

Reflection of study trip to Guigang

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This was the first time I had the opportunity to observe the progress made on the primary school in Guigang. Although my exposure towards this project was limited, it certainly provided me with an enlightening experience.

1. Reorganization of classrooms

During this trip, I was fascinated by the amount of planning that goes into a project as an engineer, not only does an engineer have to care for the structural stability and usability of the finalized product, but they also have to ensure that sufficient planning goes into a project in order to make it feasible. This was seen from observing the discussions between Dr. Ryan C.P. Wong and the local government officials regarding various aspects have to be considered in order for the simple reorganization of the school classrooms. Furthermore, being able to hop into these discussions allowed me to sharpen my mandarin skills, which was little used and rather rusty.

2. Observation of toilet construction

Being able to observe a real-life construction of the school toilet was also a first time experience for me. Having seen the detailed planning that went into the toilet by previous students inspired to do the same for current projects. It was also interesting to following Dr. Wong in inspecting the actual progress made by the local contractors, and to figure out the local methods of construction, it also allowed me to further apply knowledge learned in lectures into real life.

In Conclusion, this trip not only provided a fruitful experience in reapplying theoretical knowledge learned in lectures into real life but also a chance to understand the various aspects that an engineer has to consider during the planning stage, particularly the importance of the local conditions in governing decisions made during the planning stage.