



LSGI Students and Staff - core members of the Gold Award winning team in PolyU's Outstanding Service Learning Project Awards 2012

Service-learning is a compulsory subject in the new four-year undergraduate curriculum and provides unique opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom and to develop a sense of social responsibility and a heart to serve. PolyU-wide there were 40 community service projects in 2011/2012 and 9 of them were selected for outstanding performance. The project co-organized by LSGI, the Office of Service Learning, Duta Wacana Christian University of Indonesia, and the Australian National University, received the Gold Award in the category of Self-initiated Project at the Award Presentation Ceremony on 21 February 2013.





Along with 16 students from other PolyU departments, 4 LSGI students and staff took part in a 25-day home-stay service project in Indonesia. Students from the institutions were mixed together and stayed in the homes of the villagers of Yogyakarta, 100 km south of Semarang on the Island of Java, for nearly a month between 18 June and 12 July 2012.



The project aimed at assisting the development of the village into a tourist village and in enhancing the residents' quality of life. The services carried out under the watchful eyes of staff from the three institutions covered five categories: health care, map production, education, water supply and economics.



Through this meaningful programme, students not only learned about the local culture and wisdom, but also served the local community with their professional knowledge.

LSGI students experienced an unforgettable servicing life in Indonesia. Abi WAI On Yi, a LSGI student, stated “It scared us that the hamlet head requested us to help them recognize more than one hundred pieces of land lot records. We finished a map to integrate most of land lot records and located their boundaries in the village. It was a valuable experience for me to learn and to service.”



Another LSGI student, Michael WONG Man Kong, mentioned “I did not only have the chance to be exposed to different cultures in this project but also had the opportunity to apply my Geomatics knowledge. We helped local villagers to recognize land boundaries in the field from lots of technical drawings. My hamlet leader even asked me to invite more land surveying students to enhancing their land boundary understanding in future. I feel honored as my attempt was appreciated.”

Mr. Joseph LAM, one of the project advisers and an Instructor in LSGI stated “Our attempts, along with the encouragement and support from colleagues, students and myself, drew on the local wisdom to empower the local community development of Indonesia. While it was a huge challenge to apply our professional knowledge to drafting



a development proposal for the needy, it was also a dream opportunity to ascertain our identity.”