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BEng (CivE-EnvE) IV

As a graduate-to-be, I was able to apply many of the knowledges I have obtained from my last 4 years of study. Including engineering mechanics and materials, TD1 and TD2 when considering the structure of the building, soil mechanics and foundation engineering when we are handling problems related to geotechnical problems.

The Guangxi team has visited various schools that are under construction in TongLian and RongShui. Thanks to Boss Wu, the site engineers gave us tours around their sites and explained many local practices to us. We have visited various sites and were lucky enough because the projects were on very different stages so we can learn more. Things can be both quite similar and very different in Mainland China when compared to Hong Kong. For example, they may be required to wear safety helmets, yet they are allowed to wear some very casual plastic shoes. It is not surprised that mainland China have their own codes and ways to deliver engineering information on drawings. It took us many time to understand at the beginning but we soon adapted to it.

In the end, we could not witness the construction of the DaPing School. So me and my teammates have been trying very hard to obtain more necessary information for the project. The design is still debatable now since engineers in Hong Kong are not very good at construction with bricks. We have also spent many times studying different construction diagrams of different sites. They may not be useful for the Da Ping project but it was a valuable experience since we can apply our knowledges in the real world. We had to do read Chinese codes, consider foundation settlements and think about the layout of water pipes. It was moment when we realized that what we have learnt in the past few years can be very practical and are actually very useful. We understand how different topics we have learnt can be applied to the same project or building. Therefore, Project Mingde is not only a voluntary engineering project that helps the poor and underprivileged in Mainland China, students do also benefit and learn a lot while we are at work.

Personally, I have a great feeling about the team work between me and my teammates because one person cannot possibly go through so many things at one time. We always split into pairs, investigate separately into different issues in order to be efficient. We hold meetings in the afternoon to report our findings and meetings at night to finalize the daily report. We are more efficient as a team now when compared to the beginning in terms of applying our textbook knowledges and communicating with different parties. Thanks to this course I am able to work as a better individual and be more efficient. I hope the Da Ping Project will eventually complete and would really like to pay a visit to the site again. This experiential learning has certainly been a fruitful trip.