

Moa Ka Wa

Project Mingde provided me such a great opportunity to gain real life on-going experience, technical and practical knowledge related to civil engineering. Before choosing this program, I was noticed that this program is organized with World Vision and therefore I chose this program because I am enthusiastic on doing voluntary work. I believed that this is a great chance for me to widen my knowledge and in the mean time fulfill my dream. It turns out that I am correct. In these 2 month, I did not only gain a lot of knowledge and experience related to civil engineering, I also learn to think about many things in other fields like in social science. I needed to think more about the social situation in other countries such as their needs, their living condition and their growth environment.

In this program, it gave me a first touch to a construction. I did not participate in any of engineering related works or program ever before. I believe this is the first time that most of us, civil engineering students, to be a role to build, to communicate and the supervise the whole construction. Appointed as an assistant resident engineer taught me to adapt the working environment after I graduated from university although I believe that it is different from in Vietnam because we have a great different system in Hong Kong to take care all the workers. Before this internship program, I knew just a little about of construction. The knowledge from the books, lectures and examination are almost useless because none of them can play a role in a real construction. A real construction need experience. The workers in the construction cite did not mixed the mortar with book knowledge. They mixed it with experience. They provided us many opportunities to build the walls by ourselves, to teach us to make a drawing with efficiency, to provide a place for us to rest and to teach us how to be an engineer with fruitful experience. Through the library inspection, we learn the required categories for a good building construction. The structure of the building itself is important but we cannot oversee some functional minor elements like a rain drainage pipe. If the pipe is stuck, it will bring a lot of inconvenience.

Apart from civil engineering experience, we also learn to cooperate with the social science student since we needed to do research on reading habit and the need assessments in some communes. Many civil engineering works are not independent from needs. Civil engineers are mainly focus on what and how, but the social science are focus on why and what. We change the things through practice by how, they learn why and what to change. Therefore, this is a new experience and challenge for us.

This internship program provided me a great chance to know more about what I need to be. If someone said I gain a lot of knowledge from this trip, I would rather say I got evolved to face many challenges. Before this trip, I thought that our duty is to fix problem with engineering skills and knowledge. But now I know it is far more than that. We also need to identify what is the problems and what problem will happen before we need to think of a way to fix the problem. With the help from my groupmates and lecturer, they help me to finish this internship program, they also taught me that I still have a long way to go before becoming a professional engineering.