

## Reflection of Daping trip

8 Oct - 10 Oct

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This is my first time to go to Daping village. It is a memorable and valuable experience, and I did gain a lot through this trip.

For many people, it maybe their first time to go to such a rural area in China but it is not the same case to me. I have been to my hometown where was quite poor and desolate ten years ago but it is now developed well due to rapid development of China's economy in recent years. I had a imagination that the infrastructures and housing should be quite good in Guangxi before starting the trip, however, we cannot see the projection of modern day China's successful economic development there. When we were taking the high speed train in Guangxi, I could only see some farms and worn houses. They created a great contrast to the advanced high speed railway beside.

During the site supervision on the second day, I did learn a lot about building engineering including some construction methods and some new engineering terms. One of the most unforgettable things that I found is the dormitory is not a standard reinforced concrete structure but a brick wall structure. Although it consists of numbers of beams and columns seem to be a support of the whole building, we discovered that the steel bars used is not thick enough to bear loads. Told by Prof Tham, all loads are transferred to brick walls and so it is belong to a kind of brick wall structure which is very common in rural area due to its lower cost. Moreover, I found that something theoretically correct may not be really correct on site. Engineer Luk told us that workers encountered many obstacles when implemented the original design. He had to make some changes in order to overcome the difficulties and adapt to the local environment. It made me truly understand a Chinese proverb '因地制宜'.

The visit of the collapsed bridges gave me a chance to realize and appreciate the super power of nature. Human is comparatively negligible to the nature. We can reduce a little part of the damage from it by engineering and our willpower but cannot beat it. We need to treat nature with great appreciation and respect.

The trip also provided me with a valuable opportunity to practise my social skill. We had meals with the teachers of Daping school and officials of the village on the second day. We had to show our respect and courtesy to people who is more senior than you at all time even you are wanna to challenge them. The most important point of interpersonal interaction I learned is capability to drink wine (in high percentage of alcohol). I did drink much wine in the meals and they tasted very good, especially '重陽酒' in Daping school.

Finally, I learned the life I am leading now is not granted. When we was having a fruitful lunch in the school, the students outside could only have rice and a little vegetables. We must treasure what we have in Hong Kong.