

Project Mingde – Vietnam

CHAN Wing Pang, BEng (CivE) II

**Teaching of Child Injury Prevention lessons:**

The teaching was very difficult for me at the beginning, since I have never taught anyone who speaks a completely different language. I feel embarrassed and shameful that I did not learn a lot of Vietnamese words to communicate. But our interpreters are very helpful to assist us, so at the end, I am glad that the students are willing to play and talk with me despite language problem.

**Building experience:**

The on-site experience is extremely valuable and unforgettable for me. The workers are very passionate and patient in teaching us. They also show us the mind of adapting to engineering challenges. Different from small one-storey building, a large swimming pond need a bulk amount of material mixed and filled. We observed that they put a construction skip on the pond and mix the cement mortar on-site using excavator. We learnt the cement plastering, foundation cement filling, steel bar fixing, brick tile placing. It is not just about knowing the skills, but also understand why there is priority or steps in doing different construction tasks. As an engineer, we learnt to raise concerns on deviation between constructed structure and design, then propose suggestions to the school stakeholders. However,

Overall, the experiences on-site is inspiring, and it is my pleasure to contribute to make a better pond for children.



**Past project evaluation and need assessment:**

Apart from teaching and construction, we also carried out the evaluation on a library room we built in the past. From the evaluation, it was found that there is still room for improvement in effectiveness since their attitudes towards reading non-textbook materials are conservative. From assessing the local's house and community safety, we also identified some injury issues such as traffic accident, drowning, and in-house injuries caused by unsafe house conditions, lack of parental care or bad roads under Vietnamese rural context. While

it is a good chance for civil engineering students to learn the way of evaluation social impact of a project, it would be better if civil engineers can be provided with more support, instruction and freedom on discussing the safehouse checklist and library capacity evaluation by World Vision.

### **Living in Việt Nam**

In Hung Yen, Vietnam, the living pace is completely different from that in Hong Kong. It is slow and relaxing that I can enjoy my non-working time going to café or exercise. Hung Yen people are always smiling and interested in us. It is so fortunate that we usually went out with our interpreters, so that we can communicate with the local and know more about Vietnam. The food and drinks are tasty and healthy which I miss so much now. I was encouraged to step out of comfort zone and interact with different new things and people all the time. Life in Vietnam is absolutely a worthy experience for every university student.



*Xin cảm ơn, Việt Nam!*