

Realising potential

AMONG the 33 delegates from 11 countries at the 17th Asia-Pacific Student Entrepreneurship Society (ASES) Summit at Stanford University in the United States were INTI students Wong Gwen Yi, Joshua Kwong and Austin Wong.

Having applied to be part of the summit, the trio was selected following an assessment of their interests and abilities by ASES.

They learned that disruption and failure are to be taken in a positive light, particularly in the world of start-ups and innovation.

"One of my biggest takeaways from the conference was the difference in perceptions of success and failure. In Malaysia, fear of failure is prevalent among aspiring entrepreneurs and investors while in the United States, failure is celebrated as a step towards success," said Gwen Yi.

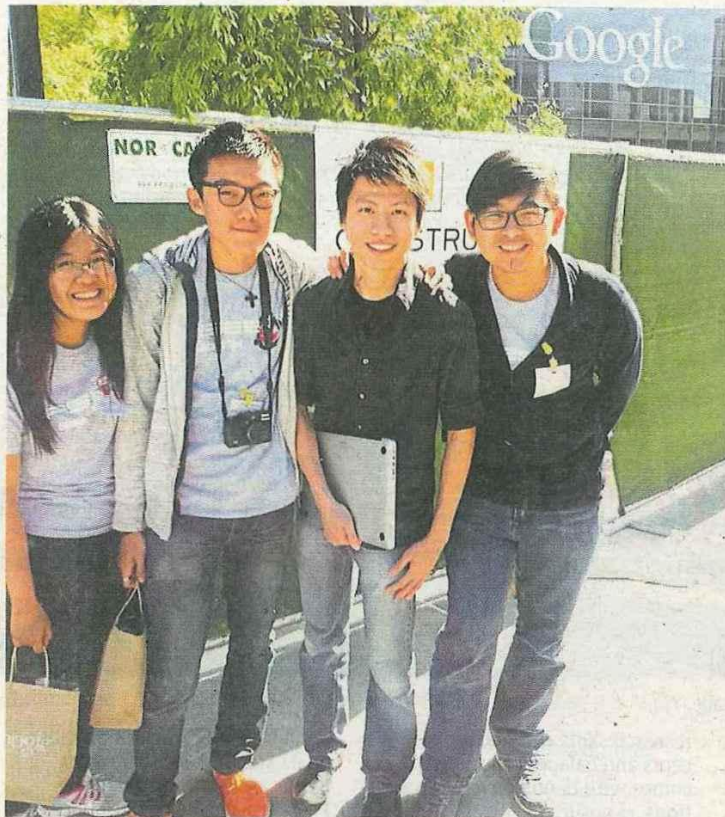
Revolving around the theme of technology disrupting economy, sustainability, education and health, the summit featured prominent entrepreneurs like Moon Express founder Naveen Jain and Evernote chief executive officer Phil Libin who, through workshops and presentations, shared how they successfully applied technology to run their out-of-the-box ideas.

It also included a business pitch presented to a team of judges from Silicon Valley.

The delegates had to identify a problem in a given area and develop a solution that was unconventional, disruptive and yet practical.

From sourcing energy from the human pulse to compressing textbooks onto feature phones to ease the burden of carrying heavy loads to schools, the delegates came up with creative solutions.

"For me, the summit presented a fantastic networking opportunity. It was encouraging to know that there are many others like me who want to make a difference in our own innovative and distinctive ways," said



(From left) Gwen Yi, Austin, Gary Ng (tour guide) and Joshua posing for a photograph at Googleplex.

Joshua, a second year international business student at INTI.

Despite following different education pathways, Gwen Yi, Joshua and Austin share a common aspiration to become successful entrepreneurs.

They are actively involved in career development events and activities organised by INTI.

Therefore, the opportunity to participate in a tour of Silicon Valley, specifically Googleplex, the corporate headquarters complex of Google Inc, and the Plug and Play Tech Centre, a global accelerator that specialises in growing tech startups, during the summit gave them insights into how

to set up their own companies and find venture capitalists to fund their ideas.

"At INTI, I am challenged by the academic rigour, stimulated by the insightful lecturers and inspired by my coursemates to seek my full potential. What I acquire isn't so much a specific set of skills, but the framework and preparation to obtain those skills from sources such as the ASES Summit," said Gwen Yi.

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