

## Project Mingde Marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Celebration in Guangxi

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*Figure 1 Group photo of all participants from Hong Kong and the village children at the celebration ceremony.*

It has been 10 years since the commencement project, Mingde Building, serving the community in Rongshui, Guangxi, was completed. A group of passionate alumni and current students formed a taskforce to organize a celebration trip back to Guangxi and to call for sponsorship on the refurbishment work at Mingde Building. The taskforce members were all active in Project Mingde before and they are Joe Chan, Albert Chong, Melody Deng, Felicia Ding, Kornel Lam, Demi Sun, Sharon Wong, Stone Chan, Eddie Chui, Candy Lam, Samson Pung, Ben So and Mandy Yuen. A generous donation of HKD\$103,000 was received to carry out the paint renewal of main teaching block, provision of 6 outdoor benches and replacement of damaged basketball stands.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Ceremony was held at Xiali Primary School (Site of the first project, Mingde Building), in the morning of October 20, 2014. Over 50 guests and participants from UK, US, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Nanning, and of course Guangxi joined this joyful celebration. Project Mingde was honored to have Professor Peter Mathieson, the Vice-chancellor and President of HKU as the guest of honour of the celebration ceremony. He recognized the efforts of Project Mingde in the past

decade. “I am very proud of the role of the University of Hong Kong has played over the years in contributing to this project,” he said in the opening speech. He believed that the opportunity for the students and staff to work on challenging circumstances that benefits the community would be very integral to the mission of the University. Mr. Jianfei Huang, the former Mayor of Dalang Village, expressed his gratitude to Project Mingde. Local children and senior villagers performed Miao-style dance and singing, followed by a tree-planting event to mark the end of the ceremony.



*Figure 2 Professor Mathieson is delivering the opening speech.*

The celebration continued in the afternoon as the group visited Rongshui Vocational School (Site of Gewu Building), which was the second project of Project Mingde. Students and staff had lunch with local students at their school canteen and visited the campus. The sharing between HKU students and the students from Guangxi was rewarding and the school appreciated what Project Mingde had contributed to them.



*Figure 3 Participants are having lunch while sharing with the local students at Gewu Building.*

It was a memorable experience for all the participants and we are looking forward to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!