

Reflection on Building a library for a local secondary school in Vietnam (12th June – 29th July 2016)

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Times fly, 49 days in Vietnam has gone. This Project Mindge construction in Vietnam teach me a lot of things. I gain knowledge not only in civil engineering aspect but also in social science research and personal growth.

First of all, as an assistant resident engineer in this project. I had a first-hand on site experience which really broaden my horizons. Over watching different stage of the construction project was a great lesson. Starting from doing the foundation of the library, back filling, brick works, casting reinforced concrete, building the roof and then seeing the whole project complete within 2 months, I feel so proud and excited.

I learnt lots of civil engineering techniques in site. First of all, I learn how to dig a hole and then back filling by using the shovel correctly. Then I learn how to bend steel bar and make concrete in order to cast the reinforced concrete beams and columns. After that I learn how to do brick works as the wall. Although some of the techniques may not be adopted in Hong Kong as some of them may be replaced by machine. However, it was a great fun and a golden experience to try it and learn it on site. As I think engineer need to know every tiny little thing in site so as to manage the whole project successfully. Moreover, this is my first time going into real construction site. I released the safety concern on site and we learn that the most important things in site is safety. The sense of safety of Vietnam workers mind is not enough in some case, we try to discuss the problem with them. I also learn how to alert safety afterwards.

I also have a chance to do some social science research in this project. We go to some village visit and discuss with local people trying to set plan to improve their living. The village is really poor and the living condition is not good. In this project I learn how to cooperate with student with different majors. I learn how to do a social science research and understand what the local people need. Apart from this, this Vietnam experience was a great opportunity to train myself. Try to overcome difficulties and challenges such cultural barrier, language barrier and environment barrier. This is my first time to go to a developing country and I can say that I can survive in that environment. This is already a golden experience for me.