

Reflection on surveying tour (3.30-4.1)

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During the Easter holiday, the seven of us went to Wangdong 汪洞 to do the survey of a collapsed bridge. Our work was divided into two parts: surveying and interviewing the local representatives. And I was responsible for the latter part.

We had interviewed the principal of the local primary school, secretary Liao, and boss Wu as we had expected before departure. We also got some valuable information from the local coordinator Kelu 可陆 and others. As one of the goals of this surveying trip was to get to know more about the local engineering practice, their ideas and requirements encouraged us to approach the solutions from different angles. The first concern is the cost of the new bridge, which is also common for the reconstruction work of other bridges along Beijiang. As the main function of this bridge is to provide convenience for teachers and students in primary school which locates at one end of it, the principal and secretary Liao also consider it more appropriate to build a permanent bridge with a rather low cost. The second requirement is an aesthetic one. As a camping site and a car park are going to be constructed along the southern bank of Beijiang, secretary Liao plans to make the new bridge not only for the transportation but also as a tourist attraction. In fact, the tourism aspect is part of the transformation of the whole Rongshui county. In the previous years, the income of villagers had depended on selling the trees (杉木) cut from the mountains, which leads to environmental problems. The flood that destroyed the bridges along the Beijiang was one of the examples. Based on both financial and aesthetical requirements, secretary Liao and principal proposed the chain bridge.

Apart from the task, the schedule of this surveying tour was a tight one. And I did not find other five of us and wasted some time in Shenzhen underground station on the first day. Although we finally arrived Liuzhou thanks to the help of Kelu, the extra amount of time and strength cost should be better avoided.

Things I learned from this surveying trip. It is always very helpful to understand

the requirements from local people. The surveying work should be adjusted in accordance with the situation on site. Always make sure that there is no problem with the contact among team members. And last but the most important, members of our team were supportive of each other and responsible for their own work.