

## **Reflection on Guigang Working Trip (25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2017)**

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I am thankful for having this opportunity to work in Project Mingde. Thanks to the great weather, welcoming crowds from Guangxi, and friendly peers from all disciplines, I was totally immersed in the joy of participating in this voluntary work. This was a project that made me realize the importance of the role and cooperation between professionals, i.e. engineers, architects, surveyors and researchers, in provision of a nice schooling environment for the students and teachers. Such volunteering work not only helped the villagers for better education, better prospects, it was also a great change for us to rethink our roles as a professional in the field – whether we, as a student and also a learner of this field, could conduct within the professional framework and ensure bliss for the occupants. Certainly, it was nearly impossible to achieve those professional standards at this stage, but I am glad to know more about the difference keep moving.

It was my honour to work with Lis, the chief architect in this project, to conduct an architectural survey within the village. Her sharing of experience at work and kind guidance towards our architectural survey was a great help to us. Architecture education has been attacked for not burying deep in practice as mostly our projects in school are unbuilt projects, without the much needed mathematical and research knowledge to come across genuine understanding of the site. Most architecture graduates start to know more about the industry when they enter the workforce. But isn't it better for to get in touch with it earlier when we begin to build up our own architectural understanding in school?

Project Mingde was a wonderful program for us, the HKU participants and the young villagers, to both learn and grow in the same place, with the receiving of love and support from our professors, professionals at work and sincere trust from the villagers. I am looking forward to the completion of the school.