

Feedback i forbindelse med IT delegationens besøg i Shanghai, september 2008

Nedenfor er gengivet feedback fra de delegationsmedlemmer som, udover Elinor Bæk Thomsen og Jan Lindegaard Christensen fra Innovation & Forskning i Regional Udvikling, deltog i turen til Shanghai i september, 2008.

Turen, som var arrangeret af Shanghai kontoret (Regional Udvikling) i samarbejde med Shanghai Science and Technology Commision, havde til hensigt at belyse potentialet for konkrete forsknings- og udviklingsamarbejder mellem Region Midtjylland og Shanghai.

IT Forum Midtjylland – Finn Støy:

Helt overordnet vil jeg sige, at det var en meget lærerig rejse som i høj grad gav anledning til eftertanke og refleksioner over den ekstremt dynamiske udvikling, som er i gang i Kina og specielt i Shanghai, som vi besøgte. Det skal også bemærkes, at turen var overordentlig godt tilrettelagt og organiseret, således at vi fik maksimalt udbytte i det korte tidsrum, som vi havde til rådighed.

Besøget var med til at belyse nogle af de muligheder, der ligger for erhvervsmæssig vækst og udvikling i Region Midtjylland gennem et samarbejde med institutioner og virksomheder i Shanghai omkring IT.

Efter besøget i Kina er det mit indtryk, at der er endog meget store perspektiver i at etablere erhvervsmæssige samarbejder mellem Region Midtjylland og Shanghai. Det være sig både i samarbejde med kinesiske virksomheder og kinesiske forskningsmiljøer. Og med udgangspunkt i det erhvervsmæssige - så tror jeg også, det vil være meget interessant at inddrage danske forskere.

Det var mit indtryk, at det nye danske innovationscenter i Shanghai tænker meget forretningsmæssig og har dansk erhvervsudvikling i centrum. Jeg ser derfor store muligheder i et udbygget samarbejde mellem dette center og Region Midtjylland. Jeg tror derfor også, at det vil være meget relevant med en ny delegationsrejse til Shanghai, hvor man fokuserede yderligere på mulighederne for at etablere erhvervsmæssig samarbejde. Shanghai Science and Technology Commision fortalte, at der fra kinesisk side findes en række programmer til at fremme erhvervsmæssige samarbejde. På dansk side findes jo ligeledes relevante tilbud.

Vi vil fra IT-Forum Midtjylland meget gerne indgå i et samarbejde herom og medvirke til at informere og engagere regionens it-interesserede virksomheder i et tættere samarbejde med virksomheder og forskning i Shanghai.

Min konklusion: Delegationsrejsen viste, at der er meget lovende forskningsmæssige perspektiver i et tættere samarbejde mellem forskningsmiljøer i Shanghai og Region Midtjylland. Der vil formentlig også være meget store perspektiver i et erhvervsmæssigt samarbejde mellem Shanghai og Region Midtjylland – og disse perspektiver er så spændende og ser så lovende ud, at man burde undersøge dem nærmere.

Niels Olof Bouvin, associate professor, department of Computer Science, Aarhus University:

I had the pleasure of participating in the IT delegation's visit to Shanghai September 14-19 2008.

Overall, I found the whole experience very positive. The arrangements were top-notch, and the planning meticulous, enabling us to meet many people and companies in the short time allotted to us in Shanghai.

As a representative from Aarhus University, my own focus was research rather than business, but I was impressed by the high standard of the presentations we saw. I would especially like to highlight the workshop where we heard many interesting presentations as well as our visit to the Jiao Tong University.

Most important for myself was seeing the presentation from Shanghai Galileo Industries and meeting Professor Junzhong Gu at the workshop organized by Shanghai Science and Technology Commission. Professor Gu's lab has many overlapping interests with the lab I belong to, Interactive Spaces. We had very worthwhile discussions on the topic of 'context and location based computing' during the workshop.

Close ties to a Chinese research institute could be very interesting for my lab, as we would gain partners for research projects, as well as gain access to visiting PhD students as well as having a Chinese lab, that our PhD students could visit. PhD student exchanges are highly beneficial to the involved research groups, but it requires knowledge of the foreign lab as well as trust in the quality of the visiting students and in the environment provided for our own students. This knowledge and trust must necessarily be established prior to any exchanges taking place.

Seeking to secure such a base I applied, together with Professor Gu, for a grant for Sino-Danish network activities titled "Context Aware Computing Research Network". The aim of our application is to secure traveling funds so that we may arrange two exploratory workshops, one in China and one in Denmark, with the aim of establishing shared areas of research, identifying possible future research collaborations, and establishing protocols for exchanging PhD students.

Both labs work with location (and more generally context) based computing. Location based computing is a growth area, witnessed by the rise in location enabled mobile phones and services.

There are also industry interests in this area. Apart from Interactive Spaces' own track record of spin-off companies, we have an ongoing research project together with Terma and Systematic aimed at the Galileo navigation system. I would therefore suggest that future workshops, arranged by the region, should consider inviting Terma as a Danish company, and e.g., Shanghai Galileo Industries as a Chinese company.

The Alexandra Institute Ltd.

Participants from Alexandra Institute were:

- Margit Kristensen, head of innovation, pervasive healthcare,
- Andy Drysdale, head of innovation, pervasive positioning
- Martin Møller, vice director.

Currently there is no Danish Approved Technological Service Institute (GTS-institute) represented in Shanghai (or even in China). There are clearly important roles for such institutes to play in China; for example a matchmaker role between Danish companies/academia and Chinese companies/academia combined with delivering concrete technological services to the Chinese market.

The Alexandra Institute's purpose of participating in this trip, that was facilitated by Central Denmark Region, was to obtain a first-hand impression of the opportunities for the institute to establish concrete activities in China, and an idea of the initial investments needed to make this happen.

The overall conclusion is, that there are a lot of opportunities for matchmaking and also delivery of concrete services, however these activities are not defined over night, and a long-term strategy of how to address the Chinese market is needed. Innovation Centre Denmark in Shanghai can be a valuable strategic partner to the institute in implementing such a strategy.

The Alexandra Institute will address the Chinese opportunity on two levels:

- follow-up on the immediate opportunities from the trip to Shanghai, with the aim of establishing concrete collaborations,
- in parallel define a long-term strategy for the institutes engagement in China

In addition active steps will be taken to initiate discussions with other relevant players within the Approved Technological Service Institute (GTS Institute) network about the possibilities for joint collaborative actions.

Opportunities and follow-up activities

Pervasive healthcare

- Shanghai Institute of Computing Technology and the collaboration with Rui Jin Hospital.
- Junzhong Gu (Institute of Computer Applications, East China Normal University) in relation to the surveillance and monitoring system developed together with the company 43D.
- Liqing Zhang (Jiao Tong University) within the area of Brainlike computing and Pattern recognition
- Wonders Information Disease/disaster control – could be an interesting partner for Danish e-health companies having the ambition to go to China.
- Green light opportunities within the areas of "Health and Traditional Chinese Medicine application" and "Welfare and social sciences".

In general there are many opportunities for pervasive healthcare projects. However it would demand some time and resources to reach clearer and more specific project ideas.

Energy

- Applications are planned together with Heidi Yan, Innovation Centre Denmark, Shanghai and Interactive Spaces, Alexandra, towards a “netværkspulje”.
- Proposals to the following Sino-Danish network activities are scheduled:
 - a) A location aware proposal together with Professor Gu from East China Normal University as well as Kaj Grønbæk and Niels Olof Bouvin from Aarhus University.
 - b) A “plus” house proposal, based on the “Lystrup” example since it fits in well with the Chinese need decelerate the speed of diffusion of people moving from rural areas to the East Coast at the same time as it contributes to solving China’s energy problem. We suggest using a commercial angle too, so the researcher pair would be: The Alexandra Institute, a Chinese architect firm and Shanghai Research Institute of Building Science. The goal should be a Danish designed building in the Chinese part of Expo 2010.