

Reflection on Guigang Working Trip (20th - 23rd October, 2016)

Tse Hoi Yan (Vicky)
3035181085
Civil Engineering, Year 3

This trip is undoubtedly one of my most remarkable experiences because I earn not only the opportunity to become a leader but also the happiness in helping others.

I remember feeling nervous and lost when I was first appointed as the team leader to conduct a feasibility study. The responsibility suddenly fell on me and I knew it would never be easy to lead a team. Starting from preparing a two-day schedule, I have to know what my teammates are capable of and try to balance their workloads. Preparing a comprehensive questionnaire also requires much effort if we want to take all users' opinions into account and understand their actual needs. It worries me that something may be missed during the preparation period.

However, it was glad to see that all our efforts were not for naught. Everyone was so dedicated to their works and with the help by students from South China University of Technology, we could finish all the tasks on time. Prior to the trip, I was afraid that the language barrier would make it difficult to communicate with students from SCUT. Gladly, the language barrier was not a big problem. They discuss a lot with our team members and even gave constructive ideas especially on how to perform land surveying. Their willingness to help have lessened our workloads and this was a great experience cooperating with them.

During the trip, I was mainly responsible for examining the existing facilities, assessing the surround environment and to monitor the working progress. The biggest challenge that I faced was the change of plan. It was hard to respond to sudden changes but I realize that adapting to the new arrangement while keeping calm can be the best way to deal with change effectively.

Despite I sometimes felt exhausted during the trip, it is still fulfilling to help people. We live in a prosperous city and enjoy a quality education. It makes me feel sad whenever I saw children studying really hard in an inadequate environment. As a Civil Engineering student, it would be meaningful if we can offer our knowledge and passion to provide a better learning environment for those children. And I believe that we can all feel the joy and successfulness in helping others.