

Reflection on the trip to Guangxi (14th – 17th April,2017)

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This is my second trip to Guangxi. We visited two main projects—Daping Project and Tengchuen Bridge.

After a quick lunch at Daping Primary School, we visited the Daping Project construction site. The project was a three-storey accommodation for the teachers of Daping Primary School. In the discussion with the labour, we knew that they had difficulties to build that building such as shortage of water and electric power supply, road maintenance and bad weather. We had also discussed the finishes of the building, for example, doors and parapets. In this discussion, I learnt that there are many difficulties in a construction including site constraints and details of the building. Site constraints are the soil properties, ease to access to the site, resources supply, weather, labour supply... Details of the building include the foundation and structure designs, building procedures, decorations...

Tengchuen Bridge is a project to reconstruct a bridge. I had involved in the survey and design stage of this project. I had prepared some drawings of proposed schemes. In this trip, we had discussed with Boss Wu, a local contractor, and Professor Tham to come up a possible scheme by considering the cost, labour, local technology, ease to access to the site for heavy machines. Then, we negotiated with the village chiefs. They agreed and chose that scheme. The difficulties in the negotiation were much larger than the calculation in the design stage.

This trip showed me the difficulties of construction stage and negotiation stage.