

Reflection on Building a library for a local secondary school in Vietnam (12th June – 29th July 2016)

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This is the first time I joined Project Mingde plus staying almost 2 months overseas. At first, I decided to join this project as I really want to broaden my horizon and know more about what exactly is on-site experience like. After the internship, I am so glad to tell that I gain a lot under the working atmosphere combining civil engineering and social science. I would also like to represent my gratefulness to all my companions, translator and supervisors for giving me support and guidance during this period. All of these had become unforgettable memories in pages of my life.

Being an assistant resident engineer in this construction project, my job is not just restricted to supervise and finish my site diary or having regular examination on structural dimensions. In fact, I am grateful to having the chance involving in different types of construction works in Vietnam. I also enjoyed in learning from mistakes and interacting with experience workers. There were many real-life construction method involved including concrete mixing, steel bending and fixing, masonry work, back filling etc. This made me experienced a lot in terms of practical construction methods. For instance the concrete casting, I realized the situation was totally different from Hong Kong. Apart from the uncalculated concrete mixing formula the workers used, it was the first time I learnt from them how to produce a number of concrete sewage panels to cover the wastewater channel. They used the bricks to create a rectangular-shaped mold on ground, and then pour the concrete paste into the mold for casting. Since Hong Kong mostly used stainless steel with painting as the sewage cover panel. It was totally a new experience for me to broaden my horizons. However, there is one fatal problem during the construction which is safety management. Many of the workers only have poor equipment with low safety awareness. This may lead to any fatal accidents anytime anywhere. I know that accidents not only brings injuries, but also can bring huge loss including construction delay and economical loss. Therefore, safety management should be a mandatory prevention in Vietnam to guarantee every workers' life.

Other than civil engineering, I also learnt with other social science students in their knowledge field. One of the thing that most impressed me is the cultural exchange through visiting village and investigating about local children's reading habit. I am shocked that despite some of the children had difficulties in study due to their disabilities. These Most Vulnerable Children's (MVC) family gave them most of the support to school. Although facing the problem of MVC, they still keep positive and smiling. This was the spirit that impressed me most during the project and inspired me to keep on learning no matter facing

any hurdles in my future career.