

## Reflection on the Project Tengchun Bridge from 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 (Fri-Mon)

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The four-day experiential learning means a fruitful journey to me such that I am so grateful to have this opportunity to be one of the team members. It is my first time to visit the rural areas involved in the projects. Not only can I have nature appreciations, I also can apply the lecture knowledge and know the current development in mainland remote areas.

First of all, along the transportation route, we had a glance of urban landscape along the express rail link from Shenzhen to Guangzhou and finally Liuzhou. During the long bus trip from urban town to remote village in Rongshui and Daping, the marvelous nature sight like regular terraces impressed me a lot. Rural life is simple and fulfilling – with slow living pace and surrounded by amazing green scenery, without being overwhelmed by digital devices. However, the inadequate infrastructure development somehow makes their lives difficult. Damaged bridges and uneven roads are the examples. That is the value of our projects to improve their living quality by building physical facilities.

In Rongshui, I was so pleased to witness the deal made between boss Wu, village head, administrative secretaries and Mingde. It is about reconstruction of the damaged Tengchun bridge which links up people in different regions, encouraging human activities and economic transactions to support the village's economy. It also connects different parties together without borders, including professors and students from Hong Kong and local generous people etc. Boss Wu is definitely one of them, who is so generous to take up social responsibilities to help build constructions in rural areas for years, been supporting the Mingde Projects once it established. In Daping, we visited and monitored the construction progress of teacher dormitory, which being carried out smoothly so far.

Through these exposures, I was able to contemplate what was taught in lectures, like basic knowledge of a typical building design in surveying course and road design structure in transportation course. Difference in transportation designs induces difference in driving practices – the bus driver always pressed the honk to aware other possible coming drivers in opposite direction due to blockage of sight around the sharp turning corner of hillside roads. From experience Professor Tham, we learnt how to observe the surrounding environment as to conjecture the prime cause of the structure failure of Tengchun bridge. It is mainly due to the most destroying flood carrying massive sludge last year. It is shock to know that the original structure design of the bridge was not straightly followed and its maximum loading limit was sometimes being violated. These also count as other contributing factors to failure. Safety concern is therefore always the most important issues in civil engineering design. Last but not least, much thanks to everyone in the trip, making it able to run successfully and meaningfully. 😊