

Reflection on the trip to Guangxi (12th – 15th January 2016)

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The visit to Fengmu was an unforgettable and meaningful experience, which also embarked my start in joining Project Mingde. Fengmu Primary School extension is a new project, so our aim of this trip is to evaluate the project's feasibility by land surveying, doing interviews and questionnaires.

Before we really started site investigation in Fengmu Primary School, it took more than two hours for transportation. Despite of long travelling time, the roads were bumpy and made our journey more daunting. After the arrival, the warm welcome and smiling faces of the energetic children cheered all of us.

I am part of the surveying team doing levelling. As I have not studied surveying before, this was the first time I learnt surveying and put into real practice immediately. Special thanks to my teammates, with their explanation and help, I quickly understood the basic principles of levelling, as well as setting up levelling instruments. There are several slopes in Fengmu Primary School, making good decisions in choosing points for surveying is also important.

What had shocked me the most were the hygiene conditions and the students' living conditions. Toilets were shabby and smelly, with intermittent water supply. There were insufficient spaces for students and teachers to live in. Growing up in Hong Kong, we have abundant resources. This would be difficult for us to imagine how forty students can live in a small dormitory. Indeed, it happened in the school.

After working on the third day, we had a great opportunity to visit Mingde Building. Mingde Building is the first project of Project Mingde and it has been completed for over ten years. Yet, the building is still kept in good conditions. Mingde Building witnesses the mission and growth of Project Mingde. Overall, this trip was impressive and remarkable.