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Through the internship program of Project Mingde Guangxi, I learnt a lot in this program.

Everything was a new challenge for me. This was my first time to redesign Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science in Kadoorie Centre. Many factors were considered, limitations, accessibility, safety issues, planning and designing of other related facilities etc. As a Year 2 student and a group leader, it was not easy for me since I did not have much technical knowledge in buildings. However, with the assists of other 7 members which were at least Year 3 or above, I was able to do some easier parts such as limitations of transportations and their corresponding solutions. The most satisfactory parts for myself were proposing a concealed horizontal skyway between adjacent buildings among the four faculty buildings and an express lift and footbridge that could bring another direct access to the new campus without walking uphill or taking taxis. I was so pleased since these points could be agreed by others and hence get proposed.

In Guangxi trip, site visits were the best experiences, I learnt some basic knowledges on structures of buildings and bridges. The main elements are beams and columns, concrete, steel and foundations, where the concepts of direct and shear forces, bending moments etc. are applied. Excavating holes in open areas are to provide a separate source of water for fire safety. Also, we could read their layout plans. These are great real-life examples to gain experiences as an engineer in the future for other site visits.

The living standard in Guangxi is lower than that in Hong Kong. Price levels of food and beverages in Guangxi are lower, therefore it feels good for me that I have larger purchasing power in there. However, since we lived in rural areas, there were much more inconveniences. Frequent power suspension took place for the first few days due to unstable electricity supply in hill. Moreover, we faced unstable water supply when we lived in Rongshui, water output of a tap sometimes abruptly decreased when other people opened other taps as well. Also, I felt inconvenient and uncomfortable since I was assigned to a room which did not have private toilets. Cockroaches were even found in our rooms which were really disgusting in Hongshui and Wangdong. I could not sleep well because of worrying hygiene problems.

Although accommodations were not satisfactory, I tried my best to adapt. In addition, it was worthwhile having this trip because I was able to learn the technical knowledges in Mingde Pan Cultural & Community Centre and other site visits, getting along with new friends from my group as well as practicing my leadership skills as a group leader. The most essential part is that a group leader is not a dominator, I need to listen all other members' opinions before making final decisions.