

Ng Tsun Yu

Trip Reflection:

This was my first trip organized by Mingde project and it has become the most rewarding trip I have had.

Just before the trip, I had been under the illusion that I was exempted from being responsible as I was the new member. I had been very apathetic to my role and oblivious to the schedule of the trip – and that had contributed to the disasters in the first day.

At the first day, my teammates and I were scheduled to gather at the Lok Ma Chau at 1.15pm and board the Gaotie departing at 2.15pm. The schedule was very tight for we had to cross the border and rush to Shenzhen North station within an hour, not to mention we were crossing the border at the first day of Easter Holiday. Hordes of people were lining up for crossing the borders and this result was that, of course, we missed the first train to Guangzhou South and two more transfer trains to Guilin.

It might seem that the one responsible for the transportation and gathering time was responsible for the predicaments but I would firmly oppose any notion of condemning any single one for the error in scheduling and in fact, the one who planned the trip had done an excellent job for planning the trip ahead. The problem was, instead, that the team was too reliant on him. I myself, for example, did not even know the departure time of the trains and what transports I would take until I arrived Lok Ma Chau. This was how unsightly I was, a second year HKU student. It was just one error in the scheduling and it was totally acceptable for one person making the trip. But if it were five HKU students overlooking this error due to ignorance, none of us would be able to escape the responsibility.

Fortunately, our team spirit resumed after the initial fails and that had saved the day.

As the day went on, more trains were missed and the situation was becoming direr. We hired a van going to Guangzhou South station and were only informed that the last available train to Guilin on that day would depart at Guangzhou North station within one hour.

Another critical hour of the day. But this time, the team was different after knowing how difficult the situation has become. Contrary to my initial attitude, the team was desperate for a successful trip. During our travel to Guangzhou South, the team had researched every last possible route to Guilin, reorganized the rendezvous location in Guilin, returned the tickets for missed trains, reordered the new tickets to Guilin and finally organized another route to Guangzhou North station. If the team was a pile of loose sand before “the first critical hour” of the day, then at “the second critical hour”, it

would be a stone castle fortified with team spirit.

By the time we arrived Guangzhou North station, the sky was already dark and our last chance to go to Guilin would vanish in 15 minutes. To our dismay, another crowd of people awaiting outside the station for boarding. The day was saved when our team broke through the crowd together by asking the crowd for letting us through and the time remaining was counting to 5 minutes. Carrying our bags and the surveying equipment, with all our might, our team made a final dash to the train...

A day of big ups and downs. A night that would forever be dreamt of. An hour of tale to tell. This was the first day of our surveying trip; and the lesson – What is teamwork? Teamwork is that everyone giving their all to the team. It does not matter which role you have (new members, organizers, leaders), each member contributing and helping with all they can do makes a team. In other words, attitude makes a team.