South Africa–China Business & Innovation Leadership Programme

Shenzhen & The Greater Bay Area | A 14-Day Strategic Business Study Tour

Programme Overview

The **South Africa–China Business & Innovation Leadership Programme** is a **14-day** immersive executive study tour tailor-made for MBA, EMBA, and postgraduate business participants. Centred in Shenzhen — China's premier hub for technological innovation, advanced manufacturing, and global commercial expansion — this programme delivers high-level, curriculum-aligned exposure to the strategic models that have shaped China's industrial upgrading and emerging market success.

Designed specifically for African business leaders and graduate learners, the tour bridges theoretical business education with real-world innovation practices applicable to South Africa's developmental agenda and the broader African continent. It integrates exclusive corporate site visits, industry deep dives, and cross-cultural strategic exchange to deliver actionable frameworks for emerging market growth, technological adoption, and cross-border collaboration.

Participants will engage with flagship Chinese enterprises, including **BYD, Huawei, DJI, Transsion Holdings, SF Holding, UBTECH, Foxconn Industrial Internet, and Ping An Bank & PAFC**. These industry leaders exemplify core competitive strengths in technological R&D, end-to-end supply chain integration, intelligent manufacturing, and global market penetration. Special emphasis is placed on business models highly relevant to African markets — including Transsion's continent-leading hyper-localization strategies, BYD's scalable new-energy mobility solutions, and the industrial application of AI, service robotics, and digital infrastructure across emerging economies.

Beyond corporate learning, the programme explores Shenzhen's world-class entrepreneurial ecosystem, complete electronics industrial chains, and the institutional innovation of the Qianhai Shenzhen–Hong Kong Cooperation Zone, illustrating how regional synergy drives global trade and technological iteration. Subject to operational feasibility, participants may also observe autonomous mobility and low-altitude drone logistics demonstrations, showcasing how cutting-edge technologies translate into scalable industrial, agricultural, and public-service solutions across Africa.

Serving as an advanced practical extension of business school curricula, the programme empowers participates to connect their classical management theories with contemporary industrial practices, evaluate global disruptive strategies, and

identify structured cooperation opportunities between China, South Africa, and the broader African continent.

Corporate Visit Themes

The programme features eight industry-leading enterprise visits and hands-on technology demonstrations, carefully curated to deliver multi-dimensional case studies for MBA/EMBA participants and faculty leadership.

Sector	Enterprise	Theme
New Energy & Mobility	BYD Company Limited	Vertical integration, EV innovation management, SkyShuttle smart transit control, and global scaling.
ICT & Green Power	Huawei Technologies	Corporate culture, management philosophy, organizational resilience, and global R&D strategy.
Hyper-Localization	Transsion Holdings HQ	Consumer-centric R&D, market-entry strategy, and digital ecosystem building in emerging markets.
Smart Logistics & Low-Altitude	SF Holding & Drone Ecosystem	Tech-driven supply chains, unmanned drone dispatch systems, and customer-centric logistics practice.
Embodied AI & Robotics	UBTECH Robotics HQ	Bipedal humanoid robots (Walker S), embodied AI commercialization, and smart factory integration.
Industry 4.0 & Automation	Foxconn Industrial Internet (FII)	WEF-certified "Lighthouse Factory", end-to-end supply chain integration, and industrial digital transformation.
Global Hardware Leadership	DJI Technology	Culture of innovation, hands-on flight technology, and enterprise UAV applications for infrastructure and agriculture.
Fintech & Financial Inclusion	Ping An Bank & PAFC	Fintech adoption, retail banking evolution, and Shenzhen’s rise as a global financial center.

14-Day Executive Itinerary

WEEK 1: Clean-Tech, Supply Chains & Emerging Market Strategies	
DAY 1	**Activity:** Arrival, airport welcome, hotel check-in. **Evening:** Welcome Dinner.
DAY 2	**Morning:** Corporate visit to **BYD Pingshan Headquarters**. **Afternoon:** Autonomous Driving Touchpoint—Live ride experience in **Robotaxi** (Baidu Apollo / AutoX) within Pingshan Autonomous Zone. **Evening:** Tour of **Pingshan Cultural Cluster** (Modern high-tech library & art district).
DAY 3	**Morning:** Cultural context visit to **Lianhuashan Park** (City panorama & urban development history). **Afternoon:** Executive visit to **Ping An Finance Centre** (PAFC 116F) & **Ping An Bank**. Briefing on fintech adoption, retail banking evolution, and Greater Bay Area finance, alongside panoramic observation overlooking Shenzhen-Hong Kong cross-border metropolitan landscape. **Evening:** Futian CBD Light Show & Skyline Observation.
DAY 4	**Morning:** Botanical & cultural excursion to **Fairylake Botanical Garden** & **Hongfa Temple**. **Afternoon/Evening:** Field study of **Dafen Oil Painting Village** (Art commercialization ecosystem) or **Dongmen Commercial District**.
DAY 5	**Morning:** Corporate briefing at **SF Holding** (Smart supply chain & logistics orchestration). **Afternoon:** Visit to **Shenzhen Talent Park**; Live **Drone Delivery** Experience (Ordering via app and witnessing automated UAV coffee delivery drop). **Evening:** Tour of **Shenzhen Bay Super Headquarters Base**.
DAY 6	**Morning:** Executive visit to **Transsion Holdings Headquarters**. Case study on "King of Africa", dark-skin imaging algorithms, multi-SIM solutions, and mobile internet ecosystems. **Afternoon:** Field research at **Huaqiangbei Electronics Market** & Huaqiangbei Museum (Global hardware supply chain hub).
DAY 7	**Full Day:** Visit to **Huawei Songshan Lake Campus (Dongguan)**. **Focus:** Interactive session on Huawei's R&D strategy, global supply chain continuity, and Digital Power (Smart PV & ESS) deployments.

WEEK 2: Robotics, Lighthouse Automation, Regional Integration & Synthesis	
DAY 8	**Morning:** Visit to **UBTECH Robotics Headquarters**. Live demonstration of Walker S industrial humanoid robots in smart manufacturing workflows. **Afternoon:** Policy briefing at **Qianhai Deep-Sea Cooperation Zone Hall** & **Qianhai Stone Park**; Autonomous Robobus Ride Experience. **Evening:** On-site experience of Qianhai's urban commercial precinct at **Uniwalk (Yifang City)**.
DAY 9	**Morning:** Visit to **Foxconn Industrial Internet (FII) WEF Lighthouse Factory**. Observation of "lights-out" automated assembly, predictive AI maintenance, and industrial IoT. **Afternoon:** Institutional briefing at **Shenzhen Industrial Exhibition Hall** (Overview of Shenzhen's $100B+ industrial clusters).
DAY 10	**Full Day:** Cross-border cultural experience in Hongkong. **Activities:** supervisor free morning; afternoon **Victoria Harbour** excursion, **Avenue of Stars** and historic **Star Ferry** crossing.
DAY 11	**Full Day:** Ecological and historical study trip to **Dapeng Peninsula**. **Sites:** **Dapeng Ancient Fortress** (Origins of Shenzhen), Yangmeikeng Coastal Reserve, and Jiaochangwei Beach.
DAY 12	**Morning:** Visit to **DJI Technology** (Shekou Experience Center). Exploration of commercial drones in agriculture, and emergency management. **Afternoon/Evening:** Coastal walk at **K11 Prince Bay**, Sea World Culture and Arts Center, historic Minghua Ship, and musical fountain show.
DAY 13	**Morning:** Coastal sunrise observation at **Dameisha**, authentic local restaurant. **Afternoon:** Transfer to Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport for departure.
DAY 14	Arrival in South Africa.

**All corporate visits, institutional engagements and tech demonstrations are proposed and subject to final confirmation by relevant parties.*

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the programme, participating MBA/EMBA candidates will have achieved:

1. **Actionable Strategic Insights:** Firsthand understanding of how Chinese multinationals achieve end-to-end vertical integration, cost optimization, and rapid product iteration.
2. **Emerging Market Models:** Practical knowledge of "Reverse Innovation" and hyper-localized product design as demonstrated by Transsion and BYD.
3. **Future-Tech Literacy:** Direct operational familiarity with commercial autonomous vehicles (Robotaxi/Robobus), UAV logistics, and bipedal humanoid robotics.
4. **Cross-Cultural Leadership:** Enhanced capacity to navigate Asia-Africa business corridors, cross-border partnerships, and global supply chain networks.

Supplementary Background Note

Enterprise case details are provided in the Appendix at the end of this document for your reference.

Appendix: Featured Enterprise Profile

*Note: The visit itinerary, facility access, and executive engagement sessions remain subject to formal coordination and confirmation.

BYD Company Limited

A Strategic Case Study in Global Energy Transition & Emerging Market Innovation

Executive Overview

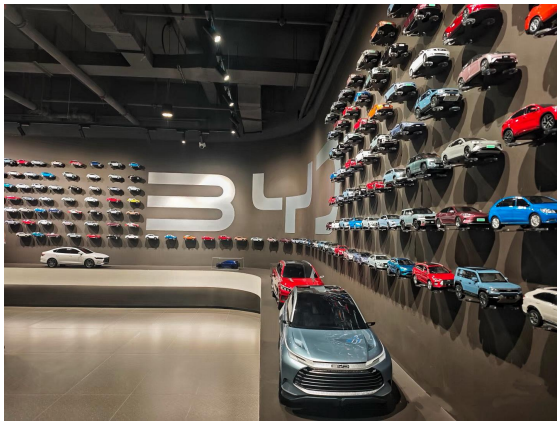
Headquartered in Shenzhen, BYD Company Limited is a Fortune Global 500 technology leader and a pioneer in New Energy Vehicles (NEVs), power batteries, and sustainable energy ecosystems. BYD's growth trajectory offers a compelling framework for understanding how technological self-reliance, end-to-end vertical integration, and agile international strategy drive industrial transformation and global competitiveness.

Proposed HQ Visit Highlights

The proposed delegation visit to BYD's global headquarters in Pingshan will provide participants with an immersive, firsthand look into its innovation ecosystem. Core focus areas include:

- **Advanced Clean-Tech Applications:** Exploration of Blade Battery safety innovations, utility-scale Energy Storage Systems (ESS), and zero-emission mobility solutions.
- **Vertical Integration & Resilience:** Executive briefings on how an integrated industrial model strengthens supply chain resilience, optimizes operational efficiency, and supports global market expansion.
- **Strategic Dialogue:** Opportunities for engagement with company representatives and industry experts on corporate leadership and technological scaling.





DJI (SZ DJI Technology Co., Ltd.)

A Strategic Case Study in Hardware Innovation, Global Brand Building & Industrial Autonomy

Executive Overview

Headquartered in Shenzhen, DJI is the world's undisputed leader in civilian drones, aerial imaging technology, and smart robotics, commanding over 70% of the global commercial drone market. DJI's rapid evolution from a university startup into a global technology powerhouse offers a premier case study in proprietary hardware-software integration, rapid product iteration, and premium international brand equity originating from Shenzhen's hardware ecosystem.

Proposed Site Visit Highlights

The proposed visit to the DJI Shekou Experience Center will provide participants with an interactive, multi-dimensional view of advanced robotics and aerial technology. Core focus areas include:

- **Consumer to Enterprise Ecosystem:** Exploration of DJI's full product spectrum—spanning consumer aerial cinematography, handheld stabilization, enterprise platforms (Matrice series with thermal/LiDAR sensors), and smart robotics.
- **Smart Agriculture & Industrial Applications:** Demonstration of enterprise-grade solutions, with a focus on autonomous agricultural drones (Agras series) for precision farming, crop monitoring, infrastructure inspection, and surveying.
- **Interactive Tech Immersion:** Hands-on flight simulator experiences and live flight demonstrations, showcasing human-machine interface design and user-centric product engineering.





Transsion Holdings

A Strategic Case Study in Deep Localization, Emerging Market Dominance & Digital Ecosystem Building

Executive Overview

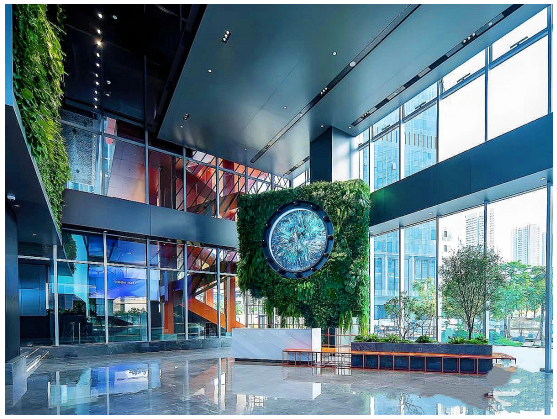
Headquartered in Shenzhen, Transsion Holdings is a Fortune China 500 technology leader and the undisputed pioneer in mobile smart terminals across global emerging markets. Widely celebrated as the "King of Africa," Transsion commands the leading market share in smartphones and feature phones across the African continent through its premier brands—TECNO, Infinix, and itel. Transsion's trajectory offers an extraordinary case study in market-entry strategy, consumer-centric innovation, and building scalable digital ecosystems in fast-growing developing economies.

Proposed HQ Visit Highlights

The proposed visit to Transsion's global headquarters in Shenzhen will provide participants with an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look into its global operations and localized R&D philosophy. Core focus areas include:

- **Hyper-Localized R&D & Product Engineering:** Exploration of Transsion's tailored product innovations—including dark skin-tone imaging algorithms, multi-SIM capabilities, extended battery life engineering, and acoustic optimization customized for African consumer preferences.
- **Beyond Hardware — Mobile Internet Ecosystems:** Executive briefings on Transsion's strategic transition into mobile operating systems (HiOS, XOS, itel OS), digital fintech platforms (PalmPay), music streaming services (Boomplay), and smart IoT ecosystems.
- **Agile Supply Chain & Local Operations:** Insights into Transsion's global supply chain resilience, cross-border logistics, and localized manufacturing, sales, and service networks across emerging markets.





S.F. Holding Co.,Ltd.

A Strategic Case Study in Smart Logistics, Low-Airspace Operations & Intelligent Supply Chain Integration

Executive Overview

Headquartered in Shenzhen, SF Holding is Asia's largest and the world's fourth-largest integrated logistics service provider. Renowned for its premium speed, reliability, and technological leadership, SF has evolved from a premier express delivery operator into a global logistics technology powerhouse. By integrating big data, AI, automation, and an extensive cargo airline fleet, SF defines the frontier of modern supply chain orchestration and intelligent last-mile fulfillment.

Proposed Site Visit Highlights

The proposed visit to SF's Shenzhen headquarters and Smart Logistics Hub will offer participants an exclusive look into the future of automated supply chains. Core focus areas include:

- **Autonomous & Low-Altitude Drone Logistics (Fengyi Tech):** Live demonstration of SF's commercial UAV logistics ecosystem—featuring autonomous drone landing towers, automated parcel transfer cabinets, and real-time flight management centers for last-mile and intercity delivery.
- **Smart Supply Chain & AI Optimization:** Executive briefings on SF's proprietary logistics operating system, AI-driven route optimization, automated sorting hubs, and cold-chain management powering cross-border trade.
- **Integrated Ground-to-Air Network:** Exploration of SF's multi-tiered "Air + Ground + Autonomous" delivery infrastructure designed for high-density urban centers and complex regional geographies.





UBTECH Robotics (UBTECH Robotics Corp Ltd)

A Strategic Case Study in Embodied AI, Humanoid Robotics & Industrial Automation

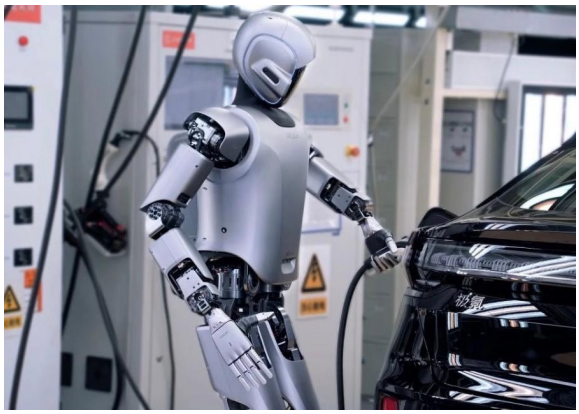
Executive Overview

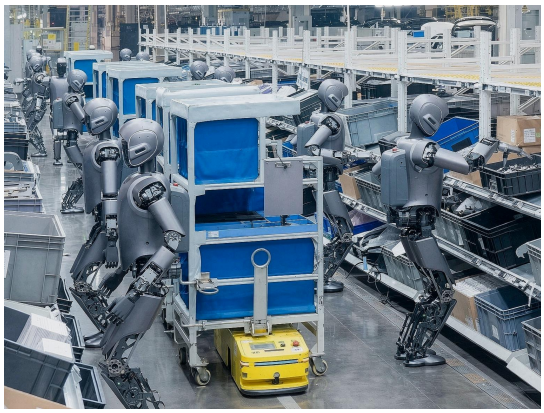
Headquartered in Shenzhen and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (9880.HK), UBTECH Robotics is a global pioneer in artificial intelligence and humanoid robotics. Widely celebrated as the "First Humanoid Robot Stock in the World," UBTECH integrates advanced perception, bipedal locomotion, autonomous navigation, and embodied AI. UBTECH's trajectory offers a premier case study in commercializing frontier AI technologies and driving the transition toward human-robot collaboration across smart manufacturing, logistics, and service sectors.

Proposed Site Visit Highlights

The proposed visit to UBTECH's global headquarters and AI robotics center in Shenzhen will provide participants with an exclusive, hands-on immersion into next-generation robotics. Core focus areas include:

- **Industrial Humanoid Robotics (Walker S Series):** Live demonstrations of UBTECH's flagship industrial humanoid robots performing complex tasks in real-world automotive and electronics manufacturing environments—including quality inspection, material handling, and precision assembly.
- **Embodied AI & Multimodal Intelligence:** Executive briefings on the fusion of Large Language Models (LLMs) with embodied AI, enabling bipedal robots to comprehend natural language commands, reason autonomously, and execute multi-step physical workflows.
- **Commercial & Healthcare Service Ecosystem:** Exploration of UBTECH's diversified service robotics portfolio—spanning smart logistics platforms, AI educational solutions, and intelligent eldercare and healthcare robotics.





Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.

A Strategic Case Study in Global ICT Leadership, R&D Investment & Enterprise Resilience

Executive Overview

Headquartered in Shenzhen, Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. is a Fortune Global 500 technology leader and one of the world's premier providers of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices. Renowned for its extraordinary dedication to R&D, unique employee-ownership governance, and organizational agility, Huawei has successfully navigated complex global environments to define the leading edge of 5G/6G networks, cloud computing, enterprise digital transformation, and green digital power.

Proposed Site Visit Highlights

The proposed visit to Huawei's iconic Songshan Lake Campus (Ox Horn Campus) and Executive Briefing Center will offer participants a world-class look into an end-to-end technology ecosystem. Core focus areas include:

- **Digital Power & Green Energy Transition:** Exploration of Huawei's Digital Power solutions—spanning smart photovoltaics (PV), utility-scale energy storage, green data center infrastructure, and smart microgrids.
- **Enterprise Intelligence & Cloud Solutions:** Executive briefings on Huawei Cloud, industrial AI deployment (Pangu Models), smart mining, digital finance, and framework practices for large-scale corporate digital transformation.
- **Global R&D Architecture & Corporate Culture:** Guided tour of the world-renowned Songshan Lake R&D facility, illustrating Huawei's long-term R&D investment philosophy, human-centric workplace design, and organizational culture.





Foxconn Industrial Internet (FII)

A Strategic Case Study in Industry 4.0, Smart Manufacturing & Sustainable Industrial Ecosystems

Executive Overview

Headquartered in Shenzhen and listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, Foxconn Industrial Internet (FII) is a Fortune Global 500 technology leader and a world-class provider of smart manufacturing, industrial internet, cloud computing, and AI hardware infrastructure. FII's flagship Shenzhen manufacturing campus is officially recognized by the World Economic Forum (WEF) as both a "Global Lighthouse Factory" and a "Sustainability Lighthouse"—representing the global benchmark for Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) integration, operational efficiency, and green manufacturing.

Proposed Site Visit Highlights

The proposed visit to FII's Shenzhen Lighthouse Factory will offer participants an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look into one of the world's most advanced automated production environments. Core focus areas include:

- **"Lights-Out" Autonomous Manufacturing:** Demonstration of fully automated, unlit production lines operating seamlessly through industrial robotics, automated guided vehicles (AGVs), and advanced machine-to-machine (M2M) communications.
- **Industrial AI & Digital Twin Systems:** Executive briefings on AI-powered Automated Optical Inspection (AOI), real-time predictive maintenance, digital twin modeling, and Industrial IoT (IIoT) platforms that maximize yield and operational throughput.
- **Sustainable & Green Manufacturing:** Exploration of FII's WEF-certified "Sustainability Lighthouse" practices, showcasing energy-optimization AI algorithms, circular economy initiatives, and carbon-neutral facility management.





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