

Reflection on the trip from 9th Jan to 12th Jan

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This is my second time to go to Daping and Tengchuen but there were still many things that were worth to learn. Although the first day and the fourth day of the trip have been used for travelling, it was a good time for us to appreciate the magnificent view of Guangxi and think of the poverty problem.

Unlike the last trip, this time I spent more time on observing the local living environment to have a better understanding on different local issues of Guangxi. When the high speed train was crossing the border between Guangdong Province and Guangxi Province, I observed that Guangxi is really lagging behind Guangdong in terms of economy. The land of Guangxi is filled with farms compared with the tons of developed cities in Guangdong. I have done some research before the trip. Since the Sino-Vietnamese War in 1979, Guangxi have become one of the important military fort of China with elite troops of PLA. However, her economic development is seemed to be ignored by the Central Government. From my observation, while many well developed cities are concerning a variety of urban issues, I could still find many slogan banners talking about "Three Rural Issues" in Guangxi. The local ethnic problem may be one of the reasons but the effect of the corruption of local officials cannot be neglected. Not only do it decrease the quality of infrastructures but it also wastes money. For example, the so-called new expressway which we travelled on the last day is as exciting as wild speedway. Low quality infrastructures will only become another barriers to the local economic development. In recent years, Guangxi Province has become one of the strategic points of China one belt one road policy. Hope it will help her development in the future.

On the other hand, I did learn many engineering tools and skill during the trip. For example, I had my first experience of land surveying including traversing and leveling when doing detailed survey on the broken bridge, while I have not toughed on those things before. Hope the bridge will facilitate the life of the local villagers of Tengchuen after the completion of the reconstruction.