

Tuesday, September 25th

The day of arrival! 50 top executives across the Nordics, retailers and bankers, exited to enter the China Fintech scene.



We arrived the airport in Shanghai and was transported to the beautiful Sheraton Grand Hangzhou Wetland Park Resort in Hangzou by bus (some still sleeping, other enjoying the impressive view of the China Electricity system). During the day everyone joined together in the first true Nordic cross-industry Fintech tour, representing Nordea, Aera, Sparebank 1, Coop, Sparebanken Sør, pwc, Vipps, Eficode, ePassi, NorgesGruppen, Handelsbanken, Swedbank, Swish, DNB, Eika, Islandsbanki and Reitangruppen.



Kenny and Alexander representing Eficode and ePassi had done the best job to prepare an extensive program, including busrides, sightseeing, company visits, dinners and hotels and the organizing committee with Iren (NFI) and Lars Erik (pwc) as head of command had put their best effort into bringing us all up to speed on agenda, etiquette, security, media and everything else needed to prepare us all.

When arriving at the hotel, we all gathered in a session about NFI and current projects:

1. NFI – Iren Tranvåg and Øyvind Apelland
«Inspire Change and Collaboration»

Vision: Building a strong Nordic collaboration and co-creation culture across industries and borders
Mission: Positioning the Nordic competitiveness in a market driven by global players

2. Nordic interoperability – Anna-Lena Wretman
“We are creating a platform for realization of projects”
3. The NFI App – Narve Hansen
“Matchmaker for startups”
4. Intraprenurship – Kristian Klavenes
“New Talents and New Ideas”
5. Women's networks – Tone Elise Steig
“Empowering women for diversity and innovation “

Summing up, Lars Erik stressed the point that it is our common responsibility to contribute so that the trip is a success. The aim of the trip is to learn, to establish contacts between the participants across countries and industries, and to define projects for future cooperation.

Although lunch didn't go quite as planned, the delegates revealed themselves as positive and flexible and we all enjoyed the taste of a Club Sandwich or Chicken Rice before heading for aperitif and dinner hosted by the Alibaba Group in a remote however beautiful restaurant where we were able to taste a diversity of Chinese food. Some courses better than others, however people enjoyed the evening getting to know new colleagues from all over the Nordics. The scene for a tremendous 4-day study tour was set.



The weather?

Beautiful sunshine, writing 21°C at 0800. A nice Nordic summer temperature, however flavored with Chinese smells of busyness and politeness.

Learning points?

The first day revealed that travelling with 50 people with different requirements and expectations is not the easiest task and must be planned accordingly. Some key learnings points:

- Go through the agenda - do not expect everyone to read up in advance
- Add extra time on transfers from one place to another
- Plan for toilet visits and coffee breaks
- Be flexible - always make sure that the need for food is covered
- Communicate clearly times of attendance and departure



