Alipay @ Hema chain
Cash is so yesterday's concern

We had the pleasure to visit the Hema supermarket chain, which is now owned by the Alibaba group. The floor we visited is a food court consisting of restaurants, vending machines, and a supermarket.

Payment has been made more convenient than ever thanks to Alipay. Having the account set up, the only thing customers need to do is to scan the QR code on their mobile phone at the cashier point or at the restaurant till.

When there are discounts, they are automatically taken into account through he scanning of the QR code. On the entire floor there is exactly one cash till, where customers can pay by cash – this is primarily used by older customers.

On the left, you can see a coconut vending machine. Upon selection, we put the QR code shown on the mobile phone screen against the square screen. The machine acknowledges the account and charges the amount of the coconut. The coconut is then pierced through by a drill and delivered at the bottom along with a straw. This keeps the coconut fresh and cold.

My card from China
Huyen DIEP
MiM programme - IoT specialization