A delegation of 16 students of the study programs Information Management Automotive and Information Management and Corporate Communications took part in a field trip from Hong Kong to Shenzhen, Hangzhou and Shanghai. Since this mobility research was an elective course, the students worked on assignments related to e-mobility, public and private transportation systems, their efficiency and environmental impact, including automotive production, procurement and sales in China. They were supervised by three HNU professors, Prof. Dr. Ulrike Reisach (China Expert and Commissioner for International Affairs), Prof. Dr. Martin Stirzel (Hongkong and Global Sales Expert), and Prof. Dr. Joerg-Oliver Vogt (Head of the Information Management Automotive study program). The main goals of the field trip were to understand China as a market and sourcing place in innovative fields such as e-cars and e-buses, to learn how China supports and regulates e-mobility and how it succeeds in building up the relevant infrastructure incredibly fast and to discover how German and Chinese companies deal with the opportunities and challenges of this huge market.

For achieving this, all participants experienced the local public transportation systems in four megacities and analyzed their benefits and shortcomings from a user’s perspective based on comparable scientific methods. Through the field trip experience and efforts in purchasing tickets, as well as finding their way and experiencing different means of public transport, they got familiar with two airports, four megacities’ metro systems, the world largest fleet of electric buses, three main high-speed train stations and three passenger ports. Additionally, courtesy of the German freight forwarder Kuehne+Nagel, they were able to cross the 32,5 km long Donghai Bridge to visit the world’s largest deep-water container port, Yangshan Harbor in Shanghai.
Additionally, they visited eight representatives of China's mobility system, start-up companies, automotive manufacturers, energy providers, software platform providers, a freight forwarder, two universities:

**Yuanquan Ventures (YQ ventures)** in the Shenzhen Software Industry Base, explained how they support Chinese and international innovators to develop profitable (digital) business models. The group was intrigued by the friendliness and inspiring interior of the start-up hub as well as by the reported speed and success rate of the start-ups.

**Potevio** is a state-owned Chinese company for ICT products, trade, research and related services. They co-operate with the state energy grid in installing stations and operate 20 service-locations in China, one of them in Shenzhen. Their 300 charging stations around Shenzhen provide fast charging (2,5h for 250-300 km) for 20,000 buses and cars. Related apps allow customers to localize the closest charging station and to optimize location planning for Potevio.

**Denza** as the first German-Chinese joint venture in e-mobility, with its two partners, the German car manufacturer Daimler AG (Mercedes Benz) and the Chinese battery and car manufacturer Build Your Dream (BYD), presented their manufacturing lines and explained the local production system as well as the strengths and target groups of Denza / Engineered with Daimler Group as a German-Chinese brand. Since Denza is located on BYD’s company premises, the group could also see BYD’s size, cars and monorail. Daimler’s and Denza’s support also enabled the group to visit further main actors of e-mobility in Shenzhen.

**Shenzhen Eastern Bus Group (SZEBG)** is the public transportation service which operates East Shenzhen's local e-bus system. They succeeded in establishing 60 bus loading stations with a capacity of serving 400 e-buses per station, so in total 20,000 e-buses can be charged. Courtesy of two students of SZTU, translating the presentation of the bus group was swift and pleasant, and it turned out that there is a co-operation between SZEBG and SZTU, similarly to HNU and EvoBus in Ulm.

**Shenzhen Technology University (SZTU)** in Pingshan, was the group's fifth experience on Monday 19th, allowing them to eat in the canteen, see their campus and talk with German and Chinese colleagues who work on establishing one of the first German-Chinese Universities of Applied Sciences. One of the main drivers is Prof. Dr. Franz Raps from the Augsburg University of Applied Sciences, who kindly invited us to see study collaborations and also let us see their beer brewing center and try their really tasty Chinese-Bavarian beer.

**Zhejiang Sci Tech University (ZSTU)** in Hangzhou, welcomed the delegation on their campus and signed the prolongation of the partnership agreement between both universities. Additionally, Prof. Reisach, together with Prof. Stirzel and Vogt, and the ZSTU’s Business and Economy Department, Dean Prof. Chen, VP Chen and Internationalization Commissioner Jessie Zhang, discussed possibilities of extending the agreement to the master’s level. During this time, the students enjoyed a campus tour and the company of several Chinese students who had previously studied at HNU.

**Alibaba** is China’s biggest IT group and operates electronic trading platforms for B2B, B2C and C2C. Supported by Prof. MoYan from ZSTU and her graduate student, the HNU group visited Alibaba’s headquarters in Hangzhou, saw their visitor center and talked with the young employee who works for Alibaba’s Ant Finance about their business model and experiences. Their Alipay e-payment system enables financing, finding, rental and payment of mobility related services.

**Kuehne+Nagel**, uehne-Nagel, a Swiss based freight forwarder, explained their container freight station and services in Shanghai Pudong and took the group along the impressive Yangshan Port, operated by Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG) with their highly automated terminals and more than 40 Million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) handled in 2017.

**Leoni**, a leading German supplier for cables and gears, invited the group to Leoni Electrical Systems Co. Ltd., their automotive manufacturing center in Anting near Shanghai. Courtesy of HNU/HU graduate Marcus Pflug, head of Leoni’s Fiber Cable Unit in China, the group enjoyed a guided tour through Leoni’s automotive plant in Shanghai Anting, an explanation of Leoni’s role as a supplier for car manufacturers and the specifics of e-cars compared to traditional cars from their suppliers’ perspective.

**Nio** (Chinese Weilai = blue sky coming), a highly innovative Chinese manufacturer of intelligent electronic and autonomous cars, welcomed the group to their Shanghai Automotive Innovation Park and explained their brand’s USP, appealing digital services and customer experience, as well as social media marketing. Students were allowed to sit in one of their exhibition cars and enjoyed the creative media offerings inside.

**Shanghai Volkswagen Automotive Co.**, Anting, is a JV between Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC) and Volkswagen AG. The group visited the IT innovation building, where Dr. Marcus Heitmann as Senior Director Connectivity presented the connectivity services of Volkswagen and the approach of measuring their success in China. Besides, he provided interesting insights into the expat life in Shanghai.

Last but not least, the group met Werner Wu, VP of Shanghai Pudong’s Zhang Jiang Sci Tech Park and a member of the Chinese Peoples Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Prof. Dr. Wenju Tian from the HNU’s partner University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST), and Benji Zhang, a graduate of USST and a former guest student at HNU.

We would like to thank all companies, university partners and supporters for their engagement and time and are looking forward to strengthening our co-operation in the future.