



June 2019 Newsletter

Theme	Case Title	Keynote
Innovation and Application of Science and Technology	Lexin: Building a Closed-loop Consumer Finance Ecosystem	Exploring personal finance and the risks involved
Transformation and development of Traditional Firms	Lenovo: Time for Another Refresh?	Lenovo's strategic choices and implementation – successes and failures
	XCMG: The Path to Maturity for a Traditional SOE	How XCMG Group dug itself out of trouble
	JOMOO Kitchens and Bathrooms: Strategic Upgrading in the Smart Era	How JOMOO upgraded its development strategy to absorb online business practices
	Multi-brand Anta: Latest Strategy of Leading Chinese Sportswear Producer	A study of Anta's channel transformation and multi-brand strategy
Explorations in Charity and Social Innovation	Red Star Macalline: How to Transform a Home Furnishings Platform	Times are changing, and competition is growing. How does Red Star Macalline plan to transform itself to have the best chance of facing up to its challenges?
	Ant Forest: Integrating Business Practices into Public Welfare Protection	Transformation and innovation of the traditional public welfare model by Internet technology
Model Innovation	Pinduoduo: Origin and Prospect of a Social E-commerce Giant	The driving force behind the rapid rise of Pinduoduo and its potential development direction
	Puppy's Centralized Maintenance Model	Innovations in service transformation of a manufacturer
Human Resource and Enterprise Culture	Spice World Hotpot: Acculturation and Project Organization	Spice World's incentive mechanism and Zhu Xingquan's acculturation methods
"China's Business Conditions Index" Report	CKGSB Monthly Survey & BCI Reports	Compile and index to assess the operating conditions of private enterprises

Innovation and Application of Science and Technology

Lexin: Building a Closed-loop Consumer Finance Ecosystem (Completed)

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Ouyang Hui Case Researcher: Lin Rongchang (Intern Researcher)

Lexin is a fintech group. Five years from its establishment, Lexin encompasses an e-commerce personal finance platform called Fenqile, an online investment platform for individual investors called Juzi Licai and an open source asset management platform called Dingsheng Assets. Lexin now has all the makings of a closed-loop ecosystem. How was this created, and what risks and challenges does Lexin face?

Transformation and development of Traditional Firms

Lenovo: Time for Another Refresh? (Completed)

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Li Wei Case Researcher: Zhu Yunhai

"If we lose our shared aspirations, what will we become?" is classic advertising copy in China, neatly referencing the characters of Lenovo's Chinese name. But Lenovo Group has lost the aura of unlimited connection, and no longer feels inspired. A granddaddy of Chinese private business in China, Lenovo is also a high tech elder. Taking a 20-year timeframe however, Huawei has earned twice Lenovo's revenue. Baidu, Alibaba, Tencent and JD.com (BATJ), China's looming internet giants, have now fully caught up. Lenovo represents technology as it was. Its poor stamina for change has led to flat earnings of around RMB 300 billion for many years in a row.

More worrying than its scale of operations is Lenovo's limited appeal in technological innovation. Its phone business has underperformed. Forays into online education, e-commerce, and AI have failed to grow. Capital markets reflect public and investor disappointment: Lenovo Group was listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange for just HKD 4.99 per share on October 31, 2018, a total market capitalization of HKD 60 billion, only a third of its peak market value. Its valuation has been left in the dust by BATJ. What happened to this once brilliant superstar? Can Lenovo make a comeback in the smart era?

XCMG: The Path to Maturity for a Traditional SOE (Completed)

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Li Wei Case Researcher: Zhu Yunhai

XCMG Group is a typical Chinese SOE, with a mighty past and correspondingly huge operational issues. To save itself, it has had to stoop low before. But now, XCMG is undergoing a revival and has found a healthy pace of growth. What is the secret to its performance turnaround?

JOMOO Kitchens and Bathrooms: Strategic Upgrading in the Smart Era (Completed)

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Teng Bingsheng Case Researcher: Yan Min

A viral article published in 2015 entitled, "Going to Japan to buy a toilet cover" provoked widespread discussion online, and made a bestseller of the product in question. This "toilet cover" was "smart", in the sense that it could be controlled via a phone app. It wasn't an entirely new product, but this was the first story one was to attract such widespread attention. This hadn't happened for years.

As with AI, the Internet of Things, cloud computing and other related technologies were developed in recent years. Many have embraced the smart era in the same way that earlier people ushered in the electric era, followed by the information age. Can the smart bathroom usher in a similar market boom? JOMOO Group has been deeply involved in home hardware and sanitary ceramics for many years. In 2018, it ranked first among Chinese bathroom goods enterprises with sales of RMB 13 billion. Lin Xiaofa, chairman of JOMOO, stated his sales goal of RMB 50 billion by 2025, and placed high hopes on the smart products for kitchen and bathroom and custom products. With cross-border competition for smart devices, can JOMOO win the smart-home battle? How does it support strategic upgrades in research and development, channels, and operations? This case focuses on the smart strategy of JOMOO.

Multi-brand Anta: Latest Strategy of Leading Chinese Sportswear Producer (Planning)

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Teng Bingsheng Case Researcher: Mei Xinlei

A wave of consumption upgrading and developing awareness of the role of sport in society has increased the allure of Chinese sports apparel firms in the domestic marketplace. Over the past 15 years, Anta has stood out. In terms of overall sales, the firm is now third biggest in China after Nike and Adidas. By contrast, local competitors Li Ning, Xtep and 361 have all performed poorly. Anta's success stems from its clear grasp on the importance of demand; clarity derived from a "one focus, many brand, all channels" approach. This case considers Anta's use of the channel in its retail transformation, and losses and gains from carrying out a multi-brand strategy.

Explorations in Charity and Social Innovation

Ant Forest: Integrating Business Practices into Public Welfare Protection (Work in progress)

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Huang Chunyan Case Researcher: Zhu Yunhai, Mei Xinlei

In the traditional public welfare model, the relationship between the donor and the nonprofit organization is simple money gift. In addition to that, the connection between them is very loose. This has caused many problems, including the difficulty of raising money, low transparency and social influence of traditional public welfare. Represented by Ant Forest, the new environmental public interest model has made hundreds of millions of people deeply involved in public welfare projects. This has not only promoted the implementation and development of public welfare projects, but has also changed the daily behavior patterns of participants. How did Ant Forest do that? This case will make an in-depth discussion for you.

Model Innovation

Pinduoduo: Origin and Prospect of a Social E-commerce Giant (Completed)

Faculty Advisor: Jing Bing Case Researcher: Mei Xinlei

As competition in the e-commerce market enters a new phase in which big B2C platforms struggle with traffic growth and surging traffic acquisition prices, social media traffic has become a much-watched "blue ocean" of opportunity. Alibaba and JD.com, the giants of the sector, are as yet underequipped. Pinduoduo, born in the WeChat ecosystem, shows initial signs of success in social e-commerce, but faces sustainable development challenges following a period of explosive growth. This case will explore Pinduoduo's driving forces and its potential direction.

Puppy's Centralized Maintenance Model (Completed)

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Zheng Yusheng Case Researcher: Yan Min

Making the most of China's E-commerce boom, Puppy has quickly grown into a well-known online vacuum cleaner retail brand. However, the problem of after-sales service has likewise grown quickly. Should Puppy cooperate with traditional after-sales service providers, or forge a new path? Its centralized maintenance model is an innovative solution to this problem, improving customer satisfaction, cost control, and product quality at once.

Human Resource and Enterprise Culture

Spice World: Corporate Culture and Internal Venture System (Work in progress)

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Zhang Xiaomeng Case Researcher: Mei Xinlei

For players in a labor-intensive service industry, what mechanisms are effective in motivating a large number of front-line staffs? How can business leaders build up corporate culture and effectively distill it to the front line? What value do the internal venture system and brand management platform have? Zhu Xingquan's Spice World provides a reference point on these questions.

"China's Business Conditions Index" Report

Monthly BCI Survey & Report (Work in progress)

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Li Wei Case Researcher: Gu Chongqing

Although the private sector is the most dynamic force in the Chinese economy, an index to assess private enterprises operating conditions was lacking. To fill in the gap, we have compiled related indexes using data obtained from monthly questionnaire surveys among entrepreneurs in the growing CK alumni network. Each year 12 editions of the index will be released.