

Reflection of working trip to Daping (8/10/2016-10/8/2016)

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From 8th to 10th September, a group of six Mingde members went to GuangXi for the supervision of teachers' dormitory in Daping Primary School and site visit of broken bridges at Wangdong. This is my first time to supervise construction work on site.

We visited the Chaoyang Bridge at the beginning and arrived Daping Primary School after. The progress of construction is quite fast. The excavation work and foundation have already completed and block walls are currently in progress. We have prepared a list of questions to ask the local engineer and he helped clarifying all the problems we doubted about. He also asked us some questions on the changes and faults on structural drawing. The local engineer is skillful and I have learnt a lot from him. Unfortunately, some dangerous situations are observed and should be improved. We have done some on-site measurements such as the hardness of concrete and the distance between columns. We have also visited the primary school and the children are lovely and joyous.

We have visited three broken bridges which were all damaged by flooding. One is dented and the other two have a smooth breakage in-between, with foundation missed or discarded already. Local villagers have built a temporary footbridge by wood or welded steel for passing but it is still not firm enough. We have taken a lot of photos and measurements, hoping Mingde Project can help on rebuilding those bridges.

Two of the three days are spent on travelling so the trip is a bit short and this is the sole disappointment. However, this is still a fruitful experience and I have learnt a lot during the journey with two professors and have experienced local culture ranging from communication with local villagers to local food and wine.