

Reflection on the trip to Guangxi 24th – 27th May 2015**Martin Wong**

It was a memorable trip going to Dabao and Hongdeng. It was hard to expect how poor the living condition is in the remote area if you don't go there and experience it by yourself. This working trip is a good experience for me to know more about the condition of rural China.

Hongdeng village was one of the poorest village in Rongshui County. The sanitary condition was poor. They do not have a proper toilet that can discharge and treat sewage properly. The ground is soaked with water, cattle live together with people. Besides, the wooden school is not in good condition despite the fact that it commenced in 2009, water leaks from the roof, the columns are displaced, walls and windows are damaged. I believe the major cause behind it is that local people do not have the knowledge to maintain the building and keep it in good condition. As a volunteer to provide education opportunities to children, we not only need to design a school according to their requirement, but also have to ensure the long term performance of the school.

The construction work of Dabao community centre is in progress. Engineer Chan explained to us the construction practice in rural China. He led us to the site and observe its current situation. We also did site measurement such that we can prepare the as built drawings for future reference. There are quite a number of design changes observed, I learn that it is very hard to strictly follow everything in the design, sometimes it is necessary to make slight modifications to suit the current situation.