



National AI plan to drive development

Artificial intelligence is poised to become a core industry by 2030

By SHI JING
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China's artificial intelligence industry has ushered in a new age of development as the technology matures and demonstrates real-world applications, said experts at the AI forum held at the sixth World Internet Conference, or Wuzhen Summit, on Monday.

Chen Zhaoxiong, vice-minister of industry and information technology, said that the application of AI can be widely found in the fields of medical services, transportation, finance and education. Traditional industries have been upgraded and transformed, while the efficiency of the country's economic development has improved.

China is implementing a national AI-development plan that aims to build a 1 trillion yuan (\$141 billion) core artificial-intelligence industry by 2030, which is

expected to stimulate growth in related businesses valued around 10 trillion yuan.

Peter Riedl, vice-president of BMW Group Technology Office China, said that the openness of the Chinese market toward the adoption of AI, strong local partners, such as Baidu, and keen entrepreneurship in China will help BMW to get a better understanding of the market demand for AI, which is "a key driver for future mobility solutions."

Zhou Bowen, director of JD AI Research, said that the Chinese AI industry has accumulated a huge amount of data over the past few years. The talent pool has been very much enriched by favorable government policies.

"The capital market's pursuit of AI in the past few years has cooled down lately. The market is now keeping an eye on the scenarios in which AI has already



A visitor shakes hands with a 5G robot at China Mobile's display area during the Light of Internet Expo at the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, on Sunday. China's AI technology already has real-world applications. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

been adopted. In this sense, the trusted AI technologies will mark a new phase when smart industries can truly become integrated and bring innovative results," he said.

Sheng Ronghua, vice-minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China, said that AI technology has become the new engine of China's economic development. To foster the continued development of the AI industry in China, Sheng suggested that companies and institutions tap into the untouched areas of AI applica-

tions to come up with more results in theory, methods, tools and systems.

"The development of AI should aim to improve people's living standards. More importantly, its development should be orderly to ensure the technology is both reliable and controllable," he said.

Pan Yunhe, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering, said the AI industry will be short of continued impetus if it only focuses on smart manufacturing, which is the case among

most Chinese AI companies at present. He added that intelligent business management and more intelligent product-innovation processes are crucial to the development of AI.

"Intelligent supply-chain-management systems are at their embryonic stages among most Chinese companies, but they will be the theme of their development in the next few years. More intelligent industries in China will lay the groundwork for the next stage of development of the country's AI technology," he said.

Charities get closer to recipients online

By WANG YING
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New breakthroughs in information technology will bring charities closer to people in need of help, and make them more efficient and transparent, officials and experts said at the sixth World Internet Conference on Monday.

"Chinese people have long valued helping people living in poverty and vulnerability. With the help of digital technology, we will be able to share our practices and experience, and make a greater contribution to charity work," said Sheng Ronghua, vice-minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China.

According to Sheng, more than 110 billion yuan (\$15.55 billion) in donations were made via the internet over the past three years, and netizens devoted personal time on 8.46 billion occasions to participate in a wide range of public charity activities last year alone.

"However, more work needs to be done due to the unbalanced development in the popularity of the internet. Due to the huge gap in infrastructure construction, there are still many people yet to benefit from the digital era," said Sheng.

Nicholas Rosellini, UN resident coordinator in China, echoed this sentiment. He suggested that the benefits of technology should be put to good use, help reduce inequality and make society more inclusive — especially of the poor and most vulnerable.

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It is estimated that about 1 billion people worldwide live with disabilities, accounting for 15 percent of the global population, and the majority of them live in developing countries, according to Marielza Oliveira, director of UNESCO's Beijing Cluster Office and UNESCO representative to the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea.

About 85 million people with disabilities and 250 million people age 60 or older in China are in need of special support from technology and the internet, added Oliveira. Between August 2016 and May 2019, 174,000 people with disabilities opened their own online shops on Taobao, reporting a total sales revenue of 29.84 billion yuan.

"The internet has inspired and enabled people with physical disabilities to work and provide services, using their own strengths," said Cheng Kai, vice-president of the China Disabled Persons' Federation.

Although China has made progress in offering internet-related services for people with disabilities, Oliveira called for more products and services, and more participation by people from governments and nongovernmental organizations.

Information technology, and the internet in particular, is accelerating the deeper integration of all aspects of society and the economy, and is an important, driving force to promote social and economic progress.

The population of Chinese netizens reached 854 million people in June, accounting for 61.2 percent of the nation's population, according to a report from the China Internet Network Information Center. In 2018, China's e-commerce trade volume grew 8.5 percent year-on-year to reach 31.6 trillion yuan, becoming an important driver of the economy, according to a report on the country's internet development released on Sunday during the WIC.

Officials and experts agreed that by applying new internet technologies and approaches to social welfare, charity work could attain higher levels. Internet-assisted public welfare and charity can effectively promote inclusive development in the information era, help build a community of a shared future for mankind in cyberspace and contribute to a brighter future for humankind.

Digitalization of industry advances the country's business potential

By LIU YUKUN
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China is shaping the global digital landscape with its tech-driven traditional industries and emerging markets, according to experts.

"China has attached great importance to its digitalization of industry. Both the central and local governments have rolled out preferential policies to support innovative entrepreneurship. The country is also exploring more possibilities of adapting technology in new areas," Liu Liehong, vice-minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China, said on Monday at a forum, titled Industry Digitalization: New Growth Drivers to Open up New Space for Integrated Development, on the sidelines of the ongoing sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province.

China's concentrated efforts in promoting digitalization — the use of technologies to provide new revenues to industries — has contributed to over 25 percent annual growth in its market size since 2005, Liu said.

By 2018, China's industrial digitalization market hit 24.9 trillion yuan (\$3.52 trillion), contributing 79.5 percent to the country's digital economy, according to data from the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology.

China's 31.3 trillion yuan digital economy accounted for 34.8 percent of the country's GDP the same year, statistics from the CAICT showed. According to a McKinsey report, the country has become a global leader in the digital economy with its active digital investment and startup-friendly business environment.

Weng Jieming, vice-chairman of

Digital transformation is essential for SOEs to enhance production and operation efficiency, which help increase their global competitiveness."

Weng Jieming, vice-chairman of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council

the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, China's Cabinet, said at the same forum: "The SASAC has been promoting the integration of digital advancement in both traditional and emerging industries, and many State-owned enterprises have been on the fast track of digital transformation."

"Digital transformation is essential for SOEs to enhance production and operation efficiency, which help increase their global competitiveness."

Weng added that to date, 89 SOEs have set up digital-management systems for their daily business operations, and 69 have established digital systems for human-resource management and finance.

Yang Jie, chairman of China Mobile Communications Group Co Ltd, said on Monday that the group was aiming to advance the digital

transformation of businesses in traditional sectors.

"With 5G becoming a key accelerator of industrial digitalization, China Mobile is set to integrate 5G with numerous industries with a focus on transportation and healthcare," Yang said.

Guo Jijun, vice-president of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, said that aside from its e-commerce business, the group has also stepped into manufacturing, financing and other industries.

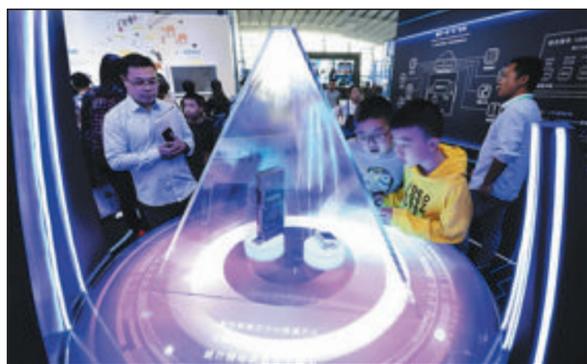
"Going ahead, we hope for more cooperation across different fields to build an ecosystem for the development of industrial digitalization," Guo said.

Song Changqing, head of Chinese operations at DigitalGlobe Inc, a US satellite-imagery and geospatial-information company, said the digitalization has given China great business potential.

"We observed a surging need of advanced technologies, even from companies in traditional industries like infrastructure, mining, transportation and many others. We have partnered with many Chinese mining companies and are still seeking more opportunities," Song said.

LinkedIn also saw business opportunities from China's growing industrial digitalization.

Allen Blue, co-founder of LinkedIn, said the company has been analyzing digital-talent flows across the country and offering insights into future opportunities to governments and organizations. The company published its fourth report on the subject, *Digital Transformation of Chinese Industries: A Digital Talent Perspective*, along with Tsinghua University in Wuzhen.



Visitors to the Light of Internet Expo of the sixth World Internet Conference take a close look at Alibaba's homegrown AI inference chip, the Hanguang 800, in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, on Saturday. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

Open-source chips to help growth of digital society

By FAN FEIFEI
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Open-source chips are expected to bolster the new round of development of China's semiconductor industry, along with the blossoming of artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing and other cutting-edge technologies that are increasingly reliant on core computing power provided by processor chips, according to officials and experts.

"The integration of the open-source chips ecosystem with that of intelligent products has been accelerated, becoming an important cornerstone in building a digital society," said Liu Liehong, vice-minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China, at a sub-forum on the sidelines of the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province.

Liu said that with the rapid development of the internet of things, AI and intelligent manufacturing, an array of intelligent homes, wearable devices, security systems, drones and robotics are emerging rapidly. And this has put forward a new requirement for chips that are low-cost and tailor-made with high reliability and flexibility.

RISC-V, an open-source hardware instruction set architecture, or ISA, based on established reduced instruction set computer, or RISC, principles, is widely seen a core architecture of chip development and has attracted a lot of attention across the semiconductor industry.

Liu pointed to the need for attracting global innovation sources to participate in the open-source chips industry, which has ushered in a golden period of development, while noting the

RISC-V has increased the iteration of new chips, and reduced the costs and thresholds in the chip industry.

Gao Xingfu, vice-governor of Zhejiang, said the province is stepping up efforts to promote the integrated circuits, or IC, industry, and attaches importance to the open-source chip architecture, RISC-V.

Gao said the global IC industry is undergoing profound changes, with customized chips being the development direction of the future, adding the technology will boost the digital transformation of traditional industries.

Alibaba's chip-making subsidiary, Pingtong Semiconductor, launched its first processor, Xuantie 910, built on an open-source architecture in July. The processor can be used in applications in such fields as 5G, AI, network communications and autonomous driving, according to Alibaba.

Li Shushen, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said the academy will promote the establishment of open-source chip standards. It will call for more international cooperation and the enrichment of application scenarios for such chips.

The biggest issue of the chip industry lies in the high design threshold, and only a few enterprises can afford the high R&D costs of medium-level and high-end chips, said Ni Guangnan, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering, adding that such a situation has restricted innovation in the chip industry.

Ni said China has an upper hand in RISC-V open-source chip architecture, while noting the IoT, big data, edge computing and blockchain are ideal application scenarios.



Entrepreneurs representing institutions and companies from home and abroad take part in a panel meeting at the industrial digitalization forum during the sixth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen on Monday. GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY