “Start work immediately”. Although construction technique on the Mainland was backward compared to Hong Kong, there were requirements that the levelling datum had to be agreed on site by all the five parties involved, i.e. owner, government official, surveyor, designer and builder. This was difficult in the absence of sufficient records and information. Furthermore, the Mainland and Hong Kong engineers had different approaches to construction. In the Mainland the focus was on economy and practicality; the Hong Kong engineers placed emphasis on environmental friendliness at the same time. Due to lack of communication between the two sides in the initial stage of work, we had to redo the foundations over and again and about one-quarter of the work was wasted. Further delays were caused when we found out that silt had to be cleared and water had to be drained off before foundations could be laid. In 2014, Project Mingde appointed engineer Mr Chan Shing to come to Daba in person to supervise the work. From then on, work was carried out smoothly according to schedule. Mr Chan Shing was not only a top-rate professional but also an extremely hardworking man. A man in his seventies, he lived for almost one year in the remote mountains where communications were poor, transportation was inconvenient and habits and customs very different from his home. His selfless devotion to the project was most admirable.

In the final phase of the project, Dr Wong Chun Pong was responsible for overseeing the work. Dr Wong was comparable to Dr Guo Dajiang in his serious approach and devotion to work. After he took over the project, he collected information on site, took photographs and sent the materials back to the Project Mingde team to facilitate discussions on contentious issues. This enabled effective exchange of ideas and deliberation among different stakeholders leading to the development of a systematic plan for the completion of the project.

Another difficulty I had to face during the construction of Daba Primary School was my health problem. At first, because of my poor health, I was not able to supervise the work on site. This resulted not only in delays; some workers did not even follow the designers’ instructions in carrying out the work. When this came to my notice, I went in person to the site to supervise the workers. Despite pain from gastroenteritis, I slept on the cold and damp concrete floor of the school for days; not was I detected
by the steep mountain paths. Although many people considered the construction of Dabao Primary School to be an impossible project, I managed to complete it and meet the project requirements in terms of both quality and quantity.

Upon the completion of Dabao Primary School, I was pleased and proud that I had seen through the most difficult construction job in my career. At the same time, I was also filled with gratitude and other emotions.

Not many people had seen the original Dabao Primary School building. It was a wooden structure with a roof of cement tiles. Due to the lack of resources, the building was poorly maintained and out of repairs. When it rained, water leaked through the roof and in winter, cold winds raged from all sides. With the help of Shenzhen Pan Charity Foundation and Project Mingde, school children in Dabao can now study happily in the bright and spacious classrooms, with no need to worry about leaking roofs or raging winter winds. The new school building is a piece of art and is a blessing to the children in Dabao.

The major donor to Dabao Primary School was the kindly-faced Huang De An. His wife Ms. Lee Ah Ying was the architect of the school building. Mr and Mrs Huang visited Dabao many times. Mr Huang De An was himself involved in the preliminary survey work for the construction project. There was no need for him to be personally involved in this kind of work, but he did it all the same. Most people might have little idea of how difficult the roads were from Rongshui County to Dabao Primary School. The mountain paths were so steep, narrow and winding that even local folks were scared of driving along them. Many sections were only wide enough to allow one vehicle to pass; other sections were so steep that vehicles were constantly in danger of slipping downhill, and even of careering into the valleys beneath if not controlled properly. Moreover, because the rainy season was relatively long, landslides were not uncommon. The road to Dabao was dangerous and difficult but Mr Huang still came many times. His charity support was not limited to financial contribution. His devotion to this project was sincere and stemmed from his heart.

As the contractor of Dabao Primary School (cum Cultural Center), I had great admiration for Mr Chan Shing, Dr Weng Cheuk Pong, Mr Huang De An and the team of volunteers. Their contributions to Project Mingde were a manifestation of their true virtues.

Project Mingde has been building schools in Rongshui Miao Autonomous County for ten years now and I have been working for their charity projects all this time. The term "Mingde" came from the "Book of Great Learning". It means manifestation of innate human virtue as a way of life. People who contribute to Project Mingde are living examples of the true meaning of "Mingde" - they make a difference through their love and charity work.

1 The "Book of Great Learning" is one of the "Four Books and Five Classics", which are the authoritative books of Confucianism in China written before 300 BC.

* Translated from Chinese by Zina Weng, 1972 HKU graduate
INTRODUCTION
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MENG KELU

社区服务执行主任
Coordinator
Rongshui Love Seedling Community Service Centre

當我們真的看到這些建築物在熱烈的歡迎校舍裡面洋溢各種成功的喜悅時，我內心深感欣慰！期間我們克服了不少的困難與挑戰，有設計、有技術、有資金，以及其他各方面的問題。特別是我們的團隊，在這個過程中，我們經歷了許多的困難與挑戰。我們的努力與付出，最終得到了社會各界人士的認可與支持。我們深知這是一個新的開始，我們將會繼續努力，為社區的發展作出更大的貢獻。

When I saw the jubilant faces of the innocent children raising the victory hand-sign in front of the camera, I couldn’t help but feel the immense joy and excitement. During the construction process, we encountered many challenges and difficulties. Our team’s efforts and dedication were finally recognized and supported by the community. We understand that this is just the beginning, and we will continue to work harder for the development of our community.

The beautiful school building constructed under the charity project has helped Dabao folks realize their dream of learning and education. May I wish smooth sailing to the school children who follow this dream!
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The University of Hong Kong had indeed made indelible contribution to the successful completion of the project. They had been working hard and dedicated themselves to the project with perseverance. Standing outside the school gate, I felt thankful that finally there is a school for children to study in!

The handover ceremony was held in the open court. At the beginning, there was a flag raising ceremony performed by children. However, the teacher's assistance was eventually required to accomplish the ceremony. This was followed by an address from the Headmaster and presentation of souvenirs to Tony and Elizabeth by local officers. I could see how happy my second daughter was that day. Tony's speech was well said. Together with local officers and teachers, Professor Yeung, as well as the students, we took a group photo to cherish the moment.

The most amazing and touching moment was witnessing the happiness of children when they received schoolbags as gifts. Tony and Elizabeth had sent a batch of schoolbags to the village in advance for the children, while Coby also donated a batch of slippers to the villagers. Schoolbags in different colours with stationery inside were put on the school desks. The children were waiting patiently outside the classroom with excitement. Upon the teacher's signal, all children rushed into the classroom to choose their favourite schoolbag. All girls reached for the pink ones. The teacher had no choice but to raise his voice and ask them to line up. Finally, all children had schoolbags in hand, chattering and running around happily. The happiness and excitement shown on their innocent faces mean more than words can say. In a place where resources are limited, a schoolbag can easily satisfy a child and a pair of slippers can make a villager very happy. They always approach life with a sense of gratitude. In Hong Kong, however, where people are rich in materials and resources, they may not be well aware of what is wonderful in their life and rarely feel thankful at all. This moment, I cannot help but recall the countless times in my childhood.

At noon, villagers entertained us with lunch in the classroom. From the first course to the last course, all dishes were cooked with pork. These included pig bone soup, simmered pork, braised pork belly, stewed pork, and numerous other pork dishes. Yet, it was strange that no vegetable was on the table. As I saw rice and other vegetables were grown in the fields, I asked Professor Yeung curiously after lunch why there were no vegetable dishes. I figured out then that we were treated with the utmost cordiality, namely the Tiger Feast, by the villagers. In the village, only distinguished guests would be invited to enjoy the Tiger Feast. At that moment, I understood how precious it is for the villagers to enjoy a meal with meat.

The Dabao School has been on both sides of the farmlands. Right beside the schoolyard are farmlands. Walls are built on both sides of the school. When you look carefully, you can see that walls are made of bamboo with metal and cement on four sides of the walls, stable enough. There are two classrooms, the windows were elaborately made of bamboo, aiming at providing natural ventilation. Actually, bamboo is plentiful in the areas where villagers live. Therefore, my second daughter has used the locally available materials for the project, which is not only environmentally friendly but also cost effective. Inside the school, kitchen and accommodation for teachers have been built with a simple but comfortable design. Professor Yeung and students from the Department of Civil Engineering of
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首先，我想对明德工程、香港大学土木工程系及杨教授表达我最真诚的谢意。感谢你们给予我们这次宝贵的机会参与这个充满意义的工程，让我们有机会帮助广西大保村的村民。这是潘基金会的第一个项目，我们的目标是努力解决中国农村地区贫困孩子们的教育需求问题。

毫无疑问，这是一个充满挑战且重大的项目，期间难免会遇到一些困难和障碍。为了给村民提供一个安全且具有多功能的环境，我们不断地在过程中优化项目。对于我们这些志愿者、学生以及教授们来说，由于路线不清楚及天气情况不可预测，乘坐往返工程车在区域内并非一件简单的事情。然而，为了完成我们的目标，他们一直保持着积极乐观的态度。尽管遇到困难挑战，每个人都依然勇往直前，最终成功地将学校交给大保村的村民。

在此，我们想再次对每个人送上真挚的谢意。感谢你们付出的所有努力。我们希望这种奉献精神能够继续传承下去，以帮助经济条件较差的群体获得更好的教育。

First of all, I would like to give my sincerest thank to Project Mingde, Department of Civil Engineering, The University of Hong Kong and Professor Yeung for giving us this great opportunity and meaningful project, allowing us to help the villagers at Dabao village, Guangxi. This is The Pan Foundation's first project and our aim is to respond to educational needs for underprivileged children in rural areas of China.

It was certainly a challenging and eventful project and inevitably encountered a few obstacles throughout the project. Several changes had to be adapted in order to provide a safe and functional environment for the villagers. Commuting to the project site was not easy for our volunteers, students and professors due to lack of properly surfaced roads and unpredictable weather conditions. Yet they maintained a positive attitude in completing their goals. Despite the challenges faced, everyone had kept their heads up high and we finally handed the school successfully to the villagers of Dabao.

Once again, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone for all the hard work and we hope that this spirit of dedication can continue to thrive to help the less fortunate communities for a better education.
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My first project of a charitable nature was to design this school and cultural centre for an ethnic minority group - the Yao. I felt very lucky to have a great team of enthusiastic students, knowledgeable professors, experienced engineers and contractors on site as well as passionate volunteers working with me. The team spirit was motivational as well as inspiring.

It is not a brilliant idea that makes a building a piece of great architecture, but rather creating a design that responds to and shows a deep understanding of the people and place for which it was designed. The outcome of the project was the realization of an ingenious vision into a piece of architecture attuned to its environment and transformed by the obstacles that arose during this process.

Our journey while completing this project was as challenging as it was rewarding. Through this project, I experienced the joy of getting to know the village of Dabao and its inhabitants. It was my pleasure to be able to design for them and, with this book, I wish to take you through a journey of insight into this fascinating village as well as its people, landscape and culture.
DABAO VILLAGE IS REMOTELY SITUATED WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN RANGE OF GUANXI PROVINCE IN CHINA. THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDES HOME TO AROUND 110 FAMILIES OF AN ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP CALLED THE 'YAOS'.

大保村地處偏僻，坐落於中國廣西西省的邊遠地區，該聚居地有大約110戶人家，都屬於少數民族“瑤族”。
The group has its own distinctive dialect and culture. Yao people are often identified by their unique colourful traditional costumes.

這個民族有獨特的方言和文化，他們也有色彩鮮豔的傳統服飾。
SCHOOL IN PROCESS

項目進行
THE DABAO PROJECT AIDS AT PROVIDING THE YAO WITH A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AND A CULTURAL CENTRE. DABAO VILLAGERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE INITIAL PLANNING OF THE PROJECT, AND HAVE SINCE BEEN INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION UNTIL PROJECT COMPLETION.

The project aims to provide the Yao community with a new primary school and cultural center. Daba villagers have been invited to actively participate in the initial planning of the project and have since been involved in construction until project completion.
THE DABAO SCHOOL

大保小學
THE SCHOOL BUILDING IS SITUATED WITHIN THE PADDY FIELDS ON THE MOUNTAINS OF DABAOSHAN. THE PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO MERGE THE BUILDING HARMONIously WITH THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE. MAINTAINING A BALANCE BETWEEN THE BUILDING AND THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT IS THE PRIME CONSIDERATION FOR THE EXQUISITE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN OF THIS PROJECT.

大保小學座落於山區田間，與周週環境融為一體，和諧共存。這個項目的建築語言含蓄精妙：在建築與環境間保持平衡。
The design concept is structured around the use of three parallel layers of walls in addressing the challenges originated from the steep topography of the site.

設計理念是三層平行牆體結構，以對應學校建設中遇到的陡峭地形等難題。
A long bamboo façade along the southern site boundary not only acts as a protective barrier from the road outside, it also regulates the transmission of noise and daylight whilst ensuring privacy of occupants at the same time. The intelligent use of different diameters and lengths of bamboo tubes responds adequately to the different light requirements of the rooms for their respective functions.

該建築南側的長竹兩旁，既可做隔離外面大路的保護屏障，也可調節聲響、光線，並保障裡面的人的隱私。利用大小不同、長短不一的竹筒，滿足每個空間/功能的用光需求。
THE MAIN LEVEL OF THE BUILDING INCLUDES TWO CLASSROOMS, EACH FOR 30 STUDENTS, A LIBRARY, A STAFF ROOM, A KITCHEN, AND SPACE FOR VARIOUS UTILITIES. AN OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND AREA WITH A BASKETBALL COURT IS LOCATED ON THE SECOND LEVEL WHEREAS THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING IS ACCESSIBLE FOR CHILDREN TO PLAY AND FOR VILLAGERS TO REST AND ENJOY THE SPECTACULAR PANORAMIC LANDSCAPE. IN ADDITION TO ITS PRIMARY ROLE AS A SCHOOL, THE CENTER ALSO SERVES AS A CULTURAL SPACE FOR EVENTS, FESTIVALS AND VARIOUS CELEBRATIONS OF THE YAO'S.

建築主體層包括：兩間各容納30名學生的教室，一間圖書室，教員室，廚房，和各種應用空間；第二層是室外運動場地，還有籃球場；第三層是建築的屋頂，可供孩子們玩耍和村民休息，遠眺全景，何其壯觀。除了發揮小學的功能，該中心也成為族人活動、節日和慶典的文化場地。
S T U D E N T S’ R E F L E C T I O N S

苏健
SO HOI KIN, BEN
2015 Graduate

I firmly believe that engineering has a very positive impact on society and I will do my best to contribute to this positive change.

黄家豪
NG KA HO, PETER
2015 Graduate

土木工程给人的感染很机械化，都是数学科式的运算。可是，在这个过程中，我体会到人性的一面。我们做一些事，是为了了解这个社会的问题，从而明白当地居民的需求，为人类的健康做出可行的方案，也导致我们用人的理念。

杜俊贤
TO CHUN KIT, CURTIS
2013 Graduate

大学之所以选择就读土木工程，在决定，在选择，在成长。土木工程是以大数学生能够积极参与，改善人们生活的作品，是工程师的天职。希望未来的同学能善待世界，将未来，用双手改变世界。

崔浩
CHUI HO CHUN, EDDIE
2015 Graduate

我一直相信，工程是一项将道路的基础设施和其它一些工程设施连接起来的城市。我要改变社会生活的重要角色。我希望能够为社会的改进做出更好的贡献。因此，我希望在城市中的社区中心发展，帮助当地的学生走向更美好的未来。

沈家宜
KA YEE SHUM, CYNTHIA
Class of 2017

我相信，工程是一项将道路的基础设施和其它一些工程设施连接起来的城市。我要改变社会生活的重要角色。我希望能够为社会的改进做出更好的贡献。因此，我希望在城市中的社区中心发展，帮助当地的学生走向更美好的未来。

Sin Ka Chun, Felix
2014 Graduate

In retrospect, I have grown and matured a lot through my participation in Project Minge. Hopefully, the joining this project in the future will continue to carry on with them the noble personality and virtue of Project Minge, taking people as the foremost and making practical use of knowledge.
Wong Ngai Hung, Derek
2015 Graduate

整個過程，有些經歷令人難忘。村內沒有農藥和病蟲害，所以我們需
要自備防蚊香噴霧和蚊帳。加上蚊蟲和睡眠，在我們面前鋪陳了三陰
陽法，好幾位同學因熱傳得不好。另一點是，明德工程給了我機
會去接觸，有機會並感受不同的生活。學得良多，明德工程是我在義工工作經驗中的一個重要項目。

Whilst working on this project, some experience can never be forgotten. As there is no hotel or guest house in the village, we have to pull the desks together to form the bed. Together with the mosquito net, we spent three nights on site. Some of us did not get a good sleep. Another point is that Project Mingde gives us an opportunity to see what we have learnt and at the same time, we can feel the life of the poor. Project Mingde is really the most memorable project in my volunteer experience.

Lee Hok Man, Manson
2014 Graduate

孩子臉上純真的笑容，村民的熱情招待，給我打了一支強心針，他
們活得很快樂。在兒時的離家生活條件下，樂在其中。

The smile on the innocent faces of the kids and the hospitality from
the villagers immediately melt my heart and give me strength. They live
happily even though the living conditions are poor. Life in fact can be very
simple.

Hung Ka Shing
2015 Graduate

參與明德對於我未來的知識亦有很大幫助。對於自己的人生經歷都有很
大的啟發。看到當地的條件和我們是極為不同的，真心明白自
己生活在一個幸福的環境，今後我會努力去幫助那些比自己
更需要幫助的人。

Through participation in Project Mingde, not only have I strengthened my
knowledge in civil engineering, but I have also obtained many enlightening
experiences. When witnessing the huge difference in living conditions
between the village and Hong Kong, I was fully convinced that life can also
be full of wonder, beauty and joy under very different environment. Each of
us has something different to contribute, I should make the best of myself
to help those in need.

Liu Kin Kwan
2015 Graduate

大學項目是一個學習如何去「建屋」的好機會，實踐我們在課堂學
到的知識。當我們機會去操作一個真實的項目，而這個項目是在中
國大陸的貧困社區。

"To build" is a major aim of Project Mingde. The construction of Da-
bao Centre offered a learning opportunity for us to learn how to build a
school. We had a chance to put what we learned in school into practice.
Further, the site was in a remote part of the Mainland, an environment very
different from Hong Kong. Project Dabao improves living conditions
of villagers and provides a more comfortable study environment to students.
It means a lot to my personal life and this is the second aim of Project
Mingde: "to grow."

Wong Pak Yue, Martin
2016 Graduate

看着對方支持的同學們在籃球場上揮灑汗水，我深深相信香港文
化中心的是一個重要的公共空間及教育場所，讓小孩在柔軟的
竹制裝飾下探求知識和成長。

Watching energetic students sweating on the basketball court, I
deeply believe that Mingde Pan Community and Cultural Center will
become a popular public place and an educational centre, where children
can explore knowledge and grow up sturdily in the soft light shadowed by
the bamboo-tube walls.
彭俊諾
PUNG CHUN NOK, SAMSON
2016 Graduate

大保和香港生活水平存在巨大差異，希望項目可以為孩子提供較好的
daycare機會，從而他們在華西堂的社會經濟地位。
項目成功的基本是謙遜，沒有建築師和承包商的貢獻，項目就難
順利完成。

楊智源
YANG ZIYUAN, MARCUS
Class of 2017

在農村工作，文化交流是源遠流長的，大保村獨有的鄉土氣息和華
西堂生活，與香港截然不同。長久居住後，我有幸在大保村住了一
個晚上。那裡的夜景，風景極度美麗，四周靜靜的，一片漆黑，
當你仰頭看到滿天繁星閃幌，你會覺得很幸福。

WU SHUANG, FROST
2014 Graduate

參與這個項目，我學到了建築工地的基礎知識，而這些知識是在課
堂上不可能學到的。同時，工地上的實踐及具體教學經歷可以讓我
加深對知識的理解。

劉芷芝
LAU CHING CHI, JOANNE
2014 Graduate

參與明德工程的過程體驗到了我們對建築業的興趣。我認為明德
工程不僅能幫助有需要的人，亦能夠讓參與其中的人有所得益，參
與明德工程的過程非常有意義，當中學習的知識和實踐可謂學生受
用。

黃子峰
POON TSING, LEO
Class of 2017

我真心感謝之前參與項目的成員所付出的努力和熱情。雖然在參與
明德項目期間，我沒有足夠的經曆和知識，但這些經歷都耐心地
導我，並鼓勵我繼續投入。作為明德工程的新成員，我逐漸建立了
歸屬感和工作成就感。

盧國強
HO KONG WUI, STEVE
2015 Graduate

在那一年的光陰，經歷大大小小的變動。現在回憶，過程中未必
做得完美，但我盡力了，無愧於心。
現在看來到小學終於落成，從總設計到詳細設計到施工，全由自己
的付出沒有白費，真是感到十分安慰。

The experience from joining Project Mingde enthralled my interests in
this profession. Project Mingde is not only helping people in need, it is
beneficial to those joining the project as well. What I experienced from
Project Mingde is unforgettable and would be beneficial throughout my
whole life.

I truly appreciate the endeavor and passion of the senior members of
Project Mingde. Although I did not have sufficient experience and knowledge
when I first joined Project Dabao, senior members gave me the necessary
guidance and encouraged me to be more involved in the project. As a new
member of Project Mingde, I gradually built up a sense of belonging and
satisfaction through my participation.

In the past year, many things had happened to the project. However, I
always applied the best of my effort to task assigned to me no matter
what had happened. I learnt from a fellow member that the design for the school building
had eventually been adopted. I cannot help but feel a great sense of
satisfaction because my hard work finally paid off.
Wong Chin Fai, Louis
2015 Graduate

Project Mingde provides a better chance for many underprivileged students. In addition, it offers a chance for people to improve their lives. It can be said that Project Mingde has brought positive impacts on the whole society. I hope Project Mingde can go on from generation to generation, giving everyone a chance to live a better life.
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DABAO FOLKLORES

大保村民間故事
STORY 1

山茶花  CAMELLIA

山茶，又名山茶花，属常灌木和小木植物，古名海石榴，是世界名花木之一。

大保村上了年纪，六、七十多岁的老人，都拥有亮丽的黑发。除了因为生在自然环境、没有污染的地方、成长及生活外，秘诀在他们使用由山茶花提炼出来的精华来作护发素。他们采摘了花朵后，会把它们压榨及风乾成－饼饼的花茶花饼，然后风乾待用。

Camellia, also known as Camellia Japonica, is a low growing shrub. With Punica Granatum `Nana` as its ancient name, Camellia is a world renowned plant.

One might be surprised to find out that villagers living in Dabao possess beautiful healthy black hair even at the age of 60 or 70. Apart from growing up and living in a natural environment free from pollution, one secret is the skilful use of purified essence of Camellia on the hair. This is a well kept tradition of the Dabao villagers. Once the flowers are picked, they will be pressed and dried in the sun converting them into flower cakes. These will further be dried in the wind and stored for future use.
STORY 2

田中魚  FISH IN THE FIELD

一層一層的田畝，田連阡陌，三百餘年來，養活了一代又一代的大保村村民。插著稻米的田畝，細看有為數不少的魚兒在游來游去。原來魚苗由播下稻米種子的一刻便養在一起，一方面，魚兒的排泄物為植物提供營養，另一方面，也可為遠離河灘的村民提供食用魚類。村民確切地體現了大自然生生不息的共融與和諧。

Over the past three hundred years, paddy fields have been a main source of support to Dabao village. When one looks carefully at the paddy fields, one can see a number of fish swimming in the water. The baby fish is put into the field when the seeds of rice are sown. On the one hand, fish faeces help fertilizing the rice growth and on the other hand fish is a good source of food for the villagers. Dabao villagers demonstrate the survival rule of nature and they themselves live harmoniously with nature.
STORY 3

與犬結緣 THE DOGS AND THE YAOs

相信在中國吃狗肉已是廣為人知的事情，但有趣的是，瑶族人對狗肉卻敬而遠之。其中因由，包括了很多傳說及小故事，其中一個：瑶族的祖先在戰爭逃難時曾被狗救了一命，狗於他們有恩，世世代代的瑤族人便對狗尊重有加。

The popularity of dog meat consumption in China might be well known. However, the Yaos keep themselves at a respectful distance from dog meat. The reason for that lies in a legend: that an ancestor of the Yao tribe was once saved by a dog during a war. Thus, the Yaos feel they owe a debt of gratitude towards dogs and therefore dogs are highly respected from generation to generation.