

Reflection on Project Mingde Summer Camp 2017 (11th – 15th June, 2017)

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On the first 1.5 days, it was basically travelling. Our destination was Daping Village in Rongshui, Guangxi, which is a really rural place. Although it was just travelling, I still noticed something interesting which I will get back to later.

After arriving at the village, we lived in the library of the Daping Primary School since the village is really short of resources. We had to bath in a building which was designed by PM but not yet completed; the building has yet to have water supply and drainage system and the bathing experience was awful. We had to prepare a bucket of water and bring it to a 'room' in the building and use a smaller bowl to pour water onto the body. The sleeping experience was also awful: even we brought mats, it was so hard and there were dozens of insects crawling all over the floor. One morning, I found two dead flying geese on my blanket.

Anyway, on the third and fourth day, we carried out voluntary teaching at the school. I am in the medical team and taught students the proper way to perform hand hygiene, the negative impacts of smoking, and how to brush teeth thoroughly. We also helped villagers and teachers to check their BMI and blood pressure and gave health advice correspondingly. Other teams did other activities such as teaching kids how to make a goose using a paper, demonstrating interesting chemical experiments etc.

In the afternoon of the fourth day, we departed the village and returned to the town of Guangxi. As mentioned, although it was only transportation, I noticed something interesting. There was a lot of rain in Guangxi these few days, and there were a lot of landslides. We were sitting on a huge coach and we often had to go down the coach and watch it carefully pass through the tiny gap. What I concluded is that the geotechnical works, such as landslides prevention and management, was much poorer compared to other structural works. There are a lot of bridges, schools, buildings being built, but the management and prevention of these natural disasters have drawn little attention.

In conclusion, it is really a fruitful experience. It was eye-opening and it taught me to treasure everything that we possess.