

Reflection on Building a library for a local secondary school in Vietnam

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As an assistant resident engineer in this project, I acquired a lot knowledge in different aspects of construction project. Since this was the first time that working on site, I gained valuable experience in different stages of construction project and learnt lot of practical skills and methods applied in the construction stage. For instance, I learnt how to bend steel bar to form rebar with some simple tools. I also learnt the method of concrete casting that was different from Hong Kong, and learnt how to build up brick wall by using bricks and mortar in which this was seldom seen in Hong Kong. Apart from these, I also learnt the importance of planning to project management. A good plan can minimize the number of problems faced in the progress as well as reduce the loss. I knew that there must be some obstacles and challenges that have to face during the process of construction, so we need to be foresee any obstacles we would meet so as to give corresponding counter-measures to solve the potential problems. For example, the contractor changed the original schedule so that we can handover the library building on time.

Moreover, I learnt that we, as engineers, have to be alerted at any time. It was found that workers made minor mistake on the size of one the rainwater drainage channel. W immediately report to the contractor technician and make the best solution with contractor, building developing board and Ms. Hang. This incident also reminded me that communication is important in the project. Client, consultant and contractor have to communicate and compromise well when deciding any decision about the construction. Last but not least, I understand that contractor should be responsible on caring to workers, visitors, and those that may be affected by construction activities. Risk assessment should be carried out to identify hazards posed and appropriate accident prevention measures should be taken in order to minimize the damages from accidents. Safety awareness training is essential for both employers and employees in rural Vietnam.