

# Summer Trip to Guangxi

18<sup>th</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2016

By MOK Ming Fai (Jimmy) – BEng (CivE) II

From 18<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> August in 2016, a group consisting of 6 Civil Engineering students went to Guangxi province participating an experiential learning programme, organised by Project Mingde. The main objective of the trip was to help construct a teacher dormitory in a primary school within Daping Village, Rongshui, Guangxi. However, the project was delayed due to road renovation which lasts for half a year. We therefore visited other places in Guangxi to learn local construction practice and tradition, and to solve problems regarding the design of the proposed dormitory.



6 civil students and Boss Wu from a local construction firm

## Site Investigation

We stayed at Daping Primary School for one night and the main issue discovered was the road condition. Due to insufficient communication with local contractors and government departments, the only road to Daping Village was being renovated when we arrived. The project was originally planned to begin in late July in 2016, but was then inevitably delayed since machines and materials could hardly be transported to the site. We foresaw that the road construction would end in late 2016 and it is under consideration when to commence our project. This left us more time to deal with existing problems about our design and to prepare for other contingency plans.



Classrooms in Daping Primary School



Renovation of the only road to Daping Village

## **Voluntary Teaching**

In Daping Primary School, we had a half-day lesson with the students about first aid. We taught the students about different types of injury which they may encounter and how to handle the wounds immediately. We asked them questions and prepared some gifts to encourage them. Unexpectedly, they were extremely enthusiastic and actively answered our questions even without the gifts. The smiles on their faces when we handed them the gifts were invaluable. They might not have seen those products before, so they were cheerful no matter how cheap the gifts were according to Hong Kong people. A candle which seems useless to us could be a fantastic toy for kids or a useful tool to villagers during power failures.



Students of Daping Primary School

## Site Visits

We visited several construction sites in Rongshui which were supervised by Boss Wu, the boss of a construction firm we were cooperating with in the project in Daping Village. We had a brief understanding of construction practices in Rongshui and learnt something from the projects that could be applied in our project. The local construction style had quite a lot of differences when compared with that in Hong Kong. This was mainly due to the constraints of machines and materials available in rural areas. A few points related to soil condition, weather, relief and materials might help in our project.



Construction site in Tonglian



Construction site in Rongshui

## Cultural Experience

We stayed at a house of Ke Lu, the responsible person of a community centre in Rongshui, for a weekend. It was a wonderful experience for us. We went swimming in rivers, hiking, playing basketball and stargazing in a Saturday and a Sunday. It was very relaxing and uncommon for urban people like us.



A river nearby Ke Lu's house



A waterfall nearby Ke Lu's house

## **Sightseeing**

In weekends, we visited the more famous cities in Guangxi for a short period of time. We went sightseeing in Liuzhou and Sanjiang and saw another side of Guangxi, which is richer and more urbanised. There were great differences between the urban and rural cities in the same province in China. Not only in prosperity, but also in culture, human connection and style of living could we find diversity. These weekends let us understand more about Guangxi in addition to the bare construction practice.



Wind and Rain Bridge in Sanjiang

### **Student participants from Department of Civil Engineering:**

CHAN Quan Chak (Chak) – BEng (CivE) IV

LEUNG Kai Wang (Leung) – BEng (CivE) IV

MOK Ming Fai (Jimmy) – BEng (CivE) II

TAM Lom Him (Andy) – BEng (CivE) III

TSUI Man Cheuk (mc) – BEng (CivE-EnvE) IV

YIM Wai (Wai) – BEng (CivE) VII