

## **Reflection on the trip to Guangxi (12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016)**

**Calvin Chee Tou POON**

It is certainly an opening eye to visit rural village schools in China. It makes you appreciate the contemporary facilities we share back in our developed hometown. In particular, primary boarders were living in very harsh condition, where accommodations were cramped, toilet accessories were lacking and unhygienic and classrooms size was incapable of holding a standard student population. Nonetheless, local students were very eager in pursuing education, this could be seen by their self-initiative in drilling textbook knowledge and genuine responses of asking for more teachers and libraries. An ordinary person would be irresistible to answering the call for help from these very potential students to satisfy their needs, in the ultimate aim of building a more comprehensive education and living environment.

Despite my lack of knowledge to take up surveying position, I really enjoyed the time spent investigating the campus environment including gathering information from villagers and teachers with the passionate help of other interview team members. So when I realized that our team ran ahead of schedule meanwhile surveying teams were a bit in a hurry, I would take more photos of every corner hoping that a more detailed investigation would help surveying team and favour the project. This is a valuable learning experience with many skills learnt from my seniors, our team leader assigned me to a position in which I was exposed to a lot of new stuff and people. The last thing not to be forgotten was the beautiful scenery, appetizing hot pots, welcoming locals and fun time interacting with the children.