

# Science and Technology Daily

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## BRI Sci-tech Cooperation to Better Benefit All

Edited by WANG Xiaoxia

China has been working with all parties to continuously implement the sci-tech innovation cooperation plan under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), injecting strong impetus into the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, said Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang on June 11 at the opening ceremony of the second Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange in Chengdu, Sichuan province.

The conference was held from June 10 to 12 to provide sci-tech support for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Ding called for enhanced solidarity and cooperation, implementing the International Science and Technology Cooperation Initiative, and promoting sci-tech innovation to better benefit humanity.

The conference declared support for the new international big science programs spearheaded by Chinese scientists, launched a cooperation plan for sci-tech innovation in AI and traditional Chinese medicine under the BRI, and initiated the fourth batch of Belt and Road joint laboratories.

Five Belt and Road sci-tech innovation cooperation alliances were launched for cooperation on sci-tech zones, spatial information, low-carbon technology, agriculture and public health.

Sichuan and Chongqing municipality jointly launched the Chengdu-Chongqing Belt and Road International Sci-Tech Cooperation "Double Thousand" Plan and a technology transfer center to deepen cooperation with Belt and Road partner countries in joint research, technology transfer, and sci-tech

cultural exchanges. The plan comprises the "Thousand Cooperation Projects Initiative" and the "Thousand Young Scientists Exchange Initiative."

The *Chengdu Declaration on Jointly Building the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Community* pledged to jointly build an innovation-driven, open and inclusive Belt and Road STI Community that would also be fair and equitable, universally beneficial and sustainable to bring prosperity to all.

Since the first conference in Chongqing in 2023, China has been implementing the *Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan*, and advancing sci-tech and cultural exchanges, jointly building laboratories and sci-tech zones, and promoting technology transfer.

On June 12, as the conference concluded, eight major new outcomes were announced, including the release of the English edition of the *National Innovation Index Report 2024* and the official launch of the International Meridian Circle Program.

The *National Innovation Index Report 2024* provided an updated comprehensive analysis of 40 countries that together contribute over 95 percent of global R&D expenditure.

A total of 103 bilateral cooperation achievements were showcased by the conference's host organizations and local science and technology administrative departments, spanning key areas such as AI and traditional Chinese medicine. Additionally, China's Ministry of Science and Technology signed 28 bilateral cooperation documents with foreign science and technology authorities attending the conference.



The Second Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange is held from June 10 to 12 in Chengdu, Sichuan province. (PHOTO: LU Zijian / Science and Technology Daily)

## Silk Road Spirit in Action

By LONG Yun, ZHONG Jianli & LU Zijian

In a world that requires shared progress and prosperity, the second Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange brought together scientific minds from across the globe and demonstrated the power of science and technology in bridging divides and fostering sustainable development.

### Shared vision for sci-tech progress

The international experts attending the conference were unanimous that sci-tech cooperation has become a powerful engine to promote high-quality development.

At the opening ceremony, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology Amandeep Gill underscored the pivotal role of collaboration: "What is needed in today's

society is not only sci-tech progress but more importantly, the establishment of solid partnerships and productive dialogue to ensure that sci-tech progress is more meaningful and practical."

Thailand's Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation Supamas Isarabhakdi said BRI sci-tech cooperation has been reshaping the global innovation landscape, steering international collaboration toward a more balanced and productive direction. This ensures that scientific resources and achievements benefit a broader spectrum of nations and peoples.

Calling the BRI's approach to international scientific collaboration "fantastic," Felix Dapare Dakora, a member of the African Academy of Sciences who has decades of experience in agricultural and plant sciences, called it "probably one of the best initiatives of the

21st century."

He also said developing countries have long been sidelined and the BRI "brings the developing world together to build collective strength through sci-tech cooperation."

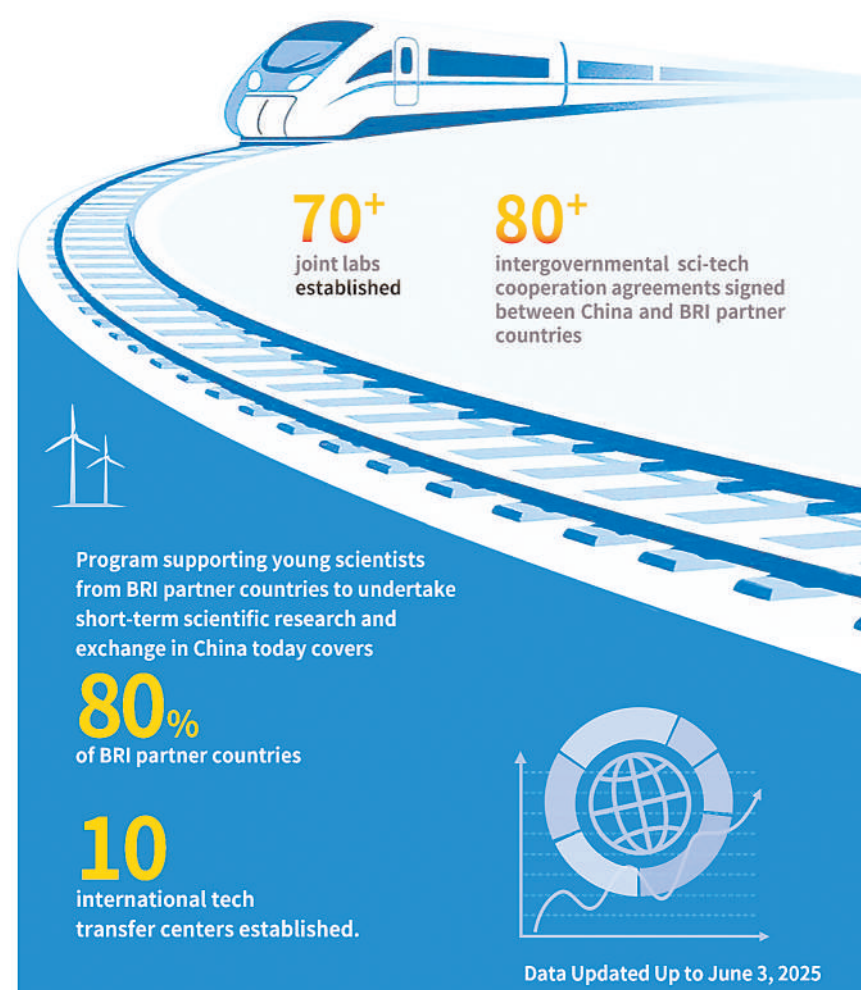
### Global voices, unified goals

China not only engages in international sci-tech cooperation but has also assumed a leadership role in fostering inclusive growth.

Luo Delong, deputy director-general of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) organization, reinforced this perspective, saying that since its inception, the BRI has adhered to an open, inclusive, and mutually beneficial ideology, with the well-being of people remaining its unwavering goal.

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### BRI Sci-tech Cooperation Achievements



## Chengdu Declaration on Jointly Building the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Community (Full Text)

We highly commend the significant achievements made under the *Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Cooperation Action Plan*. We emphasize that only through collective efforts at a larger scale across the world, science, technology and innovation can be elevated to a higher level. We are willing to jointly build an innovation-driven, open and inclusive, fair and equitable, universally beneficial and sustainable Belt and Road STI Community to bring prosperity to all. This will drive high-quality development of the Silk Road of innovation, provide broader new opportunities for the development of all countries, and bring greater benefits to humanity.

### I. Jointly address common challenges with innovation-driven development

We recognize that in the face of global challenges such as climate change, public health, environmental protection, energy security, food security, and poverty, the only way forward is for countries to work together.

We are willing to, based on the experience and

needs of various countries in driving sustainable socio-economic development with innovation, strengthen STI policy communication, share development experience and best practices, and jointly implement Belt and Road Special Cooperation Program for Sustainable Development Technology.

We are willing to support research institutions, universities, companies, and think tanks from various countries in establishing cooperation networks and mechanisms for deep integration of industry, academia, and research, and strengthening joint R&D and technology diffusion in important sci-tech fields, as a way to jointly address global challenges through STI and advance the implementation of the *United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

### II. Jointly seize historic opportunities presented by technological revolution and industrial transformation to promote integrated development of technological and industrial innovation

We recognize that the rapid development of emerg-

ing technologies such as AI and quantum technology will have a profound impact on human society, driving technological progress and industrial transformation.

We are willing to actively engage in sci-tech exchanges and joint research with countries in frontier fields, build Belt and Road joint labs, implement Belt and Road Special Cooperation Programs for AI and Spatial Information Science and Technology, and promote the development and application of cutting-edge technologies.

We are willing to work with countries to explore the empowering role of emerging technologies, collaborate on Belt and Road science parks, push forward coordinated digital and green transformation, and advance the integration of technological and industrial innovation. Together, we will consolidate cooperation in traditional fields through STI, expand cooperation in emerging fields, and inject strong momentum into economic development of all countries.

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