ON THE FRONTLINES OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

As digitalisation continues to sweep across the globe, those who fail to embrace it will inevitably be left behind. Furthermore, as the nexus of innovation shifts to Asia, China has emerged as a strong contender in the digital economy, leveraging technology to bring new products and services to global markets, thus driving economic progress.

To help alumni better understand the nuances of the risks and opportunities presented by the digital economy, the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center (NTC) and the NTU Alumni Affairs Office jointly organised a Digital Economy Innovation Immersion Trip to China from 2 to 7 December 2018. Alumni participants had the opportunity to visit leading corporations in China to obtain insights on successful business models and gain a deeper understanding of the strategies of Chinese tech giants. Among the companies that opened their doors to NTU alumni were Alibaba, Hikvision, Kujiale, Hema Xiansheng, JD.com and Xiaomi, many of which are also involved in driving Singapore’s Smart Nation transformation.

In addition, delegates attended the Entrepreneur China Annual Conference 2018 in Beijing, an event that has successfully attracted prominent speakers and thought leaders in China since 2007. Themed ‘Break & Change’, the conference attracted some 5,000 guests and saw wide-ranging discussions on pertinent issues such as enterprise services, artificial intelligence, financial technology, the future of consumer experiences and the future of health.

“I am impressed by the deep appreciation [the Chinese] have for systematic technological innovation. Their hunger for success and their focus on human capital are key lessons we can learn for our business and professional development.”

– Mr Ken Toh, CEO and Director of Thinking Notes Pte Ltd