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In the previous year I have been involved in service trips in Mainland China both on the ground and as support team staying in Hong Kong, however, this trip to Guangxi have been a unique experience from the rest. What I saw was not only the remarkable and famous scenery of the province, but the also joys of successful projects and countless potential for the Project in Daping Village and the WangDong area for HKU students from different disciplines.

One of the highlights of the trip is certainly the Completion and handover ceremony of Mingde Jundi Teacher Dormitory, where the team was greeted with firecrackers and the euphotic sounds of “Lusheng”, a traditional reed instrument of Miao and Yao villages. Under the celebratory environment, all villagers donned their best clothing and prepared the best food they could get, while performances of local culture captured everyone’s attention. With the new building, the teaching and learning environment of the Daping Primary School will certainly improve.

But we should not forget that our mission has yet to finish in the region, rather, let the ceremony be a kind reminder of our objectives there and smiles of villagers be a motivation for us to improve the villages in other aspects such as health, education, infrastructure etc.

With that note, a team of MBBS students and Dental students successfully performed further needs assessment on both Daping Village and Wangdong’s Tengcun. It was interesting to know some of the current issues faced by villagers, motivating to know that previous interventions have given a positive effect on children, and thought-provoking to think of future health projects that can be done in the region.

Moreover, I am thankful for all members of the team in their ability to adapt and their resilience and persistence to continue their work on the ground even after an exhausting 5-hour drive and arriving Tengcun at dark. Given the very limited time frame due to logistical restrictions, this trip would not have been as fruitful without everyone’s cooperation and willingness to achieve what seemed impossible.

My most prominent memory of the whole 3-day-2-night trip is standing near the edge of the broken bridge at Tengcun in the late-night darkness, looking at the colourful flashing lights on the pagodas and trees on the two river banks. It is a wonder for how villagers could persist through waves and waves of natural hazards and yet prosper into a blooming civilization. I hope that me and other members of the trip could also hold the same determination in improving the living standards and health of the community, whether at Tengcun, China or even worldwide.