

Robots invite you to have a cup of tea

Li Huacheng and Tong Wangyue

AN unmanned store in Nanxiang Economic City — “My Girl × Gongboshi” — is attracting attention, with all its services, including reception, ordering and tea making, offered by robots.

The store is jointly operated by My Girl Technology Co Ltd and Gongboshi Robot Technology Co Ltd. Here, each robot can produce two cups of milk tea in a minute.

“Artificial intelligence technology is combined with new retailing industry. The robot can retrieve formula, process scheduling, mix materials, make tea, seal cups and deliver the tea according to the order made on a customer’s mobile phone app,” said Gu Xiaoyi who is in charge of the AI shop.

Intelligent scheduling and automatic operation ensure the quality control of the drinks and reduce the labor cost.

“We hope to draw citizens’ attention to AI by promoting our experience store,” said Gu.

The first My Girl × Gongboshi unmanned intelligent store took only a month from early preparations to opening.

Not long ago, Nanxiang robot industrial park in Nanxiang Economic City was officially renamed as Northern Hongqiao Intelligent Manufacturing Industrial Park, focusing on intelligent manufacturing and better empowering new retailing enterprises with industry-university-research cooperation.

At present, 15 intelligent manufacturing enterprises and nearly 200 enterprises from AI-related fields have settled in the industrial park.

With the support of big data technology, an enterprise in the park has set a goal to install breakfast vending machines across the country within five years.

Sweet future for Economic City

Wang Anqi and Tong Wangyue

DURING the 618 shopping carnival, ice-cream brand Zhongxuegao achieved sales of more than 16 million yuan (US\$2.3 million) on Tmall.

Established in Nanxiang Economic City in 2018, it once sold 50,000 ice creams in 40 minutes during the Double 11 online shopping spree.

Due to the COVID-19, some ingredients could not be bought, resulting in a delay of new product launches and the removal of a few flavors. However, sales were still good.

Zhou Bing, a partner of the

company, said current sales had increased by 600 percent compared with the same period last year. Prices of Zhongxuegao’s products, with an average of 20 yuan, are much higher than traditional ice cream.

The registration of Zhongxuegao provides more possibilities for the agglomeration of new retail enterprises in the economic city.

“The planning of the brand, the structure of the enterprise and the use of funds make it a potential company. When we first got in touch with this company, we knew we must keep it,” Ren Zhudan, manager

of the economic city’s investment promotion department, said, making no secret of his affection for the enterprise.

“If we did not step forward and embrace new retailing, the future for the economic city would be uncertain,” said Ren.

Zhou said Nanxiang’s efficiency and attitude had impressed them. Within six weeks, the economic city helped the company get a business license, food business license and other certificates.

Nanxiang also helped it find a large cold storage as quickly as possible. In May 2018, Zhongxuegao settled down in

Nanxiang and began its story of rapid development.

This year, a dozen new retailing enterprises have been moving into the economic city every month and the economic city is working hard to follow up on the needs of the new retailing industry.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, Nanxiang Economic City helped enterprises get in touch with banking and tax departments in terms of resuming work and maintaining capital chains.

It is regularly organizing online training to promote exchanges between enterprises.



• First aid at the tower

A medical worker and a volunteer from the Jiading Red Cross Society share their knowledge of first aid with the public as they demonstrate life-saving techniques at the Xiyun Tower fair in the district on June 19. Residents can subscribe to the society’s official WeChat account (嘉定红十字会) to take part in first-aid training courses. — Huang Liu

Children back to cram schools

Yu Chao, Zhou Yulin and Tom Qian

CRAM schools for adolescents and development guidance for children and toddlers in Jiading District that meet the requirements resumed work on June 2.

Schools for adult education resumed on May 18.

Now, a total of 251 offline cram schools have reopened after inspections.

Before entering the institution near Beidajie Street, all visitors including their own employees need to show green health codes, register their personal information and have their temperatures checked.

Most of the students are 9th and 12th graders who are busy preparing for the high school and college entrance examinations.

Some institutions have put up wall posters with details of sanitation reports to make sure students and their parents feel safe.

At a cram school in Anting Town, visitors are required to put on masks and sit a suitable distance apart from each other in the classes.

Windows are required to keep open, and sterilizing is carried out twice a day on all facilities and spaces inside the school.

Apart from the cram schools, some sports training courses have resumed as well.

Sports such as basketball and soccer have been replaced by basic training in case of direct body contact.

Students and their parents have been reminded of ensuring the institutions have passed checks to allow them to provide offline study.

Officials will also strengthen the supervision to ensure the safety for students.

Bank-tax platform providing credit help

Li Huacheng and Tong Wangyue

BY the end of May, a bank-tax interaction platform has been set up by Jiading tax bureau to share information and data with Jiading Commission of Commerce. The platform has provided a credit line of 1.26 billion yuan (US\$180 million) for enterprises.

In order to let enterprises obtain funds as soon as possible, the bureau and the commission jointly improved the data-sharing platform by extracting the list of small enterprises and tax information of enterprises in wholesale and retail sales, accommodation and catering, logistics

and transport, cultural tourism and other industries which are seriously hit by the novel coronavirus.

These enterprise information is sent to 33 banks through the platform.

Shanghai Paiya Precision Mould Co Ltd saw its export business fall by 20 percent year on year in the first quarter, with exports to Japan down by 40 percent year on year. The sharp fall in income made the cash conversion cycle even longer.

After Paiya authorized tax-related information through the interaction platform, the bank accepted the application and lent money to the company the same day.

Supported by the fund, the company has enough money to purchase new equipment.

“As the epidemic is under control in China, many European customers began to transfer the supply chain to China, which is a good opportunity for our business,” said Wu Zhixin, its general manager.

“We plan to increase the amount of new equipment and invest in new automation production lines, aiming to expand the European market.”

By the end of May, more than 1,000 enterprises in Jiading had joined the bank-tax interaction platform.