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Project Mingde Summer Internship Program was my first internship in engineering and thus everyday was not only a challenge but also a valuable opportunity to me. Conducting the feasibility study and different site visits had widened my scope. In the very beginning, many constraints of the project were not taken into my consideration, such as the emergency vehicle access, the fire safety, etc. After discussion with professor and suggestion of teammates, I finally realized that even a primary design should be well-planned and practical. In fact, it encourages me to think beyond the textbooks.

After visiting various construction sites, I have significantly developed my understanding of structural components and construction materials. Since I am a year 2 student, I lack knowledge of structural analysis and design. Therefore, numerous questions were raised when I visited those construction sites. Why the steel bar was bent? Why the upper part of the column is thicker than the lower part? What should be considered when applying the foundation? Fortunately, the contractor was patient to answer my questions one by one. They also shared their experience of how to encounter the obstacles in a construction project. These knowledges could be useful to me in the future workplace.

Furthermore, I observed that there were differences between the design standard of Hong Kong and mainland. The working atmosphere in mainland tends to be more practical instead of following theories or standards. I hope these experiences can nourish me to be a professional engineer and improve my career development in the future.

In general, I am grateful to be one of the participants of this internship project. Although it takes me a long time to adapt the surroundings in Guangxi, it is still a meaningful and valuable experience. It is a golden chance of students to gain insight and experience of their future career.