

Reflection on the trip to Guangxi (5th – 8th March 2016) WAN Siu Yeung Sam

It was the second time for me to join the working trip of Mingde Project. The first time was to take part in the construction of a lavatory in a local school in Vietnam. This trip to Guangxi was a bit different from the first one, in which the target was to discuss the preliminary design of the construction project with different parties, including the teachers, the architects and the contractors. The discussion was a fruitful one as each party would not hesitate to raise their concerns and give opinions on the design based on their professional experience.

Listening to their conservation, I was inspired by their way of thinking and presentation skills. For example, the presentation of the architects was well-organized and informative with sketches and photos. The architects introduced their proposals one by one and explained their ideas clearly to the audiences. It was not difficult for the audiences to grab their main ideas. On the other hand, the contractors spoke confidently. They answered the questions on buildability and workability raised by the students concisely and precisely. One memorable moment came to my mind was that one student asked the contractors about the design of slabs. To facilitate communication, the contractor immediately picked up a pen and sketched a reinforcement drawing on a paper. Both the architects and contractors set me good examples in presentations as they are inevitable in schools and even in workplace in the future.

To include, the working trip to Guangxi was a good opportunity to experiential learning. I can learn from a real-life project, instead of learning theory from a traditional classroom. This ‘learning by doing’ concept can help me gain a better understanding on the preliminary work of a construction project and solidify my knowledge I have learnt in lectures.