

Mingde Project Vietnam

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Introduction

The project is the sanitation facilities for a local secondary school in Vietnam. Vietnam is a less developed country compared to United Nation and Hong Kong. The level of development is not satisfactory in a global standard. The project is aimed to provide a better and high-standard bathroom for local high school students in Trung Dung commune. On the other hand, this programme is co-organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Comparative Literature and World Vision. We worked at a local school in Vietnam for 7 weeks together with one week of pre-trip training at The University of Hong Kong.

Improve my surveying skills

Doing summer internship, the physical work was not that much. However, I could apply the sense of engineering and knowledge in the project. To commence with, I had to understand the drawings of different parts of toilet. Thanks to surveying and drawing course, I used the basic surveying and drawing technique, which is very important for a successful engineer as we need to work with reference to the drawings. When I had any problems and troubles, I could seek help easily from engineers in the meeting. I enjoyed the internship very much because it boosted my confidence in engineering discipline.

Enhance the knowledge of materials

Besides surveying and drawing skills, the knowledge of materials was required in the construction site. As I was responsible for mixing cement and transporting some steel and sand. I need to know the function and advantages of that materials, such as cost effective and strength. Thanks to the course of engineering mechanics and materials, I could barely understand why we use such materials for the project in Vietnam. The theories and knowledge learnt in lectures could be applied at site work, helping me root those knowledge in minds.

Hone communication skills

Another improvement of me is the communication skill. As the project was in Vietnam, language barrier was the most problematic for me. However, I tried my best and found different methods to solve the problem, for example, seeking interpreters' help and using simple English. Before the internship, I am shy and unconfident to talk to foreigners. Thanks to this unforgettable experience, I have been boosted my confidence and brave to raise questions. Also, construction work is team basis. I used body language to communicate with the labors. After several tries, we can cooperate well and help each other as a team. The communication skills are very important in my future career.

Reflection

I gained practical on-site experience in the summer internship. In the construction work, I followed the workers' order and learnt a lot from their experience of engineering. Different useful skills were applied, for instance brick-laying, steel bar fixing and cement mixing. I have only tried some of them in the laboratory. I could not imagine how fun and interesting it is on site. I hope that I can do related jobs in the future and become an

engineer. In short, the experience of internship improved me a lot, enhancing my knowledge and skills.

Conclusion

All in all, the internship experience is one of the best experiences in my life. It helps me to gain a better understanding of my future career and equip myself with different engineering techniques and sense. Also, it is a good way for me to apply the knowledge I learnt from HKU. I sincerely hope that I would have another chance in the upcoming year. I am pleased that I participated in such meaningful and fruitful project in World Vision.