



Sovereignty in Cyberspace paper unveiled

Document elaborating on concept to act as guide to formulation of online norms

By ZHOU LANXU and WANG YING
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Three Chinese think tanks jointly released a document that elaborates on the concept and practices of sovereignty in cyberspace on Monday, furthering the nation's efforts to build a community with a shared future in cyberspace.

The paper, titled *Sovereignty in Cyberspace: Theory and Practice*, defined the concept and fundamental principles of sovereignty in

cyberspace and elaborated on related practices of different countries, especially China, in recent years.

"Throughout the history of world civilization, the meaning of national sovereignty has changed and been enriched over time," said the document.

"In the information age, cyberspace is becoming highly integrated with the physical space of human activity to form a new territory of the modern state and a new realm of global governance. It is from this that sovereignty in cyberspace has

emerged," it said.

The document was jointly released by the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and Wuhan University as a fruit of the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, on Monday.

"The document marks Chinese academia's latest efforts to move toward the vision proposed by President Xi Jinping of building a community with a shared future in cyberspace," said Zhang Li, a member of the High-Level Advisory Council of the World Internet Conference Organizing Committee and a professor with the CICIR.

Xi unveiled the vision of building a community with a shared future in cyberspace in 2015 and proposed four principles that should be upheld to realize the vision, including respecting sovereignty in cyberspace.

"By defining sovereignty in cyberspace and elaborating on China's posture about this concept, we aim to answer questions and clear misunderstandings held by some international stakeholders surrounding both the concept itself and why China promotes it," Zhang said.

China is a staunch advocate and an active practitioner of the principle of upholding sovereignty in cyberspace, the document said.

"Advocating and practicing sover-

ignty in cyberspace does not mean isolation or breaking cyberspace into segments, but means facilitating a just and equitable international cyberspace order on the basis of national sovereignty and building a community with a shared future in cyberspace," it said.

Zhang said: "We welcome the international community's opinions on the document, whether agreement or disagreement, based on which we will improve and enrich the document."

Zhang added that countries at present hold divergent views on sovereignty in cyberspace and ways to exercise it.

"Our purpose is to seek common ground while setting aside differen-

ces and to promote international cooperation in cyberspace," he said.

Although different countries have different ways to define sovereignty in cyberspace, they all refer to this "most basic concept" in cyberspace governance, said Hui Zhibin, head of the internet research center under the SASS.

Therefore, the document serves as a fundamental guide to the formulation of norms in cyberspace, Hui said.

It will help policymakers, enterprises, organizations and individuals to better understand the importance of sovereignty in cyberspace and abide by the principle of respecting sovereignty in cyberspace, according to Hui.



Bill Rosemann, vice-president and creative director of Marvel Entertainment, shares the story of the birth of *Spider-Man* at the Cyberculture and Youth Forum, a sub-forum at the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

United front needed to face global challenges related to cybersecurity

By ZHOU LANXU
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Industry experts urged countries around the world to make a greater concerted effort to tackle the global challenge of safeguarding cybersecurity on Monday, and called for more technological cooperation and improved international norms for governing cyberspace.

"At present, cybersecurity risks have been accelerating on the back of new technologies and new applications," said Sheng Ronghua, vice-minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China.

Information leaks, data abuse, infringement of privacy and intellectual property, and other cybersecurity problems have become more serious, while cyberattacks and cyberterrorism have become a common hazard to the global community, according to Sheng.

"Cybersecurity is a global challenge. No country can avoid it," Sheng told a sub-forum of the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, on Monday.

He called on countries to enhance consensus, promote cooperation to facilitate innovation in cybersecurity technology, and jointly develop norms and rules for more effective cyberspace governance.

Guy Diedrich, global innovation officer for Cisco, said at the forum that "cybersecurity is a team sport" and urged global cybersecurity vendors to increase the compatibility of their products to tackle rising security risks ahead of an expected surge in the things connected to the internet.

"In an unsecure world, every new connection is a new threat. In a secure world, every new connection is a new opportunity," Diedrich said.

International cooperation on cybersecurity is necessary as cross-border cyberattacks keep cropping up and are too complex for a single country to tackle, said an official at

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Guy Diedrich
global innovation officer for Cisco

the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team.

The CNCERT has forged partnerships with 259 organizations from 78 countries and regions, and has actively engaged in bilateral and multilateral cybersecurity-cooperation projects in recent years, such as joining hands with Microsoft to eliminate five destructive botnets, he said.

Yet, "our efforts are far from enough," as new technologies keep emerging, he said, citing that the WannaCry ransomware attack in 2017, which hit around 150 countries, including China, and highlighted the weak links in the global cybersecurity network.

He suggested creating a coordinated alert mechanism for large threats and further international communication in cybersecurity technology, adding that cross-border information-sharing on cybersecurity currently lacks unified norms.

Bruce McConnell, executive vice-president of the EastWest Institute based in the United States, said international norms and agreements between countries that promise not to attack each other in cyberspace, especially on critical infrastructure, should be advanced.

Such State-level efforts, however, are being held up by geopolitical tensions across the globe, McConnell told China Daily on the sidelines of the forum.

Future of internet lies with 'digital natives'

By ZOU SHUO
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As "digital natives," young people around the globe should be properly guided to make contributions to the development of cyberculture and online cultural exchanges, senior government officials and experts said on Monday.

Sheng Ronghua, vice-minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China, said online culture, including internet literature, videos, music and games have offered an important platform for young people in different countries to understand the world, gain knowledge and make use of their talents.

The richness of cyberspace has created many opportunities and possibilities for young people, and also has an important influence on the development of their values and habits, he said at a sub-forum at the sixth World Internet Confer-

ence, which is currently being held in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province.

"As a result, we should create more cyberculture that embodies the crystallization of human civilization, push for innovation in creating new content, equip young people with the ability to protect themselves from harmful content and build international standards to protect young people in cyberspace," Sheng said.

Li Keyong, secretary of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China, said young people are constantly influenced by cyberculture, so the whole of society should work together to fight against vulgar, violent and pornographic content.

Cybercultures around the world should work together to promote exchanges between young people in different countries, he said.

"Young people are the future

leaders of society, and the development of cyberculture requires them to shoulder their responsibility to come up with new technologies, bridge the digital divide, enrich online content and promote cultural exchanges."

Ediola Pashollari, secretary-general of the World Assembly of Youth, said that when people are talking about the internet and cyberculture, they are talking about the most important generation — the younger generation. They make up 90 percent of online users, innovators, idea makers and information exchangers on the internet.

The internet is not only a platform to share knowledge, skills, information and culture. It is also used to bully, discriminate, blackmail and spread hatred and pornography, she said.

All stakeholders — the government, the public, private sectors

and the media — should join hands to come up with policies that will protect what identifies us as a people, retain the culture that makes each of us unique and find the similarities of what makes us human, she said.

"I call on young people to make a difference, treat others the way they want to be treated and have an open mind about understanding each other's cultures, not only in real life but also in cyberspace"

Smriti Aryal, head of the office of UN Women China, said that through its openness, the internet has empowered girls and women around the world.

Aryal urged young people to be more responsible online and to promote gender equality, openness and mutual respect, and called on tech companies to fight gender discrimination and bullying, and also to recruit more female staffers, and promote them to senior positions.

Integrated approach crucial to advancing media convergence

By LIANG KAIYAN
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The rapid development of the internet has brought more opportunities for media convergence, officials and industry insiders said at a forum during the ongoing sixth World Internet Conference on Monday in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province.

Zhuang Rongwen, minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China, said the internet has generated new products and platforms in recent years. And the emerging technologies and patterns have played roles in sharing information, expanding exchanges and enriching people's lives.

"China attaches great importance to the integrated development of the media," Zhuang said.

Media outlets have created new products based on media convergence by using the technologies of

big data, virtual reality and artificial intelligence, he added.

Li Baoshan, president of People's Daily, said that as an explorer, a practitioner and a beneficiary of the development of media convergence, the newspaper has made great achievements in recent years.

"We should seize the opportunities of informatization and use the fruits of the information revolution to accelerate the establishment of a media-communication pattern," Li said.

The capabilities to filter, assess and explain mass information require a professional vision, and this is an increasing challenge to the expertise of mainstream media, he said.

For news media outlets, content innovation should be a priority no matter how the modes of communication change, Li said.

"The mainstream media should adhere to the content and maintain competitiveness through the

strength of their content," he said.

Ren Yuxin, chief operating officer of Tencent, said WeChat public accounts have become engines for Tencent's content development and are also test fields for the mainstream media to promote media convergence.

With the advent of 5G, technologies such as AI and augmented reality will lead to substantial changes in content production, generation and dissemination, Ren said.

"We are willing to cooperate with mainstream media to conduct frontier exploration under this new wave of science and technology," he said.

Zhu Guoxian, chief of publicity for Zhejiang province, said that in reality, the internet and mobile-communication platforms are essential to the development of media convergence.

The number of netizens in Zhejiang has surpassed 45 million,



Guests discuss how content production benefits from technological innovation at a sub-forum at the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province. GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

and 98 percent of them are mobile-devices users, Zhu said.

"We will prioritize the development of mobile technologies," he said.

The province will increase support of local mainstream media outlets to keep pace with the development of the internet, he added.

Organized by People's Daily, the

forum attracted representatives and officials from global media outlets and organizations from countries and regions including the United States, France and Africa.