

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

FONG Chun Wai (William)

During the internship period in this project, I not only recalled engineering knowledge gained in classroom but also learnt a lot of simple techniques on construction work that cannot be seen in Hong Kong. I learnt the construction process of different structures of the building. I learnt how to practically cast concrete on beams and columns. I also learnt steel fixing and how to bend the steel with simple tools. Besides, I understood that project management was important. Different steps of the construction could start together. For examples, when building the brick wall, steel cutting and bending can work at the same time so that the steel bars were prepared before the reinforcement of beam. Some parts of backfilling work can also be done first in order to provide a safe and clean transportation path and increase the efficiency of brick wall construction. A good project management can shorten the time of construction and reduce the risk of injury.

Being as assistant resident engineer, I also understand that there are many uncertainties in the construction site. There may be a change of the design by the contractor. The dimension of the structures may not be the same as that on the drawing. I should be alert to any kinds of the changes and carefully check the details of the structures. I should have the sense that not only talk to the contractors but also discuss with clients and consultants in order to reach the agreement.

Being as the leader of the team, I gained the experience of coordinating different kinds of people. I was trained to think about how to distribute works to team members, think of what others may think and what they need. I also developed habit of planning schedule for the future and setting an internal deadline. During the trip, I learnt from others and work as a part of team to complete every tasks.

In this project, I learnt a lot and underwent different processes of construction. I witnessed the whole construction of library from none to its operation. This was a valuable period and the experience of my lifetime.