

Mingde Project Vietnam

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Introduction

The internship program was organized by Project Mingde cooperated with World Vision Vietnam to complete a construction of toilet for a local school in the Trung Dung Commune of Vietnam.

Engineering Knowledge

The internship offered a valuable opportunity to get in touch the both practical problems and the academic knowledge. For instance, I had to tackle problems, like the method of brick transferring, instantly on site. Moreover, the knowledge learnt in lesson was useful and applicable in the meeting with the contractors and the reading of the drawings. Flaws in the drawings were spotted and discussed during the meetings. On the construction site, different procedure required certain basic knowledge. For example, having the knowledge of the water-cement ratio and the classification of rocks could aid the working and monitoring process.

On the other hand, communicating with local workers and contractors were another challenging task in the internship. The difference in language was really a barrier to our communication. Although there were interpreters for translation, we had to use gesture to talk with the worker. Despite the difficulties, I could still interact with them after several practices. The key of communication was practice through trials. This would be an excellent step for the possible engineering career in foreign countries.

Social Science Skills

The internship programme was co-organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Comparative Literature and World Vision. For this reason, I got chances to get involved in the social science related task, such as need assessment and most significant change story. These works seemed to be disconnected to the engineering discipline, but in fact they were somehow related to the investigation and research part of engineering projects. In the preparation of need assessment, we had to interview locals so as to obtain information about the current demand and suggestion from the villagers. By preparing the questions and participating in the interview, I learned the effective way to obtain desirable information from the interviewee. In addition, the research of the district had taught me the skill to analysis through different aspects. In fact, before every construction project, comprehensive investigation of the site and the surrounding environment should be carried out. For instance, the Hong Kong government had accomplished the Environment Impact Assessment for the Shatin to Central Link. The soft skills learnt in this internship would be handy in the future career.

In the internship, many tasks had to be complete with a team, including the need assessment and construction work. Hence, cooperating well with teammates was crucial to our efficiency. With the clear division of labour, tasks could be completed at the shortest time without the waste of labour force. To illustrate, after everyone knew their role in transferring bricks, the work was a lot easier and effective than working separately. Spotting out the problem instantly and solve it accordingly was important in teamwork.

Conclusion

Seeking knowledge through books will never be enough, but by observing and experiencing, there will be a whole new perspective to view the world. In short, the internship was a life-changing experience. Indeed, the program had prepared me to adopt into the future engineering career.

