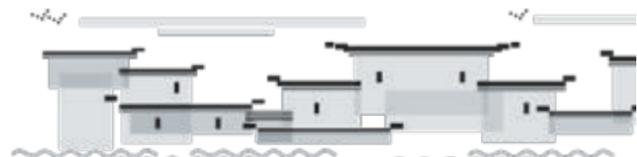


WORLD INTERNET CONFERENCE



A smart industrial inspection and repair robot is displayed at the Light of Internet Expo in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, on Monday.

ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

More innovation efforts urged

New forms of apps, software, and tech breakthroughs needed to foster growth

By CHENG YU
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More efforts are needed for China to drive new forms and applications of the industrial internet, so as to foster fresh growth engines for the country's manufacturing industry, top officials and industry leaders said on Monday.

Zhuang Rongwen, minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China, called for accelerated efforts to make more innovations in the industrial internet for higher-quality economic growth, at the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, which ends on Tuesday.

"To maintain the vigorous development of the industrial internet, we must promote deeper convergence of digital technologies to maximize the effect of digitalization," Zhuang said on Monday.

The industrial internet refers to a network of combined, advanced machines with internet-connected sensors and big data analytics and is widely considered an important way of improving industrial efficiency.

"China will put big efforts into developing new forms of industrial applications and software, and in making new breakthroughs in key

technologies, including 5G, edge computing and artificial intelligence," said Chen Zhaoxiong, vice-minister of industry and information technology, at the conference.

Chen noted that China has gained some momentum in industrial internet platforms as more than 50 industrial internet platforms with regional or sector-wide influence have emerged in the country.

"An increasing number of applications are being commercialized with each platform owning more than 1,900 apps on average, which have been applied in over 100 different industries," said Chen in Wuzhen.

Such a move is part of China's determined push to gain an edge in the industrial internet, which Qianzhan Industry Research Institute estimates will reach a market size of 10.8 trillion yuan (\$1.53 trillion) by 2025, and also accelerate manufacturing upgrading.

During this process, a string of Chinese companies have beefed up their presence in the segment, where they have greatly improved efficacy and management by introducing leading technologies in their production process or assembly lines.

A shining example is Inspur Group Co Ltd, a major server maker and big data company. It launched its industrial internet platform in 2017 to expand its presence.

Sun Pishu, chairman of Inspur, said at the Wuzhen conference that the industrial internet is China's third critical network in internet development, following networks that work for consumers and government affairs.

"The sector will play a key role in promoting the nation from a big manufacturing country to a great manufacturing power," Sun said.

According to him, in developing the industrial internet, efforts should be made to support industrial internet operators and suppliers.

Inspur's industrial internet platforms now provide solutions covering research and development, design, procurement and supply, production and manufacturing for 10 major industries, including engineering machinery, electronic information and electric power.

While the industrial internet is developing vigorously, experts said that a huge amount of data has been transferred between different chains, requiring products and minor components to be identified accurately.

To tap this demand, Humi Network Technology Co Ltd, a subsidiary of leading Chinese motorcycle

manufacturer Zongshen Industrial Group, announced at the conference that it will cooperate with scientific institutes and major tech firms to accelerate breakthroughs in key technology.

Notable partners include tech giant Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology.

"We aim to finish the establishment of such standards in the motorcycle industry by 2020 and expand to other major industries by 2025," said Feng Feng, senior vice-president of Humi.

The industrial network of Humi has now attracted 114,000 registered users including more than 91,000 industrial users. The total transaction volume has exceeded 900 million yuan so far, the company's latest data showed.

However, Zuo Yingnan, vice-president of Chinese cybersecurity company Qi An Xin Group, added that the development of the industrial internet also brings new challenges in ensuring the security of industrial computers and data.

"But it also brings new cybersecurity challenges, which mainly come from two aspects — how to better protect industrial computers and servers, and how to secure industrial data as they flow across different platforms," Zuo said, adding that more attention should be paid to tackling the bottleneck.

Think tanks should promote cooperation, learning and exchanges

By ZHENG YIRAN
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Think tanks should better shoulder the responsibility of the current era, to strengthen the exploration and exchange of cyberspace civilization, and contribute to the promotion of the global internet governance system and the construction of a community with a shared future in cyberspace, said officials and experts from home and abroad on Monday.

Sheng Ronghua, vice-minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China, said during a forum of the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, that "cyberspace is a smart space that brings together ideas and leads innovation. It is also a broad stage for teamwork and sharing".

He said that one important proposition that President Xi Jinping raised during the second WIC was to create online cultural exchange sharing platforms to promote mutual exchange and learning.

Think tanks, with the role of promoting exchange, innovation,

and cooperation, are among such platforms, he said.

Li Cheng, director and senior fellow of the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution, described the role of think tanks from the Sino-US perspective.

"While competition between the United States and China is inevitable, conflicts are not, and we must strive to avoid conflicts.

"Think tanks in the US, China and the rest of the world play an important role in promoting dialogue, and avoiding misunderstanding, miscommunication, and misjudgment," he said.

During the think tank forum, many experts from home and abroad shared their thoughts. Denis Davydov, head of Russia's Safe Internet League, noted that new technologies constantly enter the market with no matched rules. Therefore, many negotiations are needed.

In the development of AI, regulators should guarantee that it is human beings that are playing a central role, rather than AI, to protect people's rights, nature, emotions and spirits. To this end, a global standard should be made,



Speakers discuss the interaction of civilizations and the role of think tanks in the information age at the International High-Level Think Tank Forum on the Internet during the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, on Monday.

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and think tanks can serve as a platform for more discussions, he said.

According to the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report issued by the University of Pennsylvania, there were 8,162 think tanks around the globe in 2018, and Asia accounted for 22.4 percent of the total. China's think tanks have evolved rapidly in recent years. Last year, China's think tanks totaled 507, ranking third globally.

Nils Gilman, vice-president of programs at the Berggruen Institute, said that during the process of cyberspace governance, think tanks play an important role in

building dialogues, gathering knowledge, enhancing cooperation and creating policies.

To make think tanks play a better role, Sheng of the Cyberspace Administration of China suggested that more joint research, academic seminars and exchange visits should be made to launch high-quality research results, offering support for global internet governance.

In addition, cultural and innovative products should be shared globally, in order to promote balanced development and let countries around the world enjoy the achievements of the internet together.

BRI bringing greater connectivity to region

By HE WEI
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Cooperative projects under the auspices of the Belt and Road Initiative have started to reap early gains, as politicians from different countries hailed its role in enhancing connectivity and boosting new opportunities for development.

The grand and ambitious initiative "answers the call of our times for regional and global cooperation", said Shaukat Aziz, former prime minister of Pakistan.

"Not since the Silk Road more than 2,000 years ago has the world seen such an ambitious effort to boost connectivity, strengthen existing ties and forge new ways of building cooperation," he said at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on Cyberspace during the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen on Monday.

He said the BRI has already seen positive steps forward in bringing greater cooperation and connectivity to the region, and it shows how "such an economic initiative can be an enabler of peace and prosperity".

Tangible results have surfaced notably on the digital front, with countries like Rwanda boarding the internet express through "significant and fruitful" partnerships with companies like Alibaba Group, said Antoine Sebera, chief innovation officer of the Rwandan government.

"We are on the track of creating a single market for goods and services in Africa, and China has for many years been a great partner to Africa and to Rwanda in particular," he said.

Last year, Chinese internet leader Alibaba agreed to multiple bilateral initiatives to promote the African country's economy through increased cross-border trade, capacity building and tourism.

A major tenet of the agreements is Rwanda's admission to the Electronic World Trade Platform, which provides small- and medium-sized enterprises with operational infrastructure, such as e-commerce logistics, cloud computing, mobile payments and skills training.

"This platform and the synergies have created immense benefits to small enterprises, local producers and exporters," he said.

Also benefiting is Portugal, with whom China has signed a number of memorandums of understanding in a total of 17 protocols ranging from culture and resources to science and technology, said Jose Luis Pinto Ramalho, chairman of the League of Portugal-China Lasting Friendship.

Among them was a memorandum of understanding on the BRI, which set out some of the possibilities for bilateral cooperation under the BRI, covering a wide range of sectors, particularly connectivity and electric mobility, he noted.

"We support the vision that the international community should work together for the development of technology, innovation of emerging sectors ... for win-win concepts and ... the general sharing of benefits," he said.

China is actively pushing ahead with international partnerships on the technology and digital front, having signed 16 collaboration documents with nations on the construction of the digital Silk Road, said Shang Bing, president of the Internet Society of China.

"We should strengthen coordination on strategy, policy and standards among nations, promote deepened integration of the internet and the real economy, and enhance cooperation in cyberspace governance," Shang said.

Zhejiang taps internet to enhance govt services

By WU YEYUN
and WANG JUNWEI

East China's Zhejiang province has seen remarkable progress in its efforts to enhance government services and functions in recent years by fully leveraging the internet, according to a senior official in charge of big data development in the province.

Jin Zhipeng, director of the Zhejiang Provincial Big Data Development Administration, briefed participants on the achievements the province has made in this regard at a news conference during the ongoing sixth World Internet Conference on Monday.

According to Jin, the province has launched Zheliban, an online government service platform that covers 412 public services in various aspects of life, streamlining administrative procedures and reducing related materials by sharing data on the internet.

Currently the platform has 28 million registered members who can obtain most of the services simply with an ID card.

Government work has also been facilitated thanks to Zhezhen, a digital platform of administrative collaboration co-developed by the provincial government and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

Based on DingTalk, an all-in-one mobile workplace from Alibaba, Zhezhen has created an all-weather online digital government. It has achieved coverage of organizations at all levels in Zhejiang province, with 1.23 million activated users, 260,000 working groups, and 715 online office and decision-making assistance applications.

Due to the platform's strong synergy capacity, government staff members can use Zhezhen during their daily inspections across different departments and systems, Zhang Jianfeng, chief technology officer of Alibaba, said at the conference.

At the same time, important data, key indicators, and an index of praise for the government administration are all displayed in the Zhezhen platform, which promotes transparency and openness.

"We aim to reshape the govern-

ment functions and operations in a systematic and digital way to promote the modernization of the governance system and capacity of our government," said Jin.

Pioneering the digital transformation of government in China, Zhejiang took the lead in the nation to provide online government services in 2014 and proposed the "At Most One Visit" reform in 2016, enabling individuals and enterprises to fulfill administrative procedures with just one visit to the related authorities. The reform was included in the provincial government report in 2018.

Government digitalization has increasingly been a top priority in China's government reforms in recent years.

The State Council issued a guideline on accelerating the integration of the internet and government services in September 2016 and Premier Li Keqiang set out specific work tasks to promote online government services at an executive meeting of the State Council.

Answering the call of the central government, Zhejiang put forward the strategy of promoting overall government digitalization in 2018.

"Zhejiang has been focusing on digital transformation of the government in recent years to deepen the 'At Most One Visit' reform, promote high-quality development and enhance the business climate," said Yuan Jiajun, governor of the province, at the 2019 Hangzhou Apsara Conference on Sept 25.

Zhejiang aims to establish a digital government system covering the entire province by the end of 2020, and realize the full integration of digital technologies and government duty performance by 2022, according to an overall plan published by the provincial government at the end of 2018 on deepening the "At Most One Visit" reform and promoting digital transformation of the government.

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