



明德工程  
Project Mingde  
VIRTUS ET INGENIUM

# PROJECT MINGDE 明德工程

## “We Grow as We Build – 建屋育人”



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CIVIL ENGINEERING

### History

- Initiated by a 1971 graduate and supported by a group of dedicated alumni and teaching staff of the Civil Engineering Department in **2003**.
- Aims:
  - to **nurture students** acquiring not only **hard engineering skills** but also **soft skills of social responsibility and project management**;
  - to help **relieve the education problems of ethnic minority children** in remote mountainous Guangxi Province.



### Yingdong Footbridge (英洞橋)

- Located at Yingdong Village in Guangxi, which provides access to the Yingdong Primary School across the river.
- Completed in June 2013 to replace the deteriorated footbridge.



### Experiential Learning

- Direct encounter** with the phenomena being studied.
- Personal growth** via **cultural exchange** and **real-life experience of hardship and poverty** by participating in all stages of a real-life project.



2004

2006

2008

2010

2012

2014



### Mingde Building (明德樓)

- Completed in **October 2005**.
- Realised the 10-year dream of having a primary school** for the Xiali Village (下里屯) in Guangxi.



### Zhengdong Jie Kindergarten (正東街幼兒園)

- The 80-year-old Zhengdong Jie Kindergarten in Chongzhou was damaged and demolished after the **512 Wenchuan Earthquake in 2008**.
- Together with the **Operation Concern**, the new building was completed in 3 years.



### Gewu Building (格物樓)

- The second project** of Project Mingde.
- A **student dormitory** for the Rong Shui Vocational Training School in Rong Shui (融水), Guangxi.



## Current Projects

### *Cultural and Community Centre at Dabao Village, Guangxi*

- A new building to replace the existing damaged school; to facilitate community activities; and to preserve the Yao's (瑶族) cultural legacy.
- 11 site visits organized by the Project Team since 2012.
- The Architect, Elisabeth Lee, participated in the 2013 Bi-City Urbanism/Architecture Biennale (Hong Kong) showcasing the architectural aspects of this project.



## Recent Activities

### Projects:

- The construction contract of the **Dabao project** has been signed on 17 November 2013 and the **construction** of the foundation has already **started**. The whole project is expected to be completed by June 2014.

### Friends of Mingde:

- A close communication network, "**Friends of Mingde**" has been established in 2012, aiming at fostering collective efforts and building a sustainable platform for connecting and inspiring past and future participants of Project Mingde.
- An **exhibition** displaying the past and present of Project Mingde will be organized in the covered area outside the Main Library at HKU from **20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014**.
- A **seminar** on Project Mingde will be held at Wang Gungwu Theatre, Graduate House, HKU on **27<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 6:30 - 7:30pm**.
- To celebrate the **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Project Mingde**, a trip to Guangxi will be organized in October 2014.



## Special Thanks to

- The **Lee Hysan Foundation** for supporting more than 200 students' visits since 2008.
- The **Gallant Ho Experiential Learning Fund** for supporting experiential learning of 12 students since 2012.
- **Prof. S.Y. Sun (孫述宇)** for offering a precise Latin translation of Project Mingde – **VIRTUS ET INGENIUM** – where "Virtus" corresponds to "明德" and "Ingenium" is equivalent to "工程".
- **Mr. Henry Steiner** for creating the distinguished and extraordinary logo of Project Mingde.
- **Dr. D.J. Guo** who led Project Mingde since 2004 until his retirement in June 2013. His dedication to the Project will be remembered by all the peoples involved.

## Contact Us

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## 明德工程: VIRTUS ET INGENIUM

VIRTUS 和 INGENIUM 分別對應 明德 及 工程 兩詞。在香港大學校園中, 對應 明德 的也是 VIRTUS。拉丁文 VIRTUS 是英文 virtue 的前身, 有本有 力量、身體、優越、德行 等意思。VIRTUS 的來源是 VIR, 指 "男子漢", 因此 "力量" 是它的基本意思。

工程 在英文是 engineering, 詞源可追溯到古法文的 engine, 再到拉丁的 INGENIUM。這個拉丁詞的詞源是 in- (在) 和法文中文為 en-, 詞基是 gen-, 意思是 "生產"。古時羅馬人用 INGENIUM 來指 "才幹、天生品質" 以及 "靈巧之作"。



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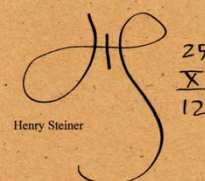
### Comments on the Project Mingde visual identity

A successful mark must combine the clarity of a target with the memorability and visual distinction of a flag.

The Project Mingde mark is built around a unique articulation of the *Kai Shu* script *ming* character. It is dynamic, contrasting the components of the word with colors referring to day and night; also suggesting the turning pages of a book, symbol of learning.

The use of a single character to identify an entity with a longer name is a standard technique as may be seen in the use of the character *chung*, for example, in many differing corporate logos.

As a designer I am honored to have the opportunity of being associated with this commendable mission.

  
Henry Steiner

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