

Mingde project gave me a amazing chance to help the needy in China and spend my Engineering knowledge in practical field. The 4-day camp was unforgettable no matter in aspects of cultural experience or surveying work. Throughout the whole trip, things I seen, tasted, felt were different from the place I has lived - Hong Kong.

It was hard to believe that it took us whole day for us to get to Guangxi from HK. The time used for the transport was just same as a direct flight to London across half of the globe. Yet, the journey was not as comfortable as you was in a plane. We took 3 long-way trains and an endless bus speeding on the crumbling field. So, we could only start our feasibility study on the second day. This experience also showed how those poorer area was isolated from cities.

Guangxi was in its developing way with new-built concrete road, tall buildings and other infrastructure. Although development was only started in recent years, it was optimistic to foresee it could catch up the other large cities and share the cake from the boosting economy.

Guangxi was a place lived by different ethnics, eg Han, Zhuang, Miao, etc. Each of these ethnics have different cultures and faiths. The truth was that, these ethnics were same as well as different in meantime. They spoke Mandarin, worked together, inter-married and celebrated festivals together. This scenario was completely distinctive in ancient China where wars broke out frequently among races. Introduced by tour guide, I knew that changes happened while the Communion policies were raised in the last century.

From my observation, the only thriving industries were agriculture and wood-cutting. Since the terrains were mostly mountains and slopes, the locals discovered a new method of farming - terraces. This technique made use of the characteristic of fields to let water flow from upper farmland to lower one continuously just like the shape of staircase. So, the self-sustainability of crops and wheat could be achieved with it.

As for the logging, the terrains and the long-term humid environment facilitated the growth of trees with strong hardness. Heavy trucks with tonnes of wood could always be seen everywhere that supported the economy and most of the working population. One concerning issue about the industry would be the sustainable development. The tour guide expressed that it took about 15 years to grow a tree for selling and the government has been doing less to protect the environment and limit the daily logging output. What 's more? There were little factories majoring in post-processing work of wood. The locals could only earn little part of the provision of raw materials in the whole production chain.

It was both pleasurable and worrying while noticing the present features of Guangxi. Though I have spend most of my words describing what I seen and heard, I have never forgotten my original purpose of the trip - Engineering Study about the repairment of Tengcun Bridge which was also quite rememorable through our group cooperation. This experience was both a trip and work to me.