**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:
  - (a) to **nurture students** acquiring not only **hard engineering skills** but also **soft skills of social responsibility and project management**;
  - (b) to help **relieve the education problems of ethnic minority children** in remote mountainous Guangxi Province.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.
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 20th to 22nd March 2014.
- A *seminar* on Project Mingde will be held at Wang Gungwu Theatre, Graduate House, HKU on 27th March 2014, 6:30 - 7:30pm.
- To celebrate the 10th 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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