

Reflection on Guigang Working Trip (25th - 26th February, 2017)

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Surveying, Year 2

This was my second working trip to Guigang. I was so glad that I could return to Duling Primary School, to meet the principal and teachers again. Last time we were welcomed by the lovely pupils who all lined up in the playground, singing with their beautiful voices to the new friends. This time we were no longer new to each other, and I could feel the warm and familiar greetings.

Last trip was mainly focusing on the needs of the school. I was responsible for interviewing the principal and teachers in order to understand their wishes as well as the constraints of the school. We prepared a feasibility report and proposed a preliminary design after weeks of discussion. Encouragingly, we could revisit the school to present our ideas. Hopefully it could be adopted in future so that we could bring our plan.

Compared to the past two working trips that I joined in Project Mingde, this trip was quite different yet remarkable because I took part in the architectural survey, investigating on the architectural features and building materials in the local area, and the daily habits of the villagers. During the visit to the villages, I got to know more about the living conditions of the locals and how the pupils walked to school daily. I also realized that majority of the kids were raised by their grandparents as their parents left home to work in towns. It was unsurprising to see that many kids only reunited with their parents few times a year.

Despite only spending two days in Guigang, this trip was very rewarding as I could get a hand-on experience of architectural survey and understand the local culture which I would definitely not gain from just reading books. I felt so honoured to take part in this project again. I hope the proposal could be approved and that construction work could commence soon so as to help improve the condition of the school at the earliest.