Introduction

The internship program has 9 civil engineering students, 3 social science students and 1 comparative literature student. We corporated to help the World Vision Vietnam to conduct assessments, CHAST lessons and other activities for the commune and school. We also worked with the workers there to construct a hygiene toilet for the students.

Corporation with WVV

To be honest it was my first time to hold such interviews and activities. I found that Social Science students know so well how to make proper itineraries and conduct interviews fluently. We worked as a team of four and traveled for different interviews. We helped evaluate the toilet built previously in 2015 and did the need assessment of water and sanitation in the Le Xa commune. I learnt a lot in making a video since me and Leo were responsible for the need assessment video.

Bonding with students

Apart from that, we held several events for the school and students such as CHAST lessons, communication corner, WASH contest and photo exhibition. Especially for CHAST lessons, we got along much better with students after the first three (out of six) lessons. We got closer and started to have bonds among us. Some students even asked for our accounts in social networking sites like Facebook and Instagram. We together had taken many photos and treasured many moments. They cried when we left and some of us did the same. But all of us wish them a better future.

Practical experience

The internship program had also given me a lot of on-site experience. Workers there were friendly and hard-working. They not only did a lot to chase the construction progress but also showing their passion and patience to teach us. We learnt several practical skills such as brick-laying, cement plastering and steel bar fixing. This experience is valuable to me because we seldom had the chance in Hong Kong. Apart from that, workers were very skillful and efficient. We found that the progress was quite different from that when we left last time every construction work day.

Conclusion

The Vietnam internship program completely simulated the reality that we would face in our future — working with people from different field and corporating to do projects. It provided us a great chance to experience the working environment and also fulfilled civil engineering students' expected learning outcomes. We captured many useful skills that we would use or monitor workers using them.

Reflection

I treasure the internship program a lot because I also treat it as a chance for training my independence. In that hotel in Hung Yen, I managed to search for food, do the laundry, and maintain a healthy living habit. Changing to a new living environment is definitely a worthy experience to me, I learnt to adapt to the new environment and abandon some unhealthy habits in the past. I miss those delicious dishes and the enthusiastic local people there. Hope that some days I would visit those children again, be that in Hong Kong or Vietnam.