

Self Reflection

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I am a participant of Project Mingde (Vietnam) in the year of 2017. Project Mingde provided me with an opportunity enriching both my practical civil engineering related knowledge and skills as well as international vision, and also broadening exposure to the multicultural environment and enhancing communication skills in English. I heard of the Project Mingde working in Vietnam when I was in year one. They have built a public toilet and a secondary school library in cooperation with World Vision Vietnam before my participation. I found it incredibly meaningful. Instead of taking an internship in Hong Kong as most students did, I made up my mind to take this extraordinary opportunity constructing a library for a local Vietnamese commune. Having gone through eight weeks of the internship, I can tell I have learnt more than what I have contributed to the village.

We worked as advisers monitoring the construction progress on behalf of World Vision Vietnam. We arranged a weekly meeting with contractors and worker representatives, urging them to comply with the work schedule as well as clarify all the design and construction issues found. Since it is a small scale project, which is extremely rare in Hong Kong, this enables us to practically read and learn all the design drawings of different disciplines and detailed work plan all at once. At the last day of construction, we also participated in the handover meeting ensuring all the final product comply with the design drawings and commitments during weekly meetings. These are all exciting and joyful experience. Apart from this, we also worked as an ordinary worker, mixing concrete and mortar, anchoring steel bars, casting concrete, laying finishing, doing brick works, constructing the false works etc. These works are all demanding, due to the unfavourable working environment, and difficult to do the tasks correctly and more efficiently. We started from the very beginning - how to use a shovel - and then learned all the tools and machinery according to the construction progress. I am grateful to have such handy experience as I will probably not have such engineering training after my graduation.

The Mingde Project (Vietnam) program have provided an excellent engineering training and equipped me with global vision that no other local internship program can match. After this internship, I believe I am confident to say I am able to work in the most hazardous working environment in Hong Kong. I also believe that there is more solution than problems even facing unexpected changes and

challenges. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all my colleagues from the civil engineering department, World Vision Vietnam and also Lecturer Dr Ryan Wong for all the help, advises and coordination. These are the foundation of my joyful learning experience in this Project Mingde (Vietnam) program.