TAKING THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP LEAP

More than a hundred alumni and guests attended AAO’s 40th Distinguished Alumni Forum, held on 5 April 2017 at the University’s brand new Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine @ Novena campus.

Themed ‘Start Thinking Big and Leap’, the forum began with a talk by Associate Professor Hooi Den Huan, Director of the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center (NTC), who suggested that budding entrepreneurs identify gaps in the market to start new businesses, and keep their businesses relevant by building deep capabilities.

He also shared with the audience some information on the Master of Science in Technopreneurship & Innovation (MSc TIP), a programme offered by NTC that aims to help participants develop an enterprising mindset.

The forum’s second speaker, Mr Ted Chen Chiu-Hao (EEE/2012, TIP/2015), is a co-founder of EverComm Uni-Tech Singapore, which provides energy management solutions that help businesses reduce energy wastage.

A serial entrepreneur, Mr Chen has previously co-founded other companies, including Immersive Soundscape, which features technology that can transform a pair of headphones into surround-sound speakers.

Mr Chen shared anecdotes and practical tips from his own forays into entrepreneurship. He advised the audience to dream big from the very beginning, and to develop interesting ideas so that others would be inspired to help make them a reality.

NEVER SAY NEVER

During the question-and-answer session, NTU Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr Guo Sam Nan asked Mr Chen if he could share the secrets to his success. “Never approach a problem with the mentality ‘cannot’, and you will be able to find opportunities,” Mr Chen replied.

Asked for advice on how to find good mentors, Mr Chen encouraged the audience to take advantage of events organised by NTU’s innovation and enterprise arm NTUitive.

“NTUitive opens the door to opportunities, and they know exactly whom you can approach in NTU,” he said. “Also, if you offer help in exchange for a valuable learning process, people will be more than willing to teach you something they know.”

The talks struck a chord with Ms Ong Sze Ping (EEE/2001), herself an entrepreneur. “I came away with the notion that I should explore all possibilities instead of rejecting them,” she said.

Keen to tap into the wealth of resources available was Mr Teo Chee Keong (SCE/1997), who said, “I’m an entrepreneur myself, and I found the talks really inspiring. I also found out about the platforms and resources at NTU that I can tap into.”

NTU Director-Associate Prof Hooi Den Huan (right) and Mr Ted Chen Chiu-Hao (EEE/2012, TIP/2015) sharing their insights on entrepreneurship.