Life of construction workers in mainland China

China is a totally different place compared to most civilized or developed world. What we take for granted according to our common sense may not exist at all there.

There are a lot of explanations or observations to this phenomenon. Relatively less developed condition, low education level, lack of exposure to the outside world, poor social security, differences in culture and value, cavalier attitude ……, these are just a few examples. Numerous books or articles have explored the reasons and we are not going to linger on this here.

In this presentation, I'm going to illustrate some interesting scenes of interest to people of our profession (the construction field), and see how construction workers in mainland China survive or make their living.

What you're seeing in the pictures are not the worst. All of these photos are taken in relatively big and prosperous cities like Guangzhou or Shanghai in recent years. Conditions could be much worse and more horrifying if we go further inland, to some remote places or trace back to 10 years ago.

Reality may not be all pretty. But this is the kind of life millions of people in mainland China live, a few hours away from us either by train or plane. We have a safe and comfortable life simply because we're luckier. These pictures, I hope, will make us more appreciative of what we have and more willing to help others, or, at least, blame less.

Oh, one more thing I need to mention. Construction workers as I encountered in China is often working and living quite happily.

The reason behind may be quite simple. Having a humble wish by earning some money and take it back home later to allow their family members to live easier in the place where they were being brought up, is a very heart-warming and motivating drive, though the effort to be paid is not easy to bear.

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Let's start work now, march on!
The huge army of construction force

Join hands can give strength
An harmony merge of the construction site with general public

Service providers in construction site

Construction site – A short-cut passageway for a lot of local citizen

Construction site – A short-cut passageway for a lot of local citizen
Site is quite a dirty place

Working inside a battle field?
Working inside a battle field?

Clearing the mess after demolition

Recycling business

Clearing the mess after demolition
Recycling business

Working inside tunnel

Working inside ground -
Getting into a hand-dug caisson
Good partner working on top as a support to excavation inside a caisson shaft.

Site is quite a dangerous place, working at height is only part of it.

Countless harsh working conditions inside construction site.

Working with steel.
Working with steel.
A heart of steel?

Working with the ground and the mud.

Circus show inside construction site. Let’s go mountaineering.
Circus show inside construction site

Enter into the battle field - Access to work
Access to work, delivery of material

Access to work. By the way, how you people get there without a ladder?

Nameless workers at site

Nameless workers at site
A short sleep after lunch is an essential re-charging process for the coming hard-fight in the afternoon.

A break is very precious, even a very short one under the summer heat.
Site security force
Site watchman
Site supervision and inspection
Ad hoc meeting at site
Ad hoc meeting at site
A sweet place to rest and stay

Staff quarters and community complex

Site can be a sweet home, a playground, a place to meet the girl friend.

Kitchen in construction site
Site canteen

Everything provided according to the working rules – drinking water, rest area, toilets, changing facilities.
What food we have for today?

Community centre at a corner of site

An easy resting corner at site

Getting home after a hard day work.

Good Day.