

The 17th Working Trip to Rongshui, Guangxi (12th - 26th July 2014)

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Project Mingde has definitely provided the most incredible memories to us in our university life. This trip was organized in July 2014 for following up the construction progress. Dr. George Wong led two students (Chong Leung Chun and Li Ka Wai) to Guangxi province. Meanwhile, it is our great honor to have Mr. Chan, a professional site engineer from Hong Kong, and Ir. Raymond Tang, alumnus from the Department of Civil Engineering at HKU, with us on this trip. Mr. Chan has been involved in construction engineering for more than fifty years. With his extensive experience, he made a significant contribution to Mingde Project. Ir. Tang worked in Architectural Services Department and is well-experienced in civil engineering. From their invaluable sharing, we find knowledge acquired from this trip can hardly be obtained from books or lectures.

Following the previous working trip, the footing will be re-constructed in mid-July. Several missions were set for this trip including discussion of the details with the contractor and the design institute, construction quality assurance and speeding up the process.



Figure 1 Photo taken on the way to Rongshui (From left to right: Ir. Raymond Tang, Dr. George Wong, Chong Leung Chun and Li Ka Wai)

After four hours' drive, the team arrived at Rongshui from Guilin Liangjiang International Airport on Saturday night. On the second day, the team had a meeting with the contractor and discussed the detailed design. During the meeting, the contractor raised questions related to the feasibility of the design and clarification of the details. They pointed out some technical problems that they might encounter in

future construction. Some minor design amendments were adopted for the sake of feasibility and workability afterwards.



Figure 2 A meeting with contractor to discuss the latest drawing

On the third day, Dr. Wong went to a meeting with representatives from the design institution to present the amended design drawings and got some useful feedbacks. Meanwhile, the team visited Dabao village and conducted a site survey. We observed that the proposed centre is surrounded by mountains. Therefore, there may be a large catchment area and flooding is possible if there is a serious storm. After the brief observation, the team got more familiar with the construction condition and it helped ease the pressure of site supervision. That night, the team had a marvelous chance to stay in Dabao and to experience rural life of the minority ethnic group.



Figure 3 Construction site in Dabao Village, showing the wrongly installed footing, demolished and new footings were re-constructed afterwards.



Figure 4 Villagers of Dabao used to fully utilize local resources such firewood as fuel and china-fir as construction material for their house

While workers and construction materials were being sent to Dabao, the team had an opportunity to visit the construction site of diaojiao building (吊脚樓) and had lunch with villagers so as to interact with them. The team also visited Mingde Building and also briefly conducted a structural condition assessment to see if there is excess deformation such as cracking.



Figure 5 Construction of diaojiao building(吊脚樓)



Figure 6 Mingde Building

Once workers arrived and construction materials were transported into Dabao, the team started supervision work immediately. At first, we checked the quality of construction materials including cement, aggregate, steel as well as other necessary materials. Second, the team supervised the demolition of wrongly installed footings. Then, the team supervised the whole process of construction of the new footings.



Figure 7 Construction material arrived at Dabao



Figure 8 Demolition of wrongly installed footings



Figure 9 Workers mixing concrete for concreting of footings



Figure 10 Completion of concreting for footings

After completion of concreting for footings, two students accomplished their missions and Mr. Chan is still staying in Dabao for supervision of the upcoming construction. The estimated completion date is around December.