

Reflection on second trip to Wangdong Bridge

Wang Yu Shen

In the period of 24th August to 26th August, I visited Wangdong, Guangxi to investigate the commune's need of crossing the river. This is my second visit to Wangdong and the first visit was mainly surveying a collapsed bridge.

On the first day of the trip, the itinerary was mainly transportation from Hong Kong to the destination. However, we had some wonderful discussion with professors about the engineering current affairs. I believe that Project Mingde is a good channel to connect with academic staff and explore the applied engineering field.

Next day, we had a site visit over different routes and bridges to explore potential solutions to ease the river crossing of the villagers to mainly access a primary school and farmland in the opposite of the river. They have 3 relevant bridges in the vicinity. The closest one is a pedestrian bridge which collapsed in a strong flood. It was a direct route from the residential area to the school.

In the later time of the day, we participated in the local festival Chong Yuen Festival. We had Hundred-family Feast (百家宴) with tables of cuisine on the street. The feast started as the firework kicked off. We also watched the water Sumo competition which participants pushed each other off a narrow plank standing above the river. Project Mingde is a valuable chance for students to reach culture beyond Hong Kong to understand the rituals, food and habits.

The third day was also mainly about transportation. We discussed a lot with professors and came up with ideas for the report writing.

In conclusion, Project Mingde is a fruitful experience that broaden my horizons not only in civil engineering field but also in culture aspect. I hope that I can take part in more similar programs and trips.