



WORLD INTERNET CONFERENCE

China to step up cyberspace cooperation

President Xi's vision of a shared future to promote innovative development of the internet economy

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China will continue to step up its efforts to foster a community with a shared future in cyberspace and the ongoing World Internet Conference will set the tone for further global cooperation in this regard, experts said.

The World Internet Conference, an international event held by China in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province every year since 2014, has been a milestone effort made by the country to advance the building of a better, cleaner and safer cyberspace.

President Xi Jinping proposed the vision of building a community with a shared future in cyberspace while delivering the keynote speech at the second World Internet Conference in December 2015. Xi said cyberspace is a common area for the whole of mankind and its future should be vested in the hands of all nations.

To build such a community, Xi said it is necessary to speed up the construction of global internet infrastructure to enhance interconnectivity, build an online platform for cultural exchanges and mutual learning, promote innovative development of the cyber economy for common prosperity and uphold cybersecurity for orderly internet development.

Sensing the bigger role that the internet will play in the progress of human civilization and the growing cybersecurity problems, Xi called for improving the global internet governance system to maintain cyberspace order through broader international cooperation.

He said the international community needs to enhance dialogue and cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and trust, promote transformation of the global internet governance system, and work together to foster a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace and put in place a multilateral, democratic and transparent global internet governance system.

Xi said countries should work together to prevent and oppose the use of cyberspace for criminal activities such as terrorism, pornography, drug trafficking, money laundering and gambling.

China's efforts to build a better, cleaner and safer cyberspace stem from its vision to tackle problems like cyber surveillance, cyberattacks and cyberterrorism, all of which have become a global scourge, and to combat the rising threat of cyberhacking, experts said.

Economic globalization, cultural diversity and IT applications have all played a crucial role in the progress of human civilization. However, problems such as unbalanced development, inadequate rules and inequitable order are becoming more evident in the internet sector.

The information gap between different countries and regions is also widening, and the existing rules governing cyberspace hardly reflect the desires and interests of most countries. Infringements of individual privacy and intellectual property rights as well as cybercrime happen from time to time around the world.

The nation's efforts to manage the internet to uphold cybersecurity are not only in the interests of the Chinese people, but also for the common benefit of mankind as a whole, said Yu Wenwen, a researcher of the Beijing-based center for the study of the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, in an article carried by the Guangming Daily.

China unveiled the International Strategy of Cooperation on Cyberspace in March 2017 to guide the country's participation in international exchanges and cooperation in the cyberspace field.

Yu said the policy document provides a comprehensive explanation of China's policy and position on internet-related international affairs as well as the basic principles, strategic goals and action plans in its external relations on that front, and fully demonstrates its sincerity, responsibility and determination to act as a promoter, guardian and contributor of global cyberspace.

China had 854 million internet users by the end of June, according to a report released by the



WU HEPING / FOR CHINA DAILY

China Internet Network Information Center.

The country will continue to advance the development of information technology and spread internet applications in coming years, with the aim of becoming a leading cyberpower by 2035, officials said.

Over the past years, China has taken concrete measures to strengthen cybersecurity. In December 2016, China mapped out its national cybersecurity strategy to guarantee cyberspace sovereignty and national security, protect information infrastructure and act against cyber terror and crimes.

The Cyber Security Law took effect in June 2017 with an aim to safeguard cyberspace sovereignty and public interest, protect the legitimate rights and interests of citizens and various entities.

The country is vigorously implementing the national cyber development strategy, the national big data strategy and the "Internet Plus" action plan. It is also striving to develop an uplifting cyberculture, open up more space for the cyber economy, and promote the integration of internet development with economic and social progress.

Beijing is building a national-level cybersecurity

industrial park to boost the industry and tap into the potential of domestic technology companies.

Over 10 companies specialized in internet security have signed a contract to move into the park, according to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Economy and Information Technology.

Construction on the park started at the end of 2017. By 2020, the industrial output is expected to reach 100 billion yuan (\$14.13 billion).

Speaking at a national conference on cybersecurity and informatization in April 2018, Xi, who is also director of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission, underlined the need for the country to enhance security of information infrastructure and improve its capacity to respond to cybersecurity emergencies and support relevant industries.

He also stressed the importance of achieving breakthroughs in core information technologies, and said cybersecurity and informatization development will propel China's efforts to develop a modernized economy and achieve high-quality development.

Xi also called for strengthening cooperation with countries and regions along the Belt and

Road in internet infrastructure, digital economy, and cybersecurity to build a digital Silk Road of the 21st century.

China has launched a nationwide campaign to promote people's awareness in cybersecurity since 2014. The weeklong campaign is an annual event which has activities such as a cybersecurity expo and technology forum.

Speaking in a written instruction to the 2019 China Cybersecurity Week that started in Tianjin last month, Xi said the country will pursue a people-centric approach in cybersecurity work and safeguard personal information and citizens' legal rights and interests in cyberspace.

Efforts should be made to raise people's sense of fulfillment, happiness and security in cyberspace, Xi said, and called for the integrated development of cybersecurity education, technology and industry.

While stressing the development of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, the internet of things and the next generation of communication networks, Xi also underlined the need for the application of the new technologies to be governed by laws, administrative rules and standards.

President Xi's messages hail development

• Countries' interests are intertwined closely due to the upgrading of the modern information technologies including the internet, big data and artificial intelligence as well as the booming of the digital economy. We should speed up the development of the digital economy and promote the global internet governance system to advance in a just and more reasonable way, so as to inject new impetus into the world economy.
— congratulatory message to the fifth World Internet Conference on November 7, 2018

• China's digital economy will develop on the fast track. China encourages countries around the world to take a ride on the express train of internet and digital economic development. China's door for opening-up will not close, and it will open wider and wider.
— congratulatory message to the fourth World Internet Conference on December 3, 2017

• The development of the internet is boundless and limitless. Better use, development and governance of the internet calls for strengthening of international cooperation in cyberspace and the international community should join hands to build a community with a shared future in cyberspace.
— video address at the third World Internet Conference on November 16, 2016

• To improve the global internet governance system and maintain the order of cyberspace, we should firmly follow the concept of mutual support, mutual trust and mutual benefit and reject the old mentality of zero-sum game or "winner takes all". All countries should advance opening-up and cooperation in cyberspace and further substantiate and enhance the opening-up efforts.
— keynote speech at the second World Internet Conference on December 16, 2015

• China stands ready to work with countries around the world to enhance international cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and trust, respect cyber sovereignty, uphold cybersecurity, and work together to foster a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace and put in place a multilateral, democratic and transparent global internet governance system.
— congratulatory message to the first World Internet Conference on November 19, 2014

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What they say

Luigi Gambardella, president of ChinaEU, an international association in Brussels that promotes digital and internet cooperation



President Xi Jinping's idea of enhancing indigenous innovation is the most appropriate reaction to the investment uncertainties arising from the current international trade disputes. President Xi has shown his craftsmanship by proposing winning solutions to strengthen China's capacity in cyberspace.

The tremendous development of the cyberspace industries and their promising future applications should not be delayed because of trade disputes.

At the same time, China should continue defending multilateralism and remain active in the global movement on harnessing the internet and in cyberspace governance. Building a community with a shared future in cyberspace is China's long-term mission in this regard.

Denis Depoux, managing director of Roland Berger China



President Xi Jinping has recently highlighted the necessity for a cyberspace environment that is safe and manageable, while being open and innovative. In China like in the rest of the world, governments, cyberspace regulators and internet companies alike have been struggling with an increasing contradiction between cybersecurity, the protection of individual and corporate data, and the fight against malware in an increasingly online economic environment. Therefore, we can expect some level of cyberspace regulation, and technology convergence between China and the rest of the world, driven by China's growing influence, and its 5G technology.

Guy Diedrich, global innovation officer of Cisco



Cisco believes that an open, standards-based internet is critical to the success of the global economy. During our conversation with government leaders through the Country Digital Acceleration program, we found that they are focused on addressing the key economic and social issues by more broadly investing in digitization and the internet — like creating equal access to education and healthcare or creating the next generation of digital jobs that will accelerate their economic growth.

Cisco wants to be the trusted partner for China in the digital era. We are pleased to see that our strategy has been closely aligned with the national agenda and government initiatives such as Internet Plus, cybersecurity, smart city and the Greater Bay Area initiative, etc. These national priorities have provided a powerful boost to China's economic growth.

Anton Shingarev, vice-president of public affairs at Kaspersky



Kaspersky believes that the future of cyberspace is in the hands of all countries and that the global community should step up communications and cooperation in that area. Just as President Xi Jinping has mentioned, we should work jointly to build a community with a shared future in cyberspace. China and Russia have good relations thanks to the two countries' joint efforts, and that has benefitted their companies with numerous opportunities for business cooperation. We look forward to more communications with Chinese companies, institutes and also government to introduce some of our most advanced technologies and products.



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