

I participated in the surveying trip to Guangxi, with the aim of constructing a map near the failed Wangdong footbridge connecting nearby village and a primary school.

My role, as an enrolled student in CIVL1114, is to do the booking of the surveying work and some relating technical work. I have drafted and numbered several hand-drawn maps onsite where the detailing data has been recorded. Besides, I helped with data processing and CAD drawing.

I have gain some useful experiences during the trip. I learnt that the construction of bridges in less developed region in China are not strict and accurate at all. Most of the time, due to limited funding and government subsidies, the bridges were constructed by locals and usually won't last more than 10 years. In this case, Mingde stands out and provide more educated design that could last longer. Besides, I have also learnt that suspension bridge is quite common in those region: it is a lot cheaper for longer-span, it is good enough for them as such villages don't have busy traffic. It can even carry motorbikes. The only downside is that it is less stable with more people walking on the bridge, which might be quite dangerous.

I have met the local Tibetan as they invited us for lunch. They have been very kind and fervent to us, but the sanitary condition was quite daunting, leading to stomach ache of one of our teammates.

I believe the trip could have achieved more with following suggestions. Firstly, time management: the time used during immigration clearance was poorly controlled such that we missed the first train according to our first plan. As none of us were familiar with train ride, we should have reserved at least an hour more. Secondly, poor communication: The communication problems encountered in mainland should be foreseen due to the unavailability of Whatsapp and internet connection. Besides, As some students are unable to use the automatic immigration clearance system, we should have been more cautious in gathering people so that we always travel as one single group. In this case, suitable devices like walky talky should be prepared so that the communication over border, or even onsite where we need to communicate across the river is less likely impeded. Finally, I propose that a point with a higher level should be adopted as the first surveying station so as to facilitate map drawing.