

A Working Trip to Daping, Guangxi (3rd – 7th April 2015)

We are learning to be engineers with a compassionate heart!

By Kim Yulin LU – BEng(CivE)(4) II

From 3rd to 7th April 2015, 13 students from Project Mingde with Prof. L.G. Tham and Dr. Ryan Wong visited Daping Village, a place in rural Guangxi in China, to carry out a feasibility study for 5 days.

We spent 2 whole days traveling from HK to Daping Village and from Daping Village to HK. I was anticipating the trip a lot, so do other team members. We had several meetings before the trip to get ourselves prepared for the trip, however seem well-prepared, we were still in chaos when we arrived at site.

Our teachers were with us under all circumstances. In the journey to DaPing Village, we had to take trucks into the village which we had to be seated at the empty container of trucks where it's normally used to transport construction materials. Despite the unpleasant condition of the truck, the teachers insisted to be with the students given that they got the choice to travel in a more comfortable car. They influenced us with their actions. There was once that we dined in the house of Kelu (the manager of Love Seedling Community Service Centre who helped to co-ordinate everything there) for lunch, Professor Tham squat down by the water tap to wash dishes with Martin and me after the meal. Our teachers taught us to become engineers with a compassionate heart from their actions.

We planned to do land surveying for Daping Primary School and to interact with the local community, hoping to get to know more about them and their needs. We were provided with room to do self-navigation and exploration during the trip. I would say that I did a mess in the land surveying work and this resulted in some degree of inaccuracy in the first-draft plan. During the meeting, our teachers guided us to search from resources such as photos and aerial videos to find out the missing pieces. Of course I did learn the lesson and then the surveying team, led by Andrew, had to stay up till late at night on the train to gather the missing information and work

together on Daping plan. It was really unforgettable! We experience, we make mistakes and we learn from it.

It was a short trip and it was an amazing trip. Only through obtaining first hand data could we understand more of the needs of the locals, only through doing feasibility study could we better address the needs of the locals.

List of team members for this trip:

2 teaching staff from the Department of Civil Engineering:

Prof. L.G. THAM

Dr. Ryan C.P. WONG

11 students from the Department of Civil Engineering:

CHAN Wing Chuen (Tom)

LEE Chak Fai

LU Yu Lin (Kim)

PUNG Chun Nok (Samson)

TSANG Siu Fung (Joseph)

WONG Pak Yue (Martin)

YANG Zi Yuan (Marcus)

LAU Cheuk Yin (Andrew)

NG Tsz Wai (Jason)

CHEN Jing Tao (Jimmy)

XIE Chen (Ryan)

1 student from the Faculty of Education:

YAU Hiu Ying Viame

1 exchange student from the Faculty of Business and Economics:

XU Meng Han (Amanda)