

Reflection on the trip to Guangxi (5th – 8th March 2016)

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The trip on 5-8 March was a fascinating experience to me. As usual, we had taken a long hour on the transportation to the living place on the first day on our trips. Then on the next day, we travelled to Daping Primary School to have in-depth discussion on the design of new teacher dormitory with the representatives from the school and the architects and the Guangxi University. The discussion went fluently and each of us had shared our own comments on the project thoroughly. I strongly felt the passion and kindness of the helping parties as they showed their unrelenting effort on improving all details of the project to the full. Additionally, there was a unforgettable moment for me during the meeting. The architects once mentioned on the special design of the outer wall of the building, the porous brick wall. This idea originated to their inspiration from the layering farmlands, which existed everywhere around Daping School. The distinctive patterns of the voids on the porous wall stimulated and symbolized the unique geological features in high mountainous region in China. This showed the determination of the architects on respecting the local culture of ethnic minorities in light of their creative layout. Furthermore, when the architects expressed their concerns on the increase in the construction cost of the innovative design on the wall, the contractor Mr. Ng had brought up with some genuine and touching words, 'If I am here to discuss on the money of the project, I will have left here a long time ago.' As a contractor, he could surely place much emphasis on gaining more money from the construction project. However, he thought in an opposite way that the most important element of this project was nothing but the benefit delivered to the primary school. He was a good role model for us as he paid much attention on improving the education quality of the next generation.