

## **Reflection on Experiential learning programme in Vietnam**

**(15<sup>th</sup> June – 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2015)**

**YANG Zi Yuan (Marcus)**

This internship in Vietnam is a cross discipline internship as we need to cooperate with Social Sciences students. We exchange our knowledge and ideas from two different group to solve problems, especially doing need assessment. They will use some diagram to facilitate group discussion and we have learnt how to communicate with children. After finish of lavatory construction, they will concern about teaching the local people how to use the lavatory properly and remind them washing hand. The education service should be provided after providing the hardware and awareness of hygiene can be improved.

It should be our first time to have a real and practical experience of being a worker to dig the ground by using shovel, to mix cement with water and sand, to use wheeled trolley to deliver materials, to try reinforcement fixing in construction site, and build a brick masonry wall. All of them are the manual labor. The correct method to balance load through your body and correct movement posture of human body are needed. For example, when you try to move up something heavy at the ground, you should crouch down first and uplift it by sharing the load to the muscle of legs instead of bending the waist only. Uplifting the load by bending the waist only will do harm to the waist and it is easier to get hurt in long term. For delivering materials like bricks, human-chain line should be a good method because of its high efficiency. It provides a good chance to establish cooperation of teammates. While watching the workers doing reinforcement fixing, it seems quite easy and interesting. However, the skills of doing that is not that easy to learn.

Meanwhile, this internship should be a practice for us to use the knowledge of drawing learnt from university. Before going to construction site every time, we need to read through the drawing first to learn about the details of the work that day. When we are on the site, with the help from interpreters and information from drawing, this will be good for us to supervise and monitor the work. Although we encounter many new symbols which we have not learnt from lecture, we can understand most through proper deduction.

According to site workers, in Vietnam, it seems most of them do not rely on the drawing design so much because of their low educational level. While constructing a lavatory like this, they may have their schedule in their mind already because of their

experience. Therefore, we need to communicate with the workers to know their progress and what they will do next working day. This helps to make sure that the working progress is within our expectation.

Finally, I want to say 'Thank you' to our interpreters. Without their help, we cannot finish the internship. We need translation in ordering food, buying daily life things and being in school of course. They are responsible and reliable. It is believed that we will meet in one day.