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This is my first trip as a Mingde member. It is also my first time going to Tengcun, Guangxi. Everything was new to me and I had some great experience.

Our aim is to visit and check the progress of reparation of the tengcun bridge, which was damaged in 2016. Project Mingde tried to help the villagers tear down and rebuild the bridge. However, the rebuilding cost was too high and is not cost effective. Therefore, the villagers used their own method to repair the bridge. They managed to repair it without tearing it down. We are amazed by their work. It is unbelievable that they only need 3 people with simple equipment like jack, concrete and lumber to repair the bridge.

Apart from the bridge, we also observed the buildings near the village. The buildings are different from those in Hong Kong. The buildings there was built by bricks and was only half completed. On the contrary, Hong Kong's buildings are usually built by concrete and the construction work will not stop until it ends. It is because of the different in nature of the two places. Hong Kong's labour price is much higher than that of Guangxi's. using bricks instead of concrete as building material will greatly increase the construction time and thus increase the total cost.

Besides the tengcun bridge, we observed other bridges near the village. Many of them are also destroyed by the flood occurred last year. I realised how destructive mother nature can be. In the rural and remote areas of China, there are many more villages lacking the technology and capital for their infrastructure. Project Mingde can help them to build those facilities and improve their living standard. It is really meaningful to join the activities.

Apart from bridges and buildings, Another thing I had seen is the natural environment of Guangxi. It requires 5 hours for the car to go from the high speed railway station to tengcun. During the 5 hours, I enjoyed the scenery. There are many beautiful mountains, trees and rivers that cannot be seen in Hong Kong. Furthermore, I was given a chance to talk to the people in Guangxi. I knew more about the culture and daily life of the villagers. For example, in tengcun, most teenages and adults have to work in towns and cities. Therefore, there are only elderlies and a few adult left in the village.

This trip was an excellent experience. In the future, I hope I can join more journey from Mingde.