

Reflection of study trip to Wangdong (2 – 3 Mar 2019)

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This was the first time I had the opportunity to observe the progress made on the reconstruction of Wangdong Bridge. Although my exposure towards this project was limited, it certainly provided me with an enlightening experience, it also allowed me to quickly catch up with a large amount of work put into the project before I joined.

During this trip, although I didn't have the opportunity to observe the on-site condition of Wangdong bridge, I did, however, get to contribute to discussions with the local contractor regarding the design specifics of the bridge itself.

At first, I was very unsure about what the goals of this trip, and the details of the bridge construction itself, however, after concise explanations from Professor Tham, Dr. Yip, as well as the other student members, I was quickly caught up, and was also able to make certain contributions regarding the discussions. Professor Tham and Dr. Yip also introduced many major engineering design considerations for Wangdong bridge, not only in terms of how a bridge should be designed in order to maintain its stability but also how the existing conditions surrounding the bridge may affect the design. Due to the different conditions presented to the local contractors, there are many aspects that would also have to be considered, such as the construction methods and materials that could be used, as well as the economic situation.

In conclusion, this trip provided me with a fulfilling learning experience regarding the design of Wangdong bridge, it also allowed me to better understand the conditions surrounding this construction and how the design would be altered to better suit these conditions. The updates from the current members also allowed me to understand how the construction of this bridge may better benefit the lives of the people at Wangdong.