

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

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I joined Project Mingde in the year of 2016. Project Mingde has always provided me opportunities to learn some technical and practical civil engineering related knowledge and skills. I heard of the cooperation between Project Mingde and World Vision Vietnam in early January, therefore I decided to join the project of constructing a library in Vietnam at that time. I am confident to tell everyone that I learnt quite a lot in this 7 weeks internship training in Vietnam. The internship allowed me to achieve new knowledge in both civil engineering field and social science field which help enhance my personal growth and make me become all rounded.

All students are appointed as assistant resident engineer which is responsible for enhance communication between contractors and workers. It was the first time for me to work in a site for such a long time. The long period of training time allow me to familiarize each essential process in a construction. Such experience is very rare in Hong Kong, so I am really glad that I have this chance to know more what I suppose to do as an engineer in the future. Before this Vietnam internship, I know nothing about construction, but I know a lot after this trip. The workers gave us lots of opportunities to try different work they do. I got lots of first time in the site. The first time for me to try steel fixing, the first time for me to use concrete, mortar and white cement and the first time for me to use shovel. Steel fixing was quite tough as I needed to bend the steel bar using my hands which was quite demanding. There are also lots of things could be learnt in mixing and casting concrete. The amount of sand and aggregates used could affect the workability of concrete which would affect the quality of the structure. Using a shovel correctly was also difficult, or else energy would be used up quickly.

Besides civil engineering stuff, I have to cooperate with social science groupmate to do research on reading habit of secondary school students in Cuong Chinh Secondary School in order to set a baseline for the evaluation of the library project in the future. It is really quite challenging as I have never learnt anything related to social science. It was very fortunate that my groupmates teach me lots of things such that I can contribute in the project.

This Vietnam Library Project have trained me to be a better engineer with better soft skills. After this trip, I understand that there is always unforeseeable challenge, but there is always a way to solve the problem. It is the matter of how hard you try and how much effort you put. Last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to all my groupmates and Project Mingde and Dr. Ryan Wong. Without your help, I could not learn and experience that much

in Vietnam. I would not forget the memories in Vietnam.