



Construction

There weren't many chances for me to participate in construction work but I enjoyed the experience. Building a swimming pool was a lot of hard work but the workers were willing to teach us the skills and assign work for us. I consider myself as a “burden” to the construction process because I am no professional nor experienced, it makes me worried about whether the work I've done is helping the process. This is definitely a very meaningful opportunity for me to have hands on experience of building a swimming pond. Even though I didn't participate a lot, I am still proud to see what we've achieved throughout these 48 days.

English club and Child injury prevention lessons

Having the english club was a surprise, but this allowed us to know that the children were capable of speaking and writing english. Different from the regular CIP lessons, students from the english club tried to communicate with us using english. During CIP lessons, students rarely speak in english, they always speak and write vietnamese when they want to express themselves. I wish I had learnt some basic vietnamese before going to Vietnam so that I could understand what they're trying to tell us without the help from interpreters.



During the CIP lessons, it was surprising that they are aware of the risks and understand the preventive measures that we taught them. However, they rarely make use of those preventive measures. Some of their behaviour that we consider as dangerous are simply their usual practices, which we can't change it simply by education.

Relationship with the locals

At first, I was skeptical of my ability to bond with the children and our interpreters, I was very aware of the cultural differences and the difference in language between us. However, everything changed throughout the 48 days in Vietnam.

In the beginning, I had to rely on interpreters to communicate with the children, later, making use of body language and google translate, things became easier and my friendship with the children grew stronger. I was surprised how emotionally attached I am to the children that I cried when we had to leave. Before, I used to consider language as the key to building a relationship. Now, I understand that it was the experiences and the precious time we spent together that brought us together. I will treasure the relationship that is brought to me by this internship.



Thank you for everything!