

Reflection on the Trip to Rongshui

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I am more than grateful to have this opportunity to be a part of Mingde working trip again. Despite this is my second time to Rongshui and Daping Primary School, there are still tonnes waiting for me to learn.

Our tasks this time are far different from last time's. Last visit was mainly for site supervision of the Teachers' Accommodation of Daping Primary School, but this time it is for land surveying of Tengchuen Bridge in order to determine the number of bridge spans to be reconstructed and to make possible structural designs for it. I am very glad that we can interact with engineering students of different years and even from different universities. I have learnt a lot from the year threes and the students from South China University of Technology. They are very patient and willing to share their knowledge and experiences. Without them, the land surveying work wouldn't be that smooth. I found this form of exchange interesting and rewarding as we can gain insights from people with different educational backgrounds. We have discussed on our professors' thoughts and ideas for the Tengchuen Bridge as well as the distinctive learning culture of our universities.

My observations and interactions with the villagers made me realize that convenient transportation plays an indispensable role in bringing a place to prosper. There are two differences between the roads we went through this trip and the last one. Only three months ago, the concrete road in Daping was not yet completed, that we had to switch to another car before reaching Daping Primary School, which is at a high altitude. The second is a newly built highway from Rongshui to Sanjiangnan high speed railway station. In spite of several incomplete connections between sections of the new highway, the driver made our way through it. The ride was really bumpy and somehow perilous. Yet, the driver insisted on driving on the incomplete road. He had successfully saved an hour or two taking the new road instead of the long old one, so that he could proceed to another job earlier. He gave me a strong feeling of how diligent the Chinese are; and how much risks the Chinese are willing to take to strive for a higher living standard.

I remember Dr. Wong recited from a villager, "After roads are built, life becomes better." This triggered my thoughts for the real need for this Tengchuen Bridge or even a better transportation system in general. What the villagers need may not be merely materials or technical assistance for a single infrastructure, but the easy transportation for construction materials in and out of the village, up and down the mountain. With convenient transportation, a lot of costs can be saved for constructions and businesses. Villagers could enjoy goods at a lower price and sell goods at a lower cost.