

Reflection on the trip to Guangxi (5th – 8th March 2016)

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It is my very first time to experience the remote and rural village in Mainland China. Having communication with locals in Rongshui County, I have endured the lives of them, which has tremendous differences with that of Hong Kong people. The dishes, their old architecture and their hospitality to outsiders were remarkable.

Travelling to their primary schools and villages, I have observed the bad condition on their infrastructure. Although their lives are basically acceptable that they have enough food and entertainment, infrastructure is still lacking behind as compared to other parts of the county. Overcrowded dormitory, poor road condition and environment-devastating landfills observed during the trip are examples that civil engineers can help to upgrade. It is what we, people who have better lives, to have charity and funding to improve their lives because they probably cannot have the money from the government and themselves. As a civil engineer student, I guess this is the social responsibility I should have in the future as the main objective of civil engineering is to improve people's living quality.

Throughout the trip, the discussion between the architects and engineers I witnessed was also fruitful to us. They have talked in detail about the project in Daping Primary School and they also took the users as the stakeholder where their recommendations were largely concerned. This would be an experience that we can learn from as there are much more discussion involved in the projects that civil engineering students participate in.

All in all, Project Mingde, providing infrastructure to help to improve the education for children, is worthwhile to them and also act as an experiential learning for us. Future generation nurtured probably turn out enhancing the environment in the County. It is a meaningful experience for me and I hope to continue fulfilling the mission to improve their living quality and education standard after graduation.