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This is my very first time going to remote area of Guangxi, China, with fellow students also from the Faculty of Engineering. The entire experience is definitely eye-opening and unforgettable. Living in the modern and affluent society – Hong Kong, I have only watched footages of the unprivileged from television shows, never have the chance to really get close to the people and the environment. I couldn't really expect what I would encounter in this working trip.

I have experienced many new things in the trip, first time crossing the border at Lok Ma Chau, first time taking the Shenzhen metro, first time taking the high speed railway in China, first time having a car ride at a road without street lightings etc.. I have received warm welcomes from the locals there, despite having diverse cultural backgrounds.

Vivid memories stayed by the moment I reached Daping village – a village up on hill, where people grow crops on terraced farmland; the kids in school, the hideous dorm rooms and bathrooms of the pupils. To be frank, me myself wouldn't be able to stand living in a place with such hygienic status. That was when I feel delighted that we are working bit by bit to improve their living condition.

I was in charge of measuring the built items according to the drawings. It was my first time going to a construction site and help out there. Throughout the trip, I have learnt the importance of hands-on experience for engineers. Engineers don't merely follow the drawings for nothing. Sometimes we have to be familiar with the situations around that place in order to make prompt decisions, so as to create better solutions that suit the particular environment. I would not be able to adopt this kind of thinking if I bury my head in books only during my stay in university.

I am very glad that I have joined this trip. I doubt that I would have a second chance to go to Daping and come across all these treasurable memories. If time allows, I wish I could witness the teachers' dorm come into service in the future.