

Children Education Fund's Guanxi Trip 19 – 26 October 2008

By David Wan

My motive of joining this trip was about personal satisfaction; I happened to be free at the time and wanted to challenge myself in a meaningful way, I would not say that I have brought back with me a life changing experience, but certainly I have expanded my horizon.

I am a true city breed, I had doubt about whether I could survive the trip, it turned out to be not too physical demanding, the lodging & food condition exceeded my expectation.

Our team consisted of 11 persons, 6 of which are the veterans from CEF, the other 5 including myself are rookies. The trip was very well organized, and CEF has done a very good job doing so, especially given the fact that all the organizers contribute their time and effort on a part time basis.



I have never been to Guanxi and knew virtually nothing about it, gradually I have learnt bits and pieces about the region, as well as the general education system of China, I cannot say what's the use of this information, it's just something I have picked up through out the journey, I may forget it soon or it may serve some purpose in the future.

The focus of the trip is to visit some kids in the region who may need sponsorship for supplementing their school fees and/or living expenses, the kids are pre-selected by their schools, we then interviewed the kids to approve or disapprove the funding. I did not challenge the kids I met and they were all approved, my emphasis was explaining to the kids that we were there to encourage them continuing to study and eventually make a better future for themselves, thus change and improve their and their family's lives, as well as the province and the nation.

Although it's a cliché, the kids were generally modest and appreciative, I believe most of them truly want to be educated and make their own fate. If I could only name 1 single issue that impacted me the most, it is how small it costs to make a difference. In the beginning I did not want to sponsor any kid but just give out cash allowance, however my attitude was changed just after a few hours in the first working day. I ended up sponsoring 5 kids and I would like to go back and visit them.

By chance I have met those kids and may have altered the course of their life hopefully to a better turn, it would not be possible for 1 person or 1 organization to help all the needy kids, but at least we have tried.