

Reflections from HKU students

Lau Cheuk Yin, BEng (CivE) III

I have participated in the visit to Guangxi University held by Project Mingde on 16th-18th October. The visit was the milestone for the collaboration between the students from Project Mingde and those from Guangxi University in the on-going Project Daping. On the first day, 10 members from the Project Mingde and our advisor Dr. Su went to Nanling by high speed train. The traveling time was 4.5 hours, which was quite a long time to the members including me. To make good of the travelling time, we did some final preparation for the presentation on the next day on the train. I felt all of us were very hard-working and passionate to this project. Each of us put much effort on the presentation materials and revised on the sections they were responsible to. To facilitate a fluent communication between the students from two places, we also made much practice on our Putonghua speaking and translated the text, especially the technical terminology, into simplified Chinese. After we arrived at the Nanling Station, the student and teacher representatives from the Guangxi University expressed their warm welcome to us. Since we arrived at night, they were so kind that they led us to the restaurants in the vicinity to have dinner. The meal in the restaurants was cheap but very delicious. After that, we went to a dormitory to unpack our belonging and to take rest for the schedule on the next day.

The second day was the most important day of the whole trip. After a short breakfast, we walked to the Civil and architectural building in Guangxi University to meet the students and teachers there. Then we did a 1-hour sharing to them, which included the background of Project Mingde, the feasibility study report of Project Daping and the structural plan of the new dormitory to be built. After that, the students from the Guangxi University presented their own architectural plan to us. They developed the design by adding some local architectural characteristics to the original design. Since the focus points of both parties were different, it took a while for us to understand the idea of both sides and to have a in-depth discussion on the same ground. At that moment, our project leader Leo acted as a coordinator of the whole discussion. He possessed a rich experience on Project Daping that he fully understood all of the details of the whole project. His leadership skill was also very strong that he actively communicated the teachers and came up an action plan for both two teams of students. These were what I wanted to learn from him.

In the remaining time after the meeting, we chatted with the students from the Guangxi University. Our topics were mainly around the interesting memories in our universities and the career prospect after the graduation. I talked with some of the students and exchanged our experience. It was amazing to know how our experience

differed even though we all took civil engineering as the major discipline. All in all, the visit was a meaningful and fruitful activity to me since it paved a stable and smooth road to a success of the whole project, as well as the friendship between the students from two universities.

香港大學土木工程三年級

陳尚智

這次交流，除了學生之間有設計的交流，教授也提供了一些寶貴的意見，例如木結構要注意內地防火的規範；新的改善方案需尊重大平小學校長和駿地建築設計公司的意見。我也從廣西大學的學生和教授了解第一次接觸的結構：磚混結構。這是鋼筋混凝土作為框架，磚塊作為牆的一種結構。

本人第一次真正與本地外大學交流，兩地所學的，對土木擁有的經驗都有差異。透過分工，雙方可於大平項目各施所長，也可互相交流心得，是個難得的機會。在理想的情況下，雙方合作可以有更完整的分工，建築質素也會有所提高。這次令我對這項目會有更多的投入。

香港大學土木工程三年級

陳永銓

今次到廣西大學交流的經歷，我感到非常寶貴及難忘。除了工程上的交流外，我們兩校的學生亦加深了對彼此的認識。首先，關於大平小學的結構構思，他們給出的建議包含了美觀與當地建築特色，與我們強調實用的建議有所不同，而這正是兩地合作，集思廣益的好處。再者，他們亦向我們講解了一些內地建築物的規範，使我們大開眼界，以及了解到更多在設計上需要注意的事項。

另外，廣西大學的同學們都十分友善。除了每天的接送之外，在完成討論及分工後，他們更一盡地主之宜，帶我們到處閑逛及去吃燒烤。今次很高興可以到廣西大學交流，我十分期待之後與他們的合作。

香港大學土木工程三年級

陳樂天

今次的 Field trip 令我大開眼界，當中我學了不少土木工程的知識和與其他不同文化的同學進行交流，使我獲益良多。在土木工程的知識上，我除了學懂在不同的情況下使用香港的規範設計建築的板樑柱外，也懂得內地規範與香港規範的不同。同時，香港建築甚少考慮地震所造成的外力，但由於南寧較近四川，加上四川屬於地震區域，所以在設計方面要做更多的防震措施，加上我們需要同時考慮其後風火水电的問題，使我們設計時要更慎重考慮。在文化交流方面，我學懂適應當地文化和習慣，及與他們溝通和討論設計，使我們有更進一步的交流。

Lee Chak Fai, BEng (CivE) III

This trip to Guangxi University is a very good experience for me to know more about civil engineering and culture in other university. Although we only get along with Guangxi University students for about one day, we already discuss many topics that we eager to know. We talked about the works and objectives of civil engineers in Mainland China and we all agreed that our goal is to improve people's lives.

In the second day of the trip, we shared our idea of the primary school in Daping to each other. I found that their working efficiency is very high, they already asked for the opinion of the principle of Daping primary school and came up with a brief design of the dormitory. They also made some changes on the appearance of the building that we did not do enough.

However, I found that there were some difficulties on job division because we want to do more works and learn more. I think it would be similar to the situation when two companies cooperate with each other.

Tsang Siu Fung, BEng (CivE) III

In this exchange trip, we were to share ideas about the design of Daping Primary School with GXU, and discuss details on labor division in the coming future. We have worked for almost half day in GXU, and the students there have brought us to explore the culture of Guangxi. Their passion to work and enthusiasm to guests has gained much appreciation from us.

This exchange trip was a fruitful experience to me because of two reasons. First, I understand more about the role of an engineer. During the exchange session, teachers from GXU thought our design lacked consideration about long-term development of the school, such as further expansion. This reminded us that to be competent engineers we should think ahead over the long-term usage of an infrastructure, how to adapt to nearby environment as well as how to accommodate future changes.

Apart from that, I gained more insight into the necessity of labor division on a project. At the end of our exchange, we eventually come up with a consensus on the work distribution between two universities. GXU would be responsible for geotechnical investigation and on-site inspection, while our own team would be in charge of making structural model. From this experience, we further understood the importance of dividing labor according to comparative advantages. For example, GXU is close to the site, and hence they are more suitable for works on-site and maintenance duties. This trip is inspiring and enlightening to me. I am looking forward to working with GXU together in the future to make our masterpiece come true.

香港大學土木工程三年級

謝日昇

今次有幸到廣西大學與當地大學生交流真的令我大開眼界。廣西大學的學生都很勤奮努力，他們準備了一份具有創意的建築設計圖。另外，透過與他們交流對太平項目的想法和設計心得，我們發現到自己準備的設計都太注重價錢和實用性而忽略了跟附近樓宇建設的統一性。由於太注重經濟平實，我們所設計的新教師宿舍大樓都較像城市一般的大樓，從而令宿舍樓變得跟附近環境和建築格格不入。除此之外，我們香港跟廣西大學學生都分享了兩地土木工程的发展和就業概況。因為廣西大學的學生都很注重知識的學習和吸收，所以他們完成本科課程後都會唸個碩士，甚至博士學位，有利於他們未來在職場上一展所圖。

Poon Tsing, BEng (CivE) III

The exchange to Guangxi University has been an invaluable experience to me. We have interacted with fellow civil engineering students from GXU and exchanged our ideas and opinions regarding the coming Project Daping. We were all impressed by the architectural plan prepared by GXU, which turned out to be a good alternative of the original architectural. Local students had also given us much information about local engineering practice and constraints, which would be beneficial to our coming engineering design.

The other significant achievement of this trip was the confirmation of our partnership with Guangxi University in Project Daping, a milestone in the history of Project Mingde. We will be cooperating in the design and construction management of Project Daping, which will be a completely new experience to project members from HKU. I am optimistic and confident that we will achieve success in this project.

Lastly, fellow students from GXU had also shared with us the details of their school lives and career prospects of civil engineering in Guangxi. Although we grew up in different environment, students from both universities have the same passion of assisting the children in rural villages in Mainland China. We were eager to begin the next phase of structural design, and we look forward to seeing the completion of this project.

香港大學土木工程三年級

廖家俊

廣西大學之旅獲益良多，除了學習到內地對工程的知識，還認識到一班西大的同學。內地跟香港有不同的守則，跟他們的聊天讓我們了解到內地的版本。由於我們在設計的時候，使用的是香港守則，而大平開展予內地，學習到的也可以完全應用在項目上面。例如是每一層樓的高度限制。跟西大同學討論後，我們一起去了附近餐廳享受當地美食。期望將來大家有更多合作機會，學到的知識也能應用到將來的環境中。

香港大學工業工程三年級

黎康婷

經過這次交流活動，我獲益良多。由於我不是土木工程學生，在討論期間未能在 construction 方面提出太多意見，僅能在工作匯報上略盡綿力。但是，透過聆聽其他同學的匯報和討論，我亦對工程項目的一些注意事項和細節加深了認識，希望日後能在其他方面幫忙。另外，本來與明德工程其他成員不太熟悉，經過本次旅程亦能與他們打成一片，日後合作更輕鬆。而且，今次亦認識到一班廣西大學的同學，他們非常友好，很照顧我們，亦帶我們找好吃的，我非常高興可以認識他們，希望日後合作愉快。最後，廣西的食物實在是又便宜又好吃又夠飽，很滿足。