

APPS-OLUTELY EASY IN BEIJING



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Ir. Lee Mun Poh had previously served as past chairman for the session 2015/2016 in Information and Communications Technology Special Interest Group (ICTSIG).



At the 5G Pavilion



Flower terraces

Modern technology helped make my recent visit to the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 a success. I did travel plans, insurance and hotel bookings online.

In Beijing, I visited the many places of interest in the outskirts with the help of apps such as Baidu map, Beijing Metro and Google Translate, using a China Telecom data plan. However, to use Baidu, users need to speak precise and clear Mandarin to XiaoDu, the AI voice assistant, which became my best friend in Beijing.

I had picked a hotel conveniently located in Dongsu area, which was within walking distance to the National Art Museum and the Metro. Even better, the Wu Supermarket and many lovely restaurants were in the vicinity.

On the sixth day, I made a day trip to the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition 2019. The journey took a total of 2 hours, starting a 30-minute ride on Metro Line 5 to Tian Tong Yuan Zhan. There, I made my way to Line 3 Bus Stand and boarded a bus for the 90-minute ride to the Expo venue in north-west Beijing.

The expo site area was spread over 500 hectares. Some 40,000 visitors were expected daily but with six entrances to the expo grounds, it was a breeze to purchase tickets and get inside.

Once inside, I scanned QR code for the venue guide app. The first stop was China Pavilion, which had yellow solar panels on the roof for electricity generation and water harvesting with underground storage. There were underground channels used for cooling in the summer and heating in winter. Flowers and plants from all over China were displayed over three floors of the pavilion.

Next, I visited China Telecom's 5G Pavilion which showcased 5G technology with VR, mixed reality, unmanned aerial vehicle and AI. The whole expo site had 12 outdoor 5G macro stations, 74 smartlight poles and 11 indoor distribution systems.

It would have taken more than a day trip to see more of the site, but it was really a worthwhile visit. For more information go to Beijing Expo 2019 website. <http://www.horti-expo2019.org/>. ■



Inside the 5G Pavilion. The large LCD resolution is 8K