

Reflection on second trip to Wangdong Bridge

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This was my second trip to Wangdong. Compared to the first one, I had more opportunities to learn engineering knowledge as more teachers were joining the trip.

In this trip, the team had visited the Leyuen bridge, the collapsed Wangdong bridge and the slope near the school. One thing that particularly amazed was how the teachers could make some judgements by simply looking at the structure. To me, they were shockingly fast as I was always under the impression that a lot of experiments have to be done in order to make a conclusion. Perhaps it was the teachers' overwhelming amount of practical experience enabled the swift yet confident analysis on the engineering problem. Perhaps the three sites were indeed simple problems as the villagers could construct them without making a lot of calculations. I could never know as it was the very first time that I saw real engineers to work on a real problem. But one thing is certain: I should look for more of similar experiences such as internships and study trips offered by Mingde to observe real engineering on sites.

The trip had also blessed us with opportunities to experience local cultures. The second day of our trip was Zhongyuean festival, in which the local Miao and Bourau will have series of celebrations. In Hong Kong, we do not even have heard of Zhongyuean festival probably because it is not a public holiday. Yet, joining a trip had given me a chance to witness the traditional cultures. This was one of the invaluable rewards from the trip.

All in all, this had been a really meaning trip to me.