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From 24th to 26th of September in 2016, a group of four Project Mingde members went to Guangxi for supervising and learning from the excavation of foundation for the teachers' dormitory in Daping Primary School.

Before the trip, we had studied and discussed the requirements of a shallow foundation through the provided drawings and opinions from professors. I learnt so much through these processes and it was good for us to be well-prepared before travelling to Guangxi.

During the site visit, process of excavation for the shallow foundation could be seen and we were able to check whether the foundation met the requirement or not. We had checked the dimension of the foundation, conditions of soil layers below the ground, bearing capacity of the supporting soil layers, and also the quality of concretes that were prepared for the foundation. It was a good experience to see a real foundation and learn from the local contractors of how they tackled with the immediate problems during construction. It is important that the actual construction can be different from the theoretical drawings due the constraints in reality.

After the visiting, we had the opportunity to bring some construction materials back to Hong Kong and do some laboratory testing. Although bringing those materials back was challenging due to intensive security checking in mainland China, it was worth testing real construction materials by ourselves.

Overall, it was a great opportunity for us to learn starting from studying drawings to site visiting within the same construction project.