

Reflection on Daping trip 3th – 7th April 2015

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The trip to the village was much tougher than I expected. The road was extremely bumpy and winding, sometimes it seems like the vehicle was about to fall apart, and so was I. I believe that the experience of sitting in the big truck will be marked in my memory forever. It's hard to imagine how difficult it is for the students in the village to go out to see the outer world, which, on the other hand, makes all the toughness we experienced worthy.

It was very educational to work with our team during the trip. I gained a lot of brand new concepts on doing a volunteer project which I had never thought about before. For me, actually before the trip, I simply thought that our mission is just to survey the ground, select the best location, then build up the building. However, the first thing that Professor Tham and Dr. Zhu from JWDA are considering about is that “is the lack of resources really a lack” or just because of inefficient usage and allocation of the existing resources”. Fully utilizing the existing resources can greatly reduce the cost, and solve the problem fundamentally. Simply constructing a building for the primary school is just building up a new “same problem”. We need to consider what our client is considering as well as what our client is not considering, namely, a sustainable and stable future development.

My job was to do the levelling, we marked a lot of points. However, it seems unnecessary to mark that many. Some key points such as the playground, the corridor of kitchen etc. were already enough, so actually we wasted some time. But anyway, just in case. The result was not bad and the error was still within the allowable limit, though we could not find the bubble.

Apart from those above, the teachers there were so welcoming and warm-hearted. Though the village was poor, they treated us the best that they could offer: The tasty pork, the excellent yellow wine (really really excellent, I was thinking about to pack up a bottle to room). But it made me feel a bit guilty when I saw the poor daily menu of the students comparing with our lunch. Seems only being more hard-working on the project can we deserve such a good treat.

Four days passed so rapidly. Love to work with all you guys. Really expecting the next trip.