

I was lucky to be granted the chance to spend three days visiting one of the largest Universities in Guangdong-the South China University of Technology.

A two-hour train ride led us to the heart of the city of Guangdong, where we squeezed into the equally cramped metro as in Hong Kong for a few stations to the campus of SCUT. After lunch, we first attended a seminar on BIM technology then participated in few laboratory tours around the campus. These had familiarized me with the most cutting-edge IT systems used in civil engineering, and the full-scale professional equipment used in the wind-tunnel and fire engineering laboratories which could not be seen in HKU. The structural models such as suspension bridges constructed by students the same year as mine were particularly impressive.

The second day kicked off with a sharing session on building codes, presented by students from SCUT, an exchange student from Africa, and of course, us. Introductions on the building codes in respective areas were explained. We recognized the occasionally large variations in building standards across different places, as being responses to the differences in geological conditions. The afternoon was fruitful-we visited the Humen 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge, the largest constructing suspension bridge in China. It was my first time to witness an unfinished suspension bridge, which was truly fascinating.

Our three-day visit wrapped up with another sharing session on research topics by PhD students from HKU and SCUT. Although some were beyond my level of knowledge, they offered a good opportunity for me to understand the ongoing research areas in the field of civil engineering, which as a future civil engineer, should be familiar of.

Overall, the visit had provided me a valuable chance for me to understand how teaching and learning in civil engineering are conducted in mainland China, in a University more focused on science and engineering subjects compared to HKU.