

Summary of Guangxi Trip (29/7-11/8)

The trip lasted for around two weeks, we mainly went to three towns, which were Hongshui, Rongshui and Wangdong. The original schedule in Guangxi was from 29/7 to 16/8. On the other hand, due to the cancellations of some site visits by people working there, we left earlier on 11/8.

In Hongshui, we went to Mingde Pan Cultural & Community Centre, which was also a primary school, to observe the main issues mentioned in Dabao Maintenance Proposal. Cracking stair wall, broken glass roof and aging bamboo façade wall were the main issues concerned. Through our observations on there, we wrote a report, which was Dabao Centre Maintenance Report. The main contents are introduction, major problems observed, concerns, recommended solutions of these three main issues and a brief conclusion.

To optimize the centre, we also observed other problems in it and had an interview with Kelu during lunch time to find out other problems which were neglected before. Therefore, we also made a performance review of the centre. Uneven floor, shattered windows and insufficient lighting of the classroom, bumpy and slippery ground of the basketball court etc., were mentioned. We gave out some solutions or ideas for solutions to finish this performance review.

In Rongshui (1-8/8), we mainly had site visits. The construction sites were the real-life examples of the courses related to materials and structures. We had chances on reading real layout plans of the building, actual building processes, having a look on steel bars, concrete and its corresponding components, which were coarse grains, fine grains, cement and water. With the observations of actual beams and columns, we were able to understand the concepts of direct force, shear force, bending moments etc. In addition, given that the engineer told us the school was being built directly on soil, the shapes of foundations were important to make the building more stable. The longer and wider of the foundation used, the harder the building would collapse. We also learnt that some sites would do excavations of the grounds which were mainly for providing alternate water source for fire safety, separated from daily uses. This was to ensure sufficient water supply for both daily uses and fire safety.

In Wangdong (9-10/8), we had site visits on a suspended footbridge, Wangdong Bridge in construction phase, our focus of the trip. We mainly focused on the use of concrete, materials used for supporting the bridge and anchor. The bridge was built around a month ago and it was expected to be finished in 1.5 months. However, we did not go there for long. Especially for 10/8, that was a rainy day and we stayed for less than 20 minutes. Therefore, this gave us greater challenge on doing a report of Wangdong Bridge.

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