

Visit to Wangdong
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This was a short trip, we did not go to the site but met local construction team in the town. Our major task for this trip is to clarify the suspension bridge design and construction methods of the suspension bridge. We discuss with local contractor about the reinforcement detail of the support at the two ends of the bridge.

Installation of suspension cables is the key step of this bridge construction. As the design is suspension bridge, the loadings will be carried by the suspended cables. These cables need to be pulled into position before fixing the cables on the anchors. In case the cables are pulled in different extent, loadings would act unevenly onto the cables causing some cable overloading. This could make the bridge less durable. Therefore, tiny adjustment of the cables is essential before fixing them in the anchor. Hopefully, this construction procedure will carry out during summer and we may have a chance to visit the site again to observe how they pull those cables.

Throughout the discussion, lots of hand sketching were required to facilitate the communication. Plan views, section views, reinforcement details or even 3D sketches of the bridge were required to visualize the ideas. This provide a great opportunity to practice my hand sketching skill. As we are usually draw by computer programme, such as AutCAD. We seldom have a change to draw by hands. This trip provides me a great learning opportunity in drawing a presentable and tidy hand sketches from experienced engineers.