

## The eighth working trip to Guigang

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Name: Chan Chak Kwan

This was my first working trip after being a member of Project MingDe. I have never been to Guigang before and it was indeed an unforgettable experience for me. After 5 hours for travelling to Duling Primary School from Hong Kong. We were able to observe the surrounding of the school in person. During the meeting with the principal of the primary school, the architect and the contractor, we discussed some detailed design of the building to be built and the modification needed. After that, we make use of the time to inspect the toilet that was just finished. Several problems were found, and we reported that to the contractor.

One major problem of the toilet built is the slow refilling of the toilet water tank. Originally, it is designed that the drainage from the sink is directed to the water tank of the toilets such that the drainage can be reused for flushing and save the water consumption. However, in real practice, the water flows very slowly from the sink to the toilet water tank. We then started thinking about the ways to solve the problem. By applying knowledge learnt in the lectures, the discharge should be directly proportional to the cross-sectional area of the pipe given the same elevation difference. Thus, I proposed to make the water pipe larger in size. Yet, the pipe connected to the toilet flushing system has default size and the whole system has to be changed. Thus, we planned to work out the solution after back to Hong Kong.

This is really a lesson that could never be learnt during normal lectures. No matter how well the design works in theory, there could still be some factors that not being considered. What we can do is to consider as much as possible before construction and try as hard as we could to solve the problem discovered afterwards.