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FOCUS

China's digital economy reaches 31 trillion yuan

China's digital economy had reached 31 trillion yuan by the end of last year, accounting for one-third of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), a responsible person from the Cyberspace Administration of China said on April 2 in Beijing. In the future, China will make full efforts to promote the construction of a digital China by strengthening core technologies to making breakthroughs, optimizing and upgrading infrastructure, and vigorously developing digital economy.

At the press conference held by the Information Office of China's State Council on the same day, Yang Xiaowei, deputy director of the Cyberspace Administration of China, said that at present, China's digital network infrastructure construction, digital economy development, e-government information services and other aspects have made positive progress. By the end of last year, China's total length of optical cables reached 43.58 million kilometers, 4G network coverage continued to expand, and total number of 4G users reached 1.17 billion, breakthroughs were made in the development of 5G core technologies and in the formulation of standards, and IPv6 scale deployment was accelerated. By the end of last year, China's digital



A logo of the upcoming mobile standard 5G is pictured at the Hannover trade fair (Photo by Xinhua)

economy had reached 31 trillion yuan, accounting for one-third of the country's GDP, according to estimates by relevant agencies. The Beidou-3 basic system has been completed and provides global services, which are available to countries and regions including those along the Belt and Road.

In addition, international cooperation in digital economic has yielded fruitful results. China took the lead in putting forward the G20 digital economy development and cooperation initiative and the Belt and Road digital economy international cooperation initiative

which has been landed and implemented. Information infrastructure construction and sharing and e-government development have also achieved remarkable results.

In terms of industrial digitalization, key enterprises in key industries in China have also accelerated the layout of industrial Internet. According to Wang Xinzhe, chief economist of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China, the effect of the platform enabling enterprises has been preliminarily shown. The preliminary

understanding is that the average number of industrial device connections on the Internet platforms of key industrial enterprises reached 590,000, the average number of industrial apps exceeded 1,500, and the average number of registered households exceeded 500,000. The average revenue of platform-related business in 2018 is about 500 million yuan. Some enterprises actually reduce research and development costs by more than 30%, increase production efficiency by more than 10%, and achieve energy conservation and emission

reduction of more than 10%. At the same time, a number of innovative platform-based solutions have been formed, and commercial applications have been realized in light industry, steel, petrochemicals and electronics.

Looking ahead, Yang Xiaowei, deputy director of the Cyberspace Administration of China said that China will fully promote digital China's construction from six aspects including strengthening core technology breakthroughs, optimizing and upgrading information infrastructure, and developing the digital economy to strengthen core technology breakthroughs, focus on complementing shortcomings, further enhance independent innovation capabilities, strengthen the advanced layout of strategic cutting-edge technologies, and accelerate the transformation of innovation results; To promote the construction of a new generation of information infrastructure, improve the network supply capacity, further improve the 5G commercial preparation, and promote the IPv6 process throughout the network; To further promote digital industrialization and industrial digitalization, and accelerate the integration of digital economy and real economy.

By Li Wenting (CRI)

Tencent to hold Global Digital Ecology Conference in Kunming in May

On March 29th, a press conference in Beijing announced that Kunming is going to stage the 2019 Yunnan International Smart Tourism Conference and the

Tencent Global Digital Ecology Conference from May 21st to 23rd.

The Tencent Global Digital Ecology Conference will consist of a main summit,

a sub-forum and a digital ecology exhibition. The conference will start in Kunming and expand to other cities across the country to boost the digital economy.

The 2019 Yunnan International Smart Tourism Conference will be held on May 21st with the theme of "Smart Life, Better life". It will introduce the

construction of Digital Yunnan, share the trend and best practices of smart tourism, and release the world's latest results of smart tourism. (Wang Huan)

REMARKABLE 70 YEARS

China tops the world in expressways



Editor's note: The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over the past seven decades, China has developed from a poor, weak country to the second largest economy in the world. This issue, we continue the column called "Remarkable 70 years" to help you understand the great changes that have taken place in New China. Since the founding of New China, the country has made great progress in its road construction. By the end of 2017, China's expressway mileage had reached 136,500 kilometres, ranking first in the world. Picture shows the expressway in Luoping county of Wenshan Prefecture in southeast Yunnan. Photo by Li Wensheng

ECHO WALL

China is more broad-minded in international affairs

On March 21, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang responded to media in a regular press conference about international affairs.

Q: An Indian company is going to spend 3.85 billion dollars on an oil refinery in southern Sri Lanka near to Hambantota, which is a huge investment for Sri Lanka. The Hambantota port is an important cooperation project of the Belt and Road. Does this represent a challenge to Chinese investments in the country by India? Is there a strategic competition between India and China in Sri Lanka

at the moment?

A: Thank you for your keen interest in China's foreign affairs. You seem always busy worrying for us.

I am not yet aware of the information you mentioned and will need to check whether it is true. I would like to say though that, China and Sri Lanka have conducted extensive and deep cooperation in various fields under the Belt and Road Initiative with fruitful results. The Hambantota project you mentioned is a good case in point. Through such mutually beneficial cooperation, China has been helping Sri

Lanka's economic and social development. Sri Lanka appreciates and commends what China has done.

At the same time, China adopts an open attitude toward the mutually beneficial cooperation between Sri Lanka and India as well as other parties. China stands ready to work with India and other relevant sides to help boost Sri Lanka's development. In foreign relations, China is more broad-minded than you might have imagined.

(News source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China)

STORY

Living in China is easy: Indian friend

Sthitapragya Deshpande is an Indian working in China. Having been educated in England, he is nothing short of privileged. After being sent to China by his company's headquarters, he enjoys his life in China. In his opinion, there is not only good food but also considerable income here. In his words, "I have found that living in China is really easy."

The public transportation in China is very efficient. So I do not need to spend much time on commuting. He believes that if one can earn enough money, he

can choose to live where is within 20-25 minutes walk distance to the office. That will greatly increase the living efficiency. The sidewalks in China are beautiful, almost the same as in London, but wider and safe. China's parks and squares are clean and well-maintained.

In addition, China's market always has more supply than demand. "I always can buy anything I want, from a screw to a refrigerator. I believe this is inseparable from China's world manufacturing center," said Sthitapragya Deshpande.

(Compiled from website)

BEAUTIFUL YUNNAN

2.5 km cherry blossom avenue



The Third Yunnan Fuxian Lake Cherry Blossom Festival is on in Shijia Village on Huanhu Donglu Fuxian Lake from March 30 through April 22. During the festival, 58 cherry blossom varieties with 50,000 cherry shrubs and 100,000 fresh flowers will be in bloom along the banks of the beautiful Fuxian Lake. Some 500 acres of cherry blossoms will form a 2.5 km cherry-blossom belt along the lake, which will entertain citizens and tourists alike with a romantic spring atmosphere.

ECOLOGY

Spring in Hani terraced fields



In early March's Hani terraced fields in Honghe County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, everywhere is overflowing with vigour. For more than 1,000 years, local Hani people have

given priority to protecting ecological environment.

Therefore, they have created an agricultural ecosystem featuring four interactive elements—forest, villages, terraced fields and water. Hani

people carry out their farming and cultural activities based on the system. This is their old but effective method to protect their living environment.

By Li Hengqiang

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It is highly appreciated if you could kindly send your precious advices to our email address: 1292930589@qq.com.

Again, please accept our sincere thanks.

Happy every day!

Editors' Room

China-Yunnan news page



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Yunnan Express: english.yunnan.cn

Following the successful conclusion of the 2nd session of the 13th National People's Congress of Yunnan Province, Yunnan Provincial People's Government held a press conference. Governor Ruan Chengfa answered questions.

Science and Technology Daily: In this year's government work report, seizing the opportunity of digital economy to build digital Yunnan is a key task in 2019. Why does the province propose to build digital Yunnan? What are the basic conditions? And what is the goal?

Ruan Chengfa: Now, the new technology represented by the Internet is profoundly changing people's way of production and life. Human society is moving from the age

of agriculture and industry to the age of information. The digital economy will become a main economic form after the agricultural economy and the industrial economy, which will drive the transformation of human society's production method, the reform of production relations and the reorganization of economic structure and the great change of life style. It can be said that the development of the digital economy has become a global consensus and a historic opportunity for mankind. Over the past year,

Yunnan has made a series of explorations and experiments. For instance, "Tour Yunnan with a mobile phone" has become a benchmark for smart tourism. The mobile phone online service was put into operation not long ago. The core is to build a new government service environment to get things done online easily and efficiently. Yunnan is also promoting its mobile phone online products to create a direct supply platform with integrity to sell quality Yunnan featured goods. After explorations we

are actually jumping out of a traditional development model. For example, in the aspect of smart tourism, "Tour Yunnan with a mobile phone" has become well established. To extend the development, it is necessary to build a smart tourism laboratory and smart tourism industrial park.

Hong Kong Business Daily: What measures will be taken to promote digital Yunnan?

Ruan Chengfa: Firstly our provincial government will set up a leading group for digital Yunnan construction and set up a digital economy

bureau. We will also hire a chief technology officer and scientists to work on it sustainably for positive outcomes by taking the digital economy as a key project of the province. Now, a 5G network has been laid out in Dali Old Town, Lijiang Old Town and in the downtown area of Kunming City.

Secondly, we will strengthen protection factors. We will study and formulate supporting measures for taxation, finance, talent, land, etc., to attract domestic and foreign first-class enterprise

talent, venture capital, angel funds, and industrial funds to participate in the construction of "Digital Yunnan". For major projects, we will implement one-on-one discussions, one enterprise and one policy by tailoring various support policies. The provincial government will also allocate a portion of funds to join the related companies to quickly set up a digital economy industry fund.

Thirdly, we will set up a public service platform, strengthen cooperation with advanced high-end scientific

research platforms, institutions and experts at home and abroad, establish a "Digital Yunnan" International Cooperation Research Center, set up a Yunnan Digital Economy Research Institute, build public laboratories, R&D centers, incubation bases, and support enterprises to build technology innovation centers themselves, to carry out a series of projects, promote industry development with market and experiment, attract high-end expert talent by projects, and promote the "five-chain" coordination of

project chain, talent chain, policy chain, capital chain and industrial chain; to hold an international forum on digital economy or block chain and make a "Yunnan Voice" in the digital economy and showcase Yunnan.

Fourthly, we will make every effort to attract talent. A certain proportion of the total number of people in the "one thousand plan" and "ten thousand plan" will be allocated to support the launch of a talent recruitment program for digital economy. We will establish and improve special incentives such as honor subsidies and living allowances to attract talented people who are willing to devote themselves to the development of the digital economy in Yunnan.

By YDPG

Yunnan Governor: 'Tour Yunnan with mobile' is about smart tourism