

Tengchuen Bridge Project Reflection

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Name: Tse Hoi Yan, Vicky

UID: 3035181085

This is the first time I have ever involved in a bridge project in which I find interesting and a bit challenging. Compare to the previous projects where most of them are related to buildings, this time we need to use another way to examine the condition of the bridge. Therefore, prior to the trip, we had a land surveying training specially for investigating how seriously the bridge is damaged and how tilted the bridge is. Though the method used to examine the bridge is not the same as we learnt in civil engineering course, the basic principals of land surveying still applies in this case. Besides, we also hold a training for aerial photography such that we can get a whole picture of how the bridge and the surrounding environment look like.

We spent the first day of the trip on traveling while the investigation work was started on the second day of the trip. When I first arrived the site and saw the bridge from a distance, it was surprised to see that people and cars are still passing the bridge even the piers are tilted and the surface of the bridge is uneven. But after seeing people walking on the bridge without fear, I stepped on the bridge and found that it is securer than it seems. Despite we did not have any experience in dealing with bridges, we still show a great teamwork in this trip. All of us are generally divided into 4 groups, including traversing team, levelling team, measuring team and aerial photography team. Among all 4 teams, traversing team has the most workloads and requires most time to finish all the measuring work. With the assist of professor and students from the South China University of Technology (SCUT), we learn the know-how to examine the condition of the bridge and all the works can be finished on time. During the investigation, I was responsible for taking aerial photos for the bridge and the surrounding environment. The work was not that smooth as we planned. The multicopter was hard to control under windy condition and the batteries were used up rapidly before we can fly the multicopter to a suitable position and take a photo. Fortunately, we took most of the photos we needed in the last fly.

Apart from investigating the bridge, we also went to Daping to follow up the construction progress of the teacher dormitory in Daping Primary School. The construction work of teacher dormitory is almost finished but the construction work was temporarily halted due to the weather at that time. We took a look at the building from the outside since it will be dangerous to go in the building before the construction finished. Hence, we only checked the walls, columns, stairs and the drainage system from the outside.

All in all, this trip is full of challenges since most of the things did not go well with our plan, but I am glad that we overcome these challenges and complete our goals eventually. It was also relaxing to go to different beautiful places and chat with the locals though the weather is a little bit cold. Still, I am looking forward to visiting this place again and hope that the project can be finished successfully.