

Gearing Up for Digital Government Building

By LI Linxu

China has laid out a comprehensive plan to digitalize government as the country ramps up efforts to go through economic and social digital transformation.

Digital technologies will be extensively used in government management services, according to a guideline recently released by the State Council.

In recent years, China's digital government building has been fast tracked, with significant progress being made in digital governance and services, such as a one-stop online government services, an integrated online administration platform, and swift response to public complaints.

Between 2018 and 2020, China's ranking on the United Nation's E-Government Development Index, indicating how a country is using information technologies to promote access and inclusion of its people, increased by 20 spots to 45th globally.

Aiming to further tap into digital dividends brought by technology advancement and innovation, the guideline maps out a blueprint to build a digital and smart government.

To meet people's needs is the starting point and ultimate goal of digital government building, said the guideline, adding that digital inclusiveness will be upheld and digital divide will be eliminated during the process.

By 2025, the top-level design of a digital government compatible with



The 5th Digital China Summit will be held in Fuzhou, Fujian province this month. (FILE PHOTO: XINHUA)

modern governance will be further improved, according to the guideline. The building of a coordinated, efficient, intelligent, and inclusive digital government is expected to be basically completed by 2035.

To achieve these goals, the guideline sets out a series of key tasks and measures, such as enhancing economic data monitoring and analysis, optimiz-

ing digital services to facilitate enterprises and the public, and creating a favorable digital ecology.

The document sets the direction for digital government building, according to Wang Qinmin, director of the Committee of Experts on the National E-government, noting that data empowerment holds the key to this process.

The guideline proposes to build an open and shared data resource system, pledging to innovate data management mechanisms, enhance efficient data sharing, and promote the orderly development and utilization of data.

Technological innovation is highlighted in the guideline, calling for a deep integration of government governance and digital technologies.

Research Assistant Positions in Demand

By LILinxu, LIUYin & LUCHengkuan

An increasing number of graduates are considering research assistant positions, which is seen as a stepping stone to becoming fully fledged researchers, or an opportunity for further study down the line.

Setting up research assistant posts is not only an important means to help graduates get jobs, but also an important measure to deepen the sci-tech management reform and build a professional support team for scientific research, said an official from the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).

"During a one-year research assistant period, I had opportunities to be involved in the second comprehensive scientific expedition to the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, which helped me make decisions to press ahead on the road of scientific research," said Zhang Mengqi, a former research assistant who will pursue PhD studies at Lanzhou University.

Of particular note is that more research assistant posts are expected to be offered to fresh university graduates this year, according to MOST.

This year 10.76 million students are expected to graduate from college, an increase of 1.67 million year-on-year, according to official statistics.

Universities, research institutes and high-tech enterprises, the major forces providing such research assistant posts, are encouraged to tap employment creation potential for graduates in the field of academics, sci-tech achievement transformation, and R&D.

Research assistants are indispensable helpers in our lab, playing an important role in the project, financial and instruments management, said Rao Zhiming, a professor at Jiangnan University.

Preferential policies at various levels have been set up for institutes and enterprises to recruit fresh graduates as research assistants.

For those undertaking key research projects, they are required to recruit university graduates as research assistant.

Supporting mechanisms for such posts will be strengthened, including salary, social security and career development, according to a document recently released by seven government bodies including MOST.



Hefei National High-tech Industry Development Zone is holding a job fair in Anhui University in Hefei, Anhui province, on May 17. Universities, institutes, high-tech zones, and high-tech enterprises are the major forces to provide research assistant posts. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

TCM Development Needs Leading Experts

By CHEN Chunyou

High-level experts are the key to sustainable development of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). In recent years, the number of professionals in TCM has seen a rapid increase in China, however there is still a shortage of leading experts in this field.

This June, a guideline on strengthening TCM talent development was released by State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SATCM) and three other departments.

The guideline calls for accelerating the training and gathering of high-level TCM experts, proposing measures to train strategic TCM scientists, identifying leading experts and building platforms for them to maximize their strengths.

China encourages the integrated development between TCM and other disciplines, such as artificial intelligence, biomedicine, philosophy and social sciences, added the guideline, aiming to cultivate a group of high-level interdisciplinary TCM experts with a more open and inclusive vision.

One area where TCM can make a big impact is in the countryside, where medical resources are relatively short in China. Lu Guohui, an official of SATCM, said China plans to improve the talent development environment of the villages, and encourage the flow of experts to the villages.

To ensure that villagers can enjoy medical services in their hometowns, the guideline proposed that by 2025, the number of TCM doctors in public TCM hospitals at or above the secondary level, should not be less than 60 percent of the hospital's total number of doctors. Urban community health centers and village clinics should have at least one medical worker who can provide TCM services.

In addition, a hub of innovation for TCM talent would be built in the regions where TCM resources are highly concentrated, such as the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta region and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, said the guideline.

The talent exchanges between TCM and Western medicine are also highlighted. Research teams from abroad are welcomed to carry out joint research with Chinese counterparts in key areas.

The general hospitals, specialized hospitals, infectious disease hospitals, and maternal and child health care institutions are expected to support Western medicine doctors in receiving professional TCM training, and growing to be a master in both disciplines.

It is expected that a number of high-level specialists will be trained in integrated traditional Chinese and Western medicine within 5 to 10 years, according to the guideline.

Mobile Payments Make Wallets Obsolete

By Staff Reporters

When going shopping or paying bills, most Chinese have long ditched their wallets in favor of the convenience of what mobile phones offer. After nearly ten years of development, mobile payments have become a way of life for Chinese consumers.

The number of online payment users in China reached 904 million at the end of 2021, accounting for 87.6 percent of the total Internet users, according to the Annual Report on China's Payment Industry 2022 released by the Payment & Clearing Association of China.

The application scenarios of mobile

payment have covered every aspect of Chinese life and become the mainstream retail payment method.

Scanning a QR code to ride a sharing bike, buying movie tickets, or paying the electricity bill at home, all these are done via online payment. When Wang Wei, a post-90s employee of an enterprise in Guangzhou, checked his annual bill list in a mobile payment application, he found that most of his payments were done through his phone. "I haven't used my wallet for a long time. I always use my mobile phone to pay," said Wang.

Relevant reports show that mobile payments are more actively used in shopping malls, convenience stores, res-

taurants, and vegetable and fruit shops, as well as in transportation and e-commerce platforms.

Users said that mobile payments are favored because it is easy to operate and they don't need to carry cash or bank cards. In addition, market players have promotional activities for mobile payments, and the application scenarios continue to expand.

Apart from people's daily life, public services have also benefited from online payment. A total of 25 provinces or regions across the country have enabled WeChat mini programs for residents to pay their social insurance premiums, and Alipay has supported the payment

of such premiums in 292 cities.

Local government departments employ mobile payment platforms to provide various services, such as medical care, taxation, civil affairs, and education. In south China's Guangdong province, tax authorities have created a WeChat mini program called "Yueshuitong," which provides 112 services, including tax declaration, tax payment, invoice issuing, and tax-related inquiries.

Experts continue to remind the people that while enjoying the convenience of mobile transactions, they should be mindful of the risks like fraud, and mobile payment companies should enhance the security of their transaction systems.

Yangzhou: Revitalizing Grand Canal Heritage

Local Case

By ZHONG Jianli

As a center of world canal culture, Yangzhou in east China's Jiangsu province hosted the 2022 World Canal Cities Forum on June 27.

Under the theme of "Heritage Protection and Sustainable Development of Canal Cities," guests from home and abroad shared their insights on promoting sus-

tainable development of canal cities.

Yangzhou, an important node city of China's Grand Canal, provided solutions for protecting the world's longest man-made canal, which began construction way back in the 5th century BC.

The city has endeavored to achieve coordinated development of canal preservation, ecological protection, and shipping industry transformation.

Clean water and green surrounds are always the city's top priority in protecting the Grand Canal. It has greened the landscape, built fitness facilities, and

relocated factories on both sides of the canal. Moreover, transport vessels are encouraged to be powered by clean energy sources to improve the water quality.

In 2014, Yangzhou, joining hands with 35 other cities in China, successfully had the Grand Canal inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The city then formulated its Measures for Protecting the Yangzhou Section of the Grand Canal World Cultural Heritage, to preserve and utilize the heritage through integrated development of culture and tourism.

Sino-Swiss Scientists Ramp Up Space Science Collaboration

From page 1

The two countries' universities, research institutes and enterprises have maintained close ties in the field of space research and made a number of achievements, said Gao.

For example, Polar, the device designed by Swiss scientists was installed on China's Tiangong-2 space station to observe gamma-ray bursts in space. Using data from Polar, experiments were carried out by Chinese and Swiss scientists, laying a solid foundation for advanced cooperation in the future.

The space section is one of the museum's highlights, said Martin Bütikofer, Director of Verkehrshaus, adding it will exhibit objects and models of Chinese space vehicles, and perform as a platform for exchanges between Chinese and European space researchers and astronauts.

At the meeting, scientists from the two countries have also introduced the cutting-edge technologies and cooperative projects in terms of crewed space missions, Mars exploration, extreme universe exploration, satellites, solar irradiance, 3D-printing in space and space ma-

terials.

With construction of China's space station, a 3D-printing manufacturing factory aboard the station will be open to international scientists, said Wang Gong, researcher from the Chinese Academy of Science.

Two legendary astronauts, Jing Haipeng, Chinese astronaut who has undertaken three space missions, and Claude Nicollier, Switzerland's first astronaut and a veteran of four space flights, had a dialogue via video link, sharing their experience in space, and answering

questions from college students.

Jing hopes that more students would dedicate themselves to space research, and invites more international astronauts to visit China's space station upon its completion.

Nicollier said he was also looking forward to more cooperation in space exploration.

The CSTEC and Verkehrshaus signed a memorandum of cooperation, providing an open platform for universities, institutions, scientists in the field of space science to carry out concrete cooperation, as well as strengthening mutual understanding of the public by carrying out a series of science popularization activities in the future.