

Reflection for trip to Guangxi University, 28-30 December 2015

Poon Tsing, BEng (CivE) III

This trip to Guangxi University was my second visit to this tranquil school. Our objective of the trip was to learn more about design masonry structure from teachers of GXU.

On the second day of our visit, we have an invaluable opportunity to attend a lecture about masonry structure, which gave us clearer understanding and definitely facilitated the progression of our works in the near future. We appreciated that the teacher had kindly answered many of our enquiries and provided innovative suggestions.

In the afternoon, we split into two groups and visited two construction sites in downtown area and within GXU respectively. Dr Ray Su and three of us visited the foundation site of a skyscraper under construction with dozens of GXU students. Although the site condition was harsh due to rainfall, we were impressed by the enthusiasm of local student during the visit, who were eager to learn and raised questions frequently.

This visit was an interesting experience which further arose my interest in construction in Mainland China. I sincerely hope more members of Project Mingde will participate in coming study trips to Guangxi.

Lau Cheuk Yin, BEng (CivE) III

On 28th to 30th December, 2015, Project Mingde organized a visit to the University of Guangxi for the purpose of exploration in design of masonry structure. It was my honor to participate once again in such an educative trip during the winter vacation. It was remarkable and beneficial for me as an engineering student.

In the first half of the journey, we took an intensive training on the design approach of a masonry structure. It was a completely new item to me and other members because there is no official guidance on planning a masonry structure in Hong Kong. Most of us had no idea about the structural behavior of masonry, which became the greatest challenge of this trip. Fortunately, the lecturer from Guangxi University who taught us the code of design of masonry structure possessed vivid design experience and shared his to us. He explained the procedures of design briefly and clearly with the reference of the code of design in mainland standard. This significantly fostered us to absorb the key knowledge of design and helped us to plan for the later work after the trip.

For the latter half, we joined some technical visits held for the local students of civil engineering in a bid to get hand-on experience of construction of buildings in mainland China. What I observed was not only condition of construction sites in mainland, but most importantly was the students' passion for learning new knowledge. For instance, it was raining heavily and the road was slippery during the visit. Despite the vicious condition of environment, the students still followed the teachers' guidance punctually and patiently and did not hesitate to grab every chance to raise question to the teachers. Their energetic attitude towards learning was inspirational to me and made me want to learn from them.

Chan Lok Tin, BEng (CivE) III

In Hong Kong, most of the buildings are constructed according to the reinforced concrete design, where load is transferred from the slab to the beam, column, wall and finally to the foundation. However, in this project, the building is constructed with bricks and it follows the Chinese masonry code. In this trip, we learnt the methods on designing the masonry building and we read through the code. It is really a rare opportunity to me as buildings in Hong Kong would not use bricks as its main material. Therefore, in the future, when we luckily do similar project again, it would be beneficial to me so that I would not squander too much time on learning and reading the code.

Tang Cheuk Wa, BEng (CivE) III

In this trip, we have learned the features and design procedures of masonry structures, difference between masonry structures and RC structures, and also how to use software PKPM for structure designs in mainland which would seldom be used in Hong Kong and thus would not be taught in our university but all these would be very essential and useful for the DaiPing Project. Besides, we have visited some sites in GuangXi and learned how plate load test was performed and how precast concrete piles were installed in China. More importantly, we have exchanged with the students and teachers of GuangXi University, having a better understanding of what and how the students studied in GuangXi University and the opportunity or career path in nowadays China.

After the trip, I realized that as an engineer, it is important to acquire more knowledge and broaden the view. We should not limit our careers in Hong Kong but also in the developing China and other countries so we should always learn more to prepare for our future. I also learned that an engineer should not just focus on how much he can earn but also how much he can contribute to the society, connecting people through infrastructures and more importantly improving the living conditions especially for those who are in need.

Fong Chun Wai, BEng (CivE) III

是次於廣西大學的交流學習活動，雖然只是短短的三日兩夜，卻令我獲益良多。十分感謝鄭教授於百忙中仍能抽空給我們上了一堂寶貴的課，我不但了解到磚混結構的特性，亦學習到設計磚混結構房屋時所需要經過的流程，以及香港和國內在結構設計規範上的分別，實在是受益匪淺。此外，我更有幸能參觀南寧華潤中心東寫字樓的建築地盤，親身理解建設塔樓的技術和工程的管理，例如核心筒在不同層樓的變化、動臂塔吊的佈置等等。參觀過程中我亦了解到多項的綠色工程，例如材料的回收利用、節水技術等，令我感受到國內在建設發展同時對環境保護的重視。

Lai Hong Ting, BEng (IETM) II

這次旅程我獲益良多，因為有機會學習到內地傳統建築方法-----磚混式建築，還是由內地老師親自教導，令我對此有詳細理解。另外，我還有機會親自到工地考察，看到建樓的實際情況，例如地基和一些機械工具等，令非土木工程系的我對這方面有更深認識。這次也由廣西大學的同學接待，加強了我們之間的溝通和交流，和他們一起相處很愉快。