Achieving innovation through university collaboration

Li Xinran

Urban innovation never comes into force without the participation of universities as a source of intelligence. However, it is not always a smooth ride to make an industry-university partnership work.

In this respect, Yangpu-based universities and businesses like great strikers in the development of industry-university-research cooperation to better serve the economic and social development of the district.

One of their latest efforts was a two-day 2017 MIT China Conference, during which MIT shared its vision with Yangpu entrepreneurs.

The Yangpu government has “top level” members in Yangpu District.

Among these include Hans Christian Andersen’s Birthday Marathon, which is the most important international marathon in Shanghai. The marathon is open to all 21.0975 kilometers. They also pair up with 23 local research institutes and enterprises to promote high-tech projects in the fields such as the Internet of things and the application of China’s self-developed BeiDou Navigation Satellite System.

Yanpu is creating a friendly environment through building a coordination platform to better allocate innovative resources from university laboratories, engineering centers as well as research institutions.

The plan aims to transfer a number of leading technologies around the country and nurture a number of innovation centers under market-oriented cooperation.

Moreover, Yangpu is improving its services through the organization of forums and entrepreneurship campaigns.

The annual Yangpu Forum for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, held earlier this month, at the China Guangzhou Public Practice Base for Entrepreneurs was committed to promoting the cooperation of universities, science parks and communities as well as the integration of industry, research and innovation to further enhance the industry-university partnership.

The forum also marked the fulfillment of a series of agreements for cooperation between the district and universities. The Yangpu mode and experience for innovation and entrepreneurship are expected to be replicated throughout the country.

Yanpu is the biggest and most populous downtown town of Shanghai. It is also one of the districts around the city with the most abundant resources in science and education.

Li Yueqi, Party secretary of Yanpu, quoted what Li said. “That is for the rejuvenation of the country while innovation is the primary force driving China’s development.

There were more than 200 medals among the runners, who finished the full distance of 21.0975 kilometers. They worked together with their colleagues who ride bicycles or stood by in 10 ambulances to ensure all the runners safe and healthy.

Fortunately, there was no accidents or incidents during the race.

Meanwhile, volunteers wearing plastic bottles also took part in the race to raise public awareness about caring about the environment. An average of more than 300 million plastic bottles are produced as garbage as a result of such marathons held around the world.

Cultural beauty of district highlighted by marathon

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Shanghai’s 210 runners, who joined the half marathon in Yanpu District earlier this month, were able to experience a natural wetland, an amusement park named after Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, a science park and the campus of the prestigious Fudan University along the running route.

It was the first half marathon held in Yangpu and followed the northeastern district of Shanghai’s success in hosting an 8-kilometer run and a 10km race in the past two years.

The Xijingwancheng Half Marathon has been recognized as a Class A event by the Chinese Athletic Association, and will be held every year from now on.

Runners at the finish line at the Jiangwan campus of Fudan University in 1 hour, 8 minutes and 2 seconds.

Li Zhenfan, from Shanghai University of Sport, won the runner’s race, clocking in at 1 hour 17 minutes and 29 seconds.

The race, named “Shanghai” also included a health run of 3.5 kilometers, which attracted over 100 local residents.

Starting from The Springs, at 99 Jiangwan Road, at 7am, runners passed through the natural wetland in New Yangwan Town, which is the only one of its kind in downtown Shanghai.

The green corridor that extends 2.7 kilometers is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

Unlike other public green spaces, the flora of the special park is not planted and maintained according to any man-made design. There are over 300 plants and small animals residing in the park, including squirrels, hedgehogs and yellow weasels. More than 30 kinds of migratory birds and 11 types of resident birds have been spotted in the area.

The well-designed race also features a community, a science park and the campus of one university, which represent the three pillars of innovation and entrepreneurship in Yangpu.

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