

Internet development mostly beneficial, experts say

Web's harmful effects can be weeded out via improvement of regulations

By WANG WEI
wangwei2012@chinadaily.com.cn

Experts and international organization representatives discussed their understanding of internet development at a forum on Sunday during the sixth World Internet Conference.

In his greeting letter to the Wu Talk forum, Robert Kahn, chairman of DONA Foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland, praised the contribution of internet development and wished the conference a success.

Over the past two decades, the internet has developed significantly thanks to technological innovation and government support in China. Wuzhen in Zhejiang province is the epitome of China's internet industry development.

Wuzhen is now covered by a 5G network, with more than 60 intelligent programs planned to be put into operation soon.

"When we started to use the internet, we had to use cables, but

now we can have wireless connections," Murai Jun, a professor at Keio University in Japan, said at the forum.

"I think the biggest change of the internet is the infrastructure development of wireless technology, which greatly supports internet development," he added.

"Nowadays the internet cannot only be used by academicians, but also by every common person," he added.

"In the past, we also wanted everybody to use the internet, but not everybody could afford it. Then more enterprises entered this industry, making the internet more popular," said Stephen Wolff, principal scientist at Internet2.

"I like most of the changes that the internet has brought to us. For example, e-commerce has brought great convenience to us," said David Farber, a distinguished professor and co-director of the Keio University Cyber Civilization Research Center.

"The internet has become a revo-



Experts have a panel discussion on internet industrial development trends at the Wu Talk forum on Sunday during the World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province. YIN DONGXUN / XINHUA

lutionized telecommunication system instead of TV, radio and telegraph," Farber said.

"However, I never thought of the great power that social media has brought to us. Some people even use

social media to attack others," he added.

While the internet has brought about some negative effects, most of the results have been positive, said Zhou Hongren, executive vice-chair-

man of the Advisory Committee for State Informatization.

"I think people mostly benefit as the internet develops," Zhou said. "People can communicate with each other everywhere at anytime."

The internet has become a revolutionized telecommunication system instead of TV, radio and telegraph."

David Farber, co-director of the Keio University Cyber Civilization Research Center

When talking about how to reject the internet's bad influences and encourage its healthy development, Zhou suggested improvement on universal rules and regulations.

Wolff also called for new regulations on cyberspace since new problems continually arise with internet use.

The Wu Talk, focusing on the future of the internet, was held to mark the internet's 50th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of China's full access to the internet.

The forum, themed The Beauty of Intelligent Interconnection, introduced a series of comprehensive and forward-looking discussions.



A forum on protection of minors online and governance of internet ecology is held during the World Internet Conference on Sunday. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

Cybersecurity emphasized as more youth go online

By ZHENG YIRAN
zhengyiran@chinadaily.com.cn

Efforts from all walks of life are needed to build a safe cyberspace and maintain the physical and psychological health of Chinese juveniles, government officials said on Sunday.

"Protecting the internet rights of juveniles and enhancing the governance of internet ecology have become concerns of all of society," Liu Liehong, vice-minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China, said at a forum in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province.

The Chinese government, enterprises, institutions and individuals, as well as the international society, are expected to join hands to build a better internet ecosystem to protect juveniles from harm, he said.

The number of juvenile netizens reached 178 million in China, and the popularity rate of internet among Chinese minors was 93.7 percent, according to Liu.

"The internet has become an important factor that influences the healthy growth of juveniles. Chinese teenagers get access to the internet for the first time at increasingly young ages. They have become real digital natives," he said. "Meanwhile, the risk of minors being harmed by the internet has increased, with illegal information access, personal privacy leaks and internet addictions all rising. Up to one-third of Chinese minors have accessed illegal information, such as violence, gambling, drug abuse and pornography at least once."

Wang Jiarui, chairman of the Soong Ching Ling Foundation, noted the internet plays an important role in cultivating teenagers' education, but it's a double-edged sword.

"Improper use of the internet harms juveniles' rights, and severely damages their physical and mental health," Wang said. "It is important to create clean cyberspace."

To this end, Omar Abdi, deputy executive director for programs at the United Nations Children's Fund, suggested the government joins hands with businesses, NGOs and agencies to keep children safe in the online world.

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Liu Liehong, vice-minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China

On Aug 22, the Cyberspace Administration introduced the Provisions on the Cyber Protection of Children's Personal Information, offering legal protection for children's online rights. New regulations on the governance of internet ecology are under discussion and will be rolled out soon.

Apart from the government, many Chinese internet enterprises are also taking active steps.

To clean up the online environment to protect juveniles, question-and-answer website Zhihu launched a system called Wukong to combat traffic cheats and false advertising. Later on, an algorithmic robot called Wali was introduced. The robot can precisely detect and deal with abusive contents online.

"The online world is a mapping of the real world. Internet companies must not only assume the role of maintaining order in the real society, but also foster the growth of content that promotes social development and civilization," said Zhou Yuan, founder and CEO of Zhihu.

"Currently, internet companies have shifted the focus of their competition from traffic to quality. High-quality content now is no longer a passing line, but the core of whether a company can achieve sustainable development," Zhou said.

"The competition will help us create a civilized, healthy and prosperous network ecosystem, and enable the internet to become a powerful force to promote social progress."

What they say

President Xi Jinping's congratulatory message pointed out that the internet is gaining development momentum and broader development space. This resonated with us. Against this backdrop, Tencent initiated a new round of strategic upgrades last year, aiming not just to put down roots in the consumer internet, but to embrace the industrial internet as well.



The congratulatory message also called on countries to build a community of a shared future in cyberspace, which means every participant in the internet industry is responsible for making their own contribution. Aware of the duty, Tencent has opened its sources and abilities to the rest of the internet community in recent years, helping different industries integrate with the internet. With the penetration of 5G, artificial intelligence and other technologies, we hope partners from different sectors can jointly build a healthy global digital ecosystem of common prosperity.

Ren Yuxin, chief operating officer of Tencent

The cooperation in cyberspace and mobile technology between China and the rest of world has developed at breakneck speed. Today's conference in Wuzhen highlighted the remarkable achievements made.



Currently, the world faces a lot of economic uncertainty, so this cooperation must continue if we are to face the world's greatest challenges together. To progress further in this mutual

endeavor, I believe continued promotion of cross-border trade and investment is essential. This can be achieved by allocating more resources into building a stronger ecosystem that fosters more cultural exchanges, joint research and collaborative development. This will help ensure greater access to commercial opportunities for innovators. Ultimately this requires more trust and open communication, which events like this do a fantastic job of providing.

Realizing this ideal is something I am highly passionate about and have devoted my career to. After hearing President Xi's excellent letter this morning, I have greater confidence that we can all collaborate to create a more harmonious and prosperous global society.

Benjamin Speyer, chairman of Serica Group and president of the Hangzhou International Entrepreneur Association

President Xi has emphasized that China's internet development now has a stronger impetus, which inspires a string of companies including Lenovo. The accelerated industrial growth will bring both opportunities and responsibilities.



We realize that to achieve higher-quality growth, in addition to driving internet industries, companies should enable more traditional sectors, including finance, medical services, energy and manufacturing, through intelligent means.

For years, Lenovo has leveraged technological advantages and experience to help enterprises in sectors such as automobiles, petrochemicals and energy to boost their efficiency.

Looking to the future, we will work with the country to speed up techno-

logical innovation and breakthroughs and contribute to the intelligent upgrading of industries.

Yang Yuanqing, chairman and CEO of Lenovo

Xi's congratulatory letter during this year's World Internet Conference was encouraging for the audience to follow up on his thoughts on the internet from the speech he gave in 2015. It showed his continuous support for the event. China, including not only the organizer of the meeting but the government, is committed to the topic of "Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace". Currently, I think the major risk or challenge we should combat together in cyberspace is lack of trust in cybersecurity and lack of cooperation. More international dialogues are needed.



Walter Fumy, chief scientist of Bundesdruckerei

President Xi Jinping said in a congratulatory letter to the sixth World Internet Conference that countries should follow the trend of the times, shoulder the responsibility for development, meet the challenges and risks, jointly promote global governance in cyberspace and strive to build a community of a shared future in cyberspace.



We have been a practitioner of such ideas. We not only focus on building smart security — a comprehensive system using artificial intelligence, big data

and cloud computing to offer high-end services and defend against cyber attacks — but also invest in and incubate small companies, and are helping build a community with a shared future in cybersecurity.

The new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation has pushed the internet to a broader space. Nowadays, the internet has been applied to various industries, and even society. The more new technologies we use, the more cyber attacks we might face and this has brought about a sudden change to the cybersecurity situation. We need to work together to build a community of a shared future in cyberspace.

Zhou Hongyi, chairman and CEO of the 360 Security Technology

The vision of China expressed by President Xi Jinping in terms of the internet is accurate. We're at the 25th anniversary of China's access to the internet and the progress that China has made is absolutely fabulous.



It's impressive because I can see that China has caught up with the world's latest trends in the cyberspace community. China is now at the forefront of the technological evolution. I think there are two reasons: First, China is very skilled in forging cooperation and collaboration with well-established companies. Second, what has impressed me is China's sense of technological innovation. I think this is what China has done. The country took both opportunities and risks and it created something good. We should all congratulate China for this.

Pierre Viaud, manager director at Pierre Viaud Consulting

Latest technology offers China greater cultural influence

By WANG YING
wang_ying@chinadaily.com.cn

With the unprecedented development of online digital technology and the internet of things, information technologies are playing a greater role in helping cultural exchanges and cooperation among the Chinese mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao. The Chinese cultural industry as a whole is gaining global influence, said officials and experts at a forum, part of the sixth World Internet Conference, on Sunday.

The Cross-Straits, Hong Kong and Macao Internet Development Forum was held in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province. The event demonstrated the new spirit and look of the Chinese inheriting traditional culture and built a platform to share the opportunities brought by the development of internet technologies.

At the forum, cultural celebrities and enterprises discussed how internet technologies can promote the inheritance and development of traditional Chinese culture. They also probed how modern technologies are reshaping the cultural industry and how culture can endow technologies with humanity.

"Internet technology, including big data, artificial intelligence and augmented reality, is expected to become a shared platform for us to enhance the influence of traditional Chinese culture," said Liu Liehong, vice-minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China.

Chinese culture forms solid heritage for Chinese people, inspiring them to innovate communication and diversify cultural products with each of their strengths, such as the mixed features of Chinese and western cultures in Hong Kong, the cultural exchanges



Young artists perform during the Cross-Straits, Hong Kong and Macao Internet Development Forum on Sunday. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

between China and Portuguese-speaking countries in Macao and the diversified Chinese culture with local characteristics in Taiwan, Liu said.

Chinese culture is shared by cross-Straits Chinese people, all of whom have the responsibility to strengthen cultural exchanges and carry forward the traditional Chinese culture with the support of new technologies, said Chen Yuanfeng, vice-minister of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council.

"Chinese people can work together to promote their tradi-

tional culture with global influence and competitiveness," Chen said. "The internet industrial resources and market in the Chinese mainland can bring Taiwan more development opportunities."

"The Chinese animated blockbuster *Ne Zha* was a hit this summer with the box office hitting 5 billion yuan (\$705.88 million)," said Zhang Xiaoying, president and editor-in-chief of Economic Daily based in Beijing. "It has set a shining example of how traditional Chinese culture can inspire innovations in the new technology context."