

1.Introduction

In collaboration with CU's 1u1v members, students of Project Mingde(PM) of the University of Hong Kong(HKU) visited the Hongdeng Primary School in May 2015 and agreed to undertake the repair and improvement works for the premises for teaching and staff lodging.

The repair works was carried out from July to August 2015. 17 Civil Engineering undergraduates from HKU and 10 from Guangxi University joined this trip to take part in the repair works with support by a local contractor.

This trip lasted for 3 weeks, started on 20/7/2015 and finished on 8/8/2015. We had a precious living experience in a remote village Hongdeng, joyful friendship with local children and unexpected challenges in civil repair works.

2. Living conditions

As the project site was situated in areas around five hours away from the city with poor road access, accommodation and washing facilities were rather primitive when it compared to other constructions carried out by the Project Mingde in the previous years. Though a new teaching block made of concrete has been well erected to cater our accommodation needs, living in this primitive housing for three weeks still remained a great challenges for us. Throughout the working days in Hongdeng, we have to sleep on concrete floors relying on mats and blankets only, staying in three teaching rooms filled with mosquitoes and insects throughout the nights.



Muddy driveway near Hongdeng



Newly-constructed rooms for accommodation



Typical meals in Hongdeng



Students having shower near Xiali

3. Working process

Based on our design proposal of repair and improvement work, we had two meetings with students from Guang Xi university and the Contractor to discuss the viability of those proposed work. After the discussion, we decided that some work can be done and some work are banned. The work to be done are regulating the building, ground pavement, painting of supports and outer wall of the building, drainage system.

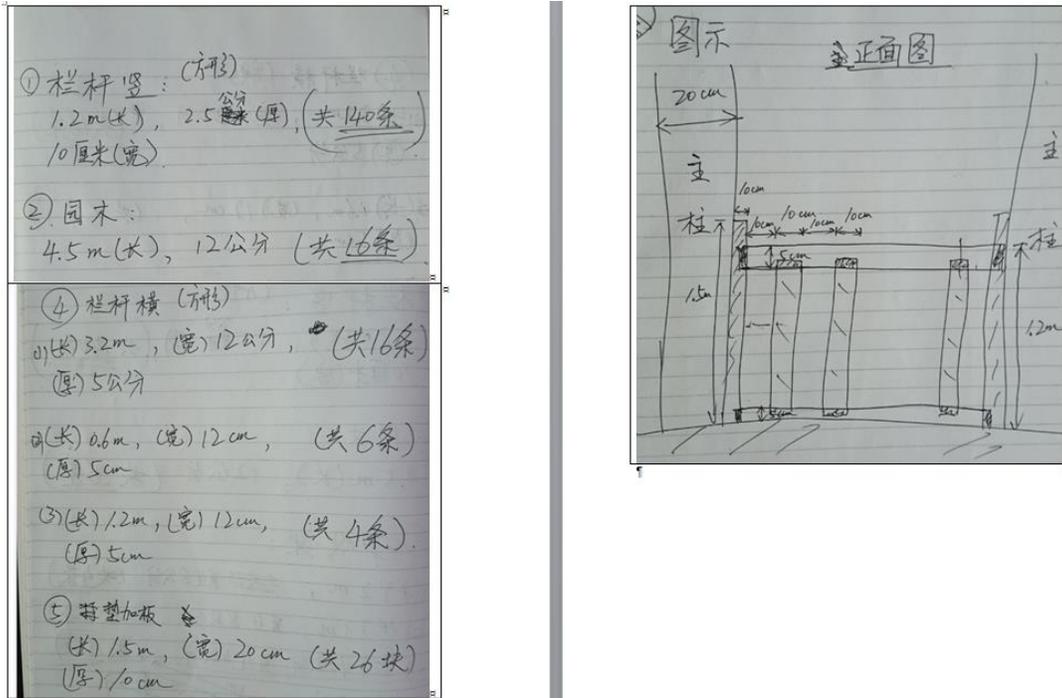


Students painting outer wall and hopscotch respectively



Spreading aggregates for concrete foundation

It is found out the the height of the current handrail is shorter than 1.05m which is the lowest standard in China. Therefore, we plan to give up all the current handrail and further order new designed wood to replace them and to reach more safety consideration.



Detail design for the new handrail

Due to heavy rain and the humid weather in Hongdeng, the road is unsuitable for large vehicles to pass through especially for the section near the Hongdeng primary school. As a result, we need to improve the condition of the road.



Creating channel to drain away water



Road pavement using aggregate and stone

4. Cultural participation

In the 29th July, we and students from Guangxi University are lucky to be teachers, to widen local students' knowledge. Before the lesson, we have divided into three classes with different level, and taught them different topics.



To understand more about the villagers, we had done several home visits of students in Xiali Primary School. Villagers were so friendly and kind that they often treated us watermelon and traditional tea.



On 26 July, 2015, we assisted the volunteer teachers at Xiali Primary School in organizing a sport day for the children. At the sport day, all of us including children, teachers and students enjoyed the events.



During the last weekend, we were invited by Kelu (the manager of Love Seedling Community Service Centre who helped to coordinate everything there) to stay at his home.

We helped prepare the dinner. Some of us visited the market and purchased the ingredients like meat, vegetables and seasonings and the others cooked some cuisines by using firewood. We enjoyed the cuisines and rice wine prepared by Kelu's family and us.

We also visited and talked to other villagers to understand their tradition and lifestyle.

