

Reflection on Project Mingde Summer Camp 2017 (11th – 15th June, 2017)

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It was a great experience being one of the the organizers of this meaningful summer camp. I was happy that all the participants were dedicated into the voluntary teaching works. Though Andy and I as the organizers faced lots of difficulties on the trip arrangement, especially on travelling and time delay, we were still glad to say that the summer camp had come to a satisfactory end.

In this five-day trip, we spent most of our time on travelling, and many participants reflected that it was quite a tough trip to the village we were teaching since it was far away from city centre and the road to there was bumpy. While in the remaining time, we focused on the voluntary works in the Daping Primary School. We arranged our works into three main sessions, including voluntary teaching, health check and as-built measuring.

The voluntary teaching included four subjects and the way that participants were teaching was different from the traditional way, which made the students more involved and enjoyed in the teaching. The medical students were responsible to teaching health knowledge to students and do some simple body checks for villagers. On the other hand, the team Project Daping under Project Mingde had commenced the construction of the teacher dormitory, which had almost come to an end. We would like the engineering students to involve in the works related to civil engineering. Therefore, engineering students spent almost 1 to 2 days on measuring the dimensions of the teacher dormitory and an as-built drawing had to be submitted.

Although the time we were actually spending on teaching in this school was only two days, and we cannot even say we had helped to make a difference in the education or health system, but Project Mingde had devoted 2 years in Project Daping for the construction of teacher dormitory and HKU students had been coming to this many times for feasibility study and design, and we hope we can do something more sustainable by not just focusing on the construction, but also try to involve HKU students from different faculties in this project. It may be hard to maintain the sustainability of our works and the effectiveness may be doubtful, we still hope that by organizing this kind of activities more regularly, or by spotting problems in these villages, we can design the solution to these problems and improve the community step by step.