China's Ascent to Global Computing Power

Voice of the World

By LIANG Yilian

China's digital infrastructure now ranks among the world's most advanced in both scale and technology, with its total computing power second only to the United States'.

The head of China's National Data Administration said this at a recent press conference in Beijing.

Over the past decade, China has pushed companies to develop domestic manufacturing capabilities in high-tech industries. That strategy has made it a leading producer of electric vehicles, batteries and solar panels, and it is now being applied to the foundations of advanced AI: computing power, skilled talent and vast data resources, according to *The New York Times (NYT)*.

Talent is proving to be one of China's greatest strengths. According to the proprietary Dimensions database released in July, in 2024 China-based scholars produced 23,695 AI-related publications — more than the combined output of the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union.

A staff inspects equipment in the server room of the Western (Chongqing) Science City Advanced Data Center. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

"Given a young, vibrant and highly educated, AI-literate workforce, we should anticipate a wave of innovation from China along the same lines as DeepSeek," said Daniel Hook, CEO of Digital Science, in the report *DeepSeek and the New Geopolitics of AI: China's Ascent to Research Pre-eminence in AI.*

Open-source development is another area where China is advancing quickly. "Open-source is a source of technological soft power," Kevin Xu, founder of Interconnected Capital, a U.S.-based hedge fund that invests in AI, technologies, told *The NYT*. "It is effectively the Hollywood movie or the Big Mac of technology."

Market analysts say China's embrace of open-source AI models is accelerating both AI adoption and innovation, according to CNBC. China now hosts the world's third-largest community of developers on GitHub, the largest repository of open-source software. Tech giants such as Alibaba, Baidu and Huawei have emerged as major contributors and funders of open-source projects, *The Economist* reported.

The impact is already visible. According to the website Artificial Analysis, 12 of the world's top 15 open-source AI models are from China. Companies like Tencent and Baidu gain further momentum by releasing AI models under open-source licenses, enabling developers worldwide to adapt and deploy them, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Alibaba's flagship open-source AI model, Qwen, alone has inspired developers to create more than 100,000 derivative models, the company said.

Opinion

Open-source AI Path to Inclusiveness

By YU Haoyuan

When it comes to developing AI, China is forging a distinct path that diverges fundamentally from Western patterns. Crucially, China has embraced a strategy centered on "rapid iteration, frugal innovation, and open sharing" to expedite AI adoption and economic integration, offering a unique paradigm for global AI advancement.

Over the past year, China's tech sector has spearheaded a global wave of open-source innovation. The frequent release of large AI models — such as DeepSeek, Alibaba's Qwen series, and Kimi K2 from Moonshot AI — into the open-source domain, has significantly challenged the dominance of closed-source Western models.

Notably, Qwen has eclipsed Meta's Llama series, amassing over 400 million downloads across major global AI model communities and spawning more than 140,000 derivative models, consolidating its position as the world's leading open-source model family. This orchestrated open-source momentum has not only lowered entry barriers for development of AI applications, but also catalyzed the construction of a more collaborative and inclusive global AI ecosystem.

This openness transcends technological exchange, extending into international governance collaboration as China proactively seeks to attract global developers to co-create an eclectic diversified AI ecosystem.

At the 2025 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) held in Shanghai at the end of July, China released its "Global AI Governance Action Plan," strongly calling for cross-border technology sharing and global collaboration, which aligns with China's commitment to the principle of "openness and mutual benefit."

Previously, China has shared several technological achievements with other nations, demonstrating its commitment to global cooperation and humanitarian application of AI. In the aftermath of the deadly earthquake in central Myanmar on March 28, a pioneering Chinese AI achievement — the DeepSeek-based tri-lingual translation system (Chinese-Myanmar-English) developed within seven hours — helped responders coordinate aid, which contributed to life-saving relief operations. In addition, the China Meteorological Administration donated its AI-powered multi-hazard early warning system MAZU-Urban to representatives from Djibouti and Mongolia.

Despite the challenges that lie ahead, China's AI strategy has coalesced around three pillars: lowering or breaking down technical barriers through numerous open-source initiatives, accelerating adoption via scenario-driven development, and fostering global collaboration through the co-construction of innovation ecosystems.

This "open-win" path not only injects vitality into technology democratization, but also presents a fresh perspective on advancing human progress through shared innovation, as well as reciprocal exchange. As China's open-source architecture matures, it signals the emergence of a pluralistic AI era where collaborative development and societal advancement converge, validating that technological sharing and societal progress can truly coexist.

DeepSeek is a pioneer in open-sourcing its AI model. (PHOTO: VCG)

Controversial AI Chatbot Output Exposes Critical Gaps

Comment

By SUN Jin

Last month, xAI's chatbot Grok responded to user questions with extreme answers, forcing the parent company to delete the inappropriate posts from social media platform X.

"Grok was too compliant to user prompts," Elon Musk, founder of the company, wrote.

It's not surprising. Patrick Hall, assistant professor in AI ethics at George Washington University, said large language models (LLMs) that power chatbots are initially trained on unfiltered online data.

Yet companies producing LLMs in the U.S. currently face no legal liability for such questionable outputs, because in the U.S., social media platforms are shielded from liability for what they post, thanks to the *Communications Decency Act (1996), Section 230.*

"Laws were designed before machines like this were widespread, there are a lot of holes that basically let the companies get away with anything they want," stressed Gary Marcus, professor emeritus at New York University, who has co-founded multiple AI companies.

LLM companies should be held responsible for the output of their systems.

China released *the Interim Measures for the Management of Generative AI Services* in July 2023 to regulate the application of generative AI. It emphasizes that companies shall improve the quality of training data and enhance their authenticity, accuracy, objectivity and diversity through standardized annotation and sampling checks.

Companies must embed algorithmic safeguards at the code-execution layer to block bias propagation. In addition, they should actively choose training data. Accurate, objective and complete data prevents misleading models.

The regulation of AI companies is necessary. If AI is not regulated, it would be comparable to failure to regulate social media, which could lead to explosion of misinformation online, opinion polarization, and harming children's mental health.

"We're rushing to implement these AI models in all walks of life, but we need to better understand the implications," said Mor Naaman, associate dean for Faculty Affairs at Cornell Tech. "Apart from increasing efficiency and creativity, there could be other consequences for individuals and also for our society- shifts in language and opinions."

Igniting Innovation on the Roof of the World

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"Our biggest breakthrough is overcoming the gluten-free nature of highland barley, which made it difficult to form dough with it," said Guo Wenhong, head of Xizang Keyan Agricultural Technology Co.

In 2024, bread made with Xizang's highland barley won the World Bread Championship title.

Ecological base for innovation

Scientific and technological innovation cannot be achieved without institutional innovation. "In the 60 years since the establishment of the Xizang autonomous region, science and technology have grown from scratch," said Yuzhen, director of the region's productivity promotion center. "Now, a comprehensive scientific research system has been established, demonstrating the effectiveness of innovation-driven development."

As of February 2025, the region had 163 high-tech enterprises and 696 technology-based small and medium-sized enterprises.

Between 2021 and 2024, Xizang established 17 national-level green factories and a national-level green industrial park. By 2024, the region had developed 404 green food and organic agricultural products, strengthening the Xizang brand of agricultural and livestock products.

"Ecological subsidies have enabled us to use clean energy, improve our lives and make our pastures greener," said Zhuoma, an ecological ranger in Shuanghu county, Nagqu city.

Over two million farmers and herders have become ecological protectors and beneficiaries through innovative mechanisms such as grassland ecological subsidies, which have created an average of 440,000 ecological jobs annually.

With policy support and commitment to scientific and technological innovation, Xizang is on its way to becoming a regional innovation hub.

China, Africa Jointly Promote Right to Development

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China has supported Africa in constructing over a hundred clean energy and green development projects, including the Sakai photovoltaic power station in the Central African Republic, the Garissa solar power plant in Kenya, the Aysha II wind power project in Ethiopia, and the Karuma Hydropower Station in Uganda.

Clean electricity has benefited thousands of households and provided a strong impetus for Africa's green development, as well as supporting the continent's efforts to tackle climate change.

In the digital age, human rights protection is empowered by the application of digital technologies such as big data, cloud computing and AI. Effective governance must be carried out to ensure that scientific and technological progress better benefits the people.

In recent years, Chinese enterprises have invested in information and communication infrastructure in Africa, such as building cross-border submarine optical cables and 4G/5G networks, providing significant support for Africa's digital transformation.

In addition, digital literacy enhancement is a part of the China-Africa cooperation. On February 7, the China-Africa Regional Cooperation Center for Digital Education was inaugurated at the Open University of Kenya. Through joint online courses and projects, it aims to break the geographical barriers and enable knowledge and experiences sharing on both sides.

Human rights issues are global, and solutions must be sought through multilateral governance and jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind.

In 2024, the Africa-China Dar es Salaam Consensus was released in Tanzania. This consensus embodies the common stance of China and Africa on human rights issues and provides new ideas for global human rights governance.

Hi-Tech

Humanoid Robots Sprint in Beijing

By YU Haoyuan

On August 17, four special athletes — two Unitree H1 robots and two Tien Kung Ultra robots — competed for the 100m sprint gold medal at the first World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing's National Speed Skating Oval.

When the starting gun fired, the two Unitree H1 robots were the first to dash forward. Their slender, elongated legs with an extremely fast step frequency propelled them forward in long, fluid strides. During the previous day's semi-finals, these H1 units had clocked in at nearly 20 seconds.

The Tien Kung Ultra robots didn't lag behind. This model had won the previous humanoid robot half marathon. Unlike the two Unitree rivals, they were without remote control, using their own vision systems and lane-keeping technology from the autonomous vehicle research field to achieve full autonomy in the race.

The results came in soon. The two H1 robots finished in 22.08 seconds and 24.53 seconds, respectively. However, due to the Games' unique rule — that while remote-controlled robots received no time multiplier, autonomous ones had their times multiplied by a 0.8 coefficient — the Tien Kung robot with a time of 21.50 seconds won the gold.

The 100m sprint was the most fiercely contested event at the Games, with 90 robotic competitors across 23 groups. Only four teams made the final cut after competing in two rounds.

Informatization Makes Strides in 2024

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More than 3,000 websites and smart phone applications were adapted to make themselves senior friendly and barrier free.

Relying on e-government service platforms, provinces like Zhejiang promoted one-stop services, cutting the processes, time and materials needed to a large extent. Large AI models were also adopted in scenarios like inquiries, business handling and customer service, greatly improving efficiency.

Furthermore, cyber and data security was strengthened last year, with the release of a framework for AI security governance, targeting AI's innate and application security risks. The National Technical Committee 260 on Cybersecurity of Standardization Administration of China was established and 36 national standards concerning cybersecurity, information security and data security were issued.

Campaigns were continuously conducted to govern the personal data collection by applications that contravenes laws and regulations. Cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing spared no effort to address the excessive collection of personal data such as facial recognition in key scenarios like supermarkets, hotels and vending machines.

Last year also saw a deepening of international cooperation concerning cyberspace. China held key international conferences like the World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit and the World Artificial Intelligence Conference, and released the Global Cross-Border Data Flow Cooperation Initiative, actively building open platforms for cyberspace international cooperation.

A Tien Kung Ultra humanoid robot runs during the 100-meter final of the World Humanoid Robot Games. (PHOTO: XINHUA)