

China Sets Date for AI-Industry Integration

Policy Express

By Staff Reporters

China aims to establish a guaranteed supply of key core AI technologies by 2027, while maintaining the scale and empowerment of its AI industry so that it remains among the world's leaders, according to a government action plan released in January. The plan was jointly issued by eight departments, including the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Cyberspace Administration of China, and the National Development and Reform Commission.

The action plan prioritizes the deep integration of AI with the manufacturing sector. It calls for the deployment of three to five general-purpose large AI models in manufacturing, alongside the development of specialized, industry-wide models with broad coverage. By 2027, China aims to roll out 1,000 high-level industrial intelligent agents, build 100 high-quality industrial datasets, and promote 500 representative application scenarios.

The plan also targets developing two to three market leading enterprises with global influence, as well as a group



At the Hubei Humanoid Robot Innovation Center, data collectors operate humanoid robots to collect data. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

of "specialized, refined, distinctive and innovative" small and medium-sized enterprises. In parallel, 1,000 benchmark enterprises will be selected, and a globally leading open-source and open AI ecosystem will be established, with overall AI security governance capabilities significantly reinforced.

Strengthening the supply of AI computing power is a key focus of the plan, alongside the development of high-

level industry-specific models. The plan emphasizes accelerating AI-enabled transformation across the full industrial value chain.

Efforts will be made to raise AI application levels among key enterprises, expand adoption in priority regions, advance intelligent upgrading in major sectors, and promote the iteration of intelligent equipment and smart terminals. New business models centered on

intelligent agents will be established, while standards development, open-source collaboration, talent cultivation and security safeguards will be further strengthened.

International cooperation also plays a prominent role in the plan. Chinese enterprises are encouraged to tailor AI products and application solutions to the specific needs of different countries and regions. To drive this, an "overseas version" of the AI-empowered new industrialization initiative will be promoted, with industry organizations and professional institutions providing support services for companies expanding abroad, including assistance with technical validation and compliance certification.

The plan also seeks to attract foreign investment into the AI sector and encourages foreign-invested enterprises to participate in the development and production of generative AI technologies.

In addition, China will work to establish international cooperation platforms and actively participate in AI-related discussions within multilateral frameworks, including BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, China-ASEAN cooperation mechanisms, the G20 and APEC.



New Investment Tax Guidelines for Chinese Enterprises Overseas

By SUN Jin & LIU Yin

China's State Taxation Administration (STA) has released 90 new investment tax guidelines to help Chinese enterprises' development overseas.

These new guidelines provide an update on the changes in the tax systems of 85 countries and regions in recent years, including the United States, Canada and France.

In addition, five new ones have been introduced for Portugal, Chile, the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe and Colombia.

They bring the total of such guidelines to 115, covering almost all major overseas investment destinations for Chinese enterprises.

Developed under the STA's TaxExpress service brand, these guidelines provide detailed information on the host countries' tax systems so that the enterprises can improve their tax compliance and mitigate tax-related risks.

The STA also provides monthly up-

dates on global tax developments through other TaxExpress products, including its Global Tax News.

An official from the International Taxation Department of the STA said global tax rules are undergoing profound and comprehensive reforms. This imposes higher demands on the tax compliance capabilities of multinational enterprises.

Service products like tax guidelines and Global Tax News help enterprises stay informed of changes in the host

countries' investment environments and tax systems, fully enjoy the benefits of bilateral tax treaties, and avoid tax risks. They have gained broad recognition among cross-border investors.

The updated guidelines are available on the official website of the STA. Taxpayers can access the guidelines and learn about other international tax knowledge products under the TaxExpress brand.



Framework on Overseas Corporate Social Responsibility

By LIN Yuchen

China has released a comprehensive guideline to strengthen and standardize how its enterprises fulfill their social responsibilities in overseas operations, underscoring its commitment to high-quality opening up, sustainable development, and the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

The *Guideline on Corporate Social Responsibility in Overseas Operations* provides a systematic framework for Chinese companies operating abroad, aligning domestic laws with international norms such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and China's national social responsibility standards.

It aims to guide enterprises "going global" to integrate social responsibility into corporate governance, strategic decision-making, and cross-border operations, while supporting host countries'

economic and social development.

It encourages enterprises to embed social responsibility into their international business strategies, comply with both Chinese and host-country laws, and enhance the sustainability of overseas projects.

The core principles are prioritizing shared development over short-term gains, combining international standards with Chinese characteristics, upholding enterprise leadership with responsible innovation, and pursuing mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

A major focus is on supporting host countries' economic growth.

Companies are encouraged to participate in industrial upgrading, infrastructure development, and supply-chain integration through greenfield investment, mergers and acquisitions, and the establishment of service institutions.

The guideline also promotes the development of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones and high-quality,

resilient and inclusive infrastructure projects.

Improving local livelihoods and social harmony is another key pillar. Enterprises are urged to localize employment, ensure fair labor practices, prohibit forced and child labor, protect employee health and safety, and respect cultural traditions and religious beliefs.

The guideline highlights the role of "small but impactful" livelihood projects, community engagement, skills training, and public welfare initiatives in fostering people-to-people connectivity.

Environmental protection and green transition feature prominently. Companies are required to comply strictly with host-country environmental regulations, conduct environmental impact assessments, and integrate green principles throughout the investment lifecycle.

The guideline also encourages participation in global climate governance, expansion of clean energy investment,

and adoption of green production, procurement and construction practices.

Besides, it emphasizes compliance, risk management, anti-corruption, data security, intellectual property protection, and brand building for the healthy and orderly development of overseas industries.

To ensure implementation, enterprises are called on to establish dedicated social responsibility management systems, strengthen reporting and disclosure, and enhance coordination with governments, communities, and international partners.

Overall, the guideline signals China's determination to elevate overseas business from scale-driven expansion to quality- and responsibility-oriented development, reinforcing the role of Chinese enterprises as long-term contributors to global sustainable growth.



Harmonious Coexistence of Subways and Springs

From page 1

Another new "anti-dynamic water high flow retention material" can remain in the set position during groundwater erosion, preventing the slurry from expanding.

Long-term monitoring

What impact does the construction of subways have on underground springs? In 2025, monitoring data

showed that the water level of the Baotu Spring reached 30.32 meters, the highest recorded since 1966.

Jinan will continue long-term monitoring of the groundwater level and analyze the dynamics of the springs. A closed-loop system has been established for spring protection, covering the entire process from planning, construction to operation, ensuring the harmonious co-

existence of the subways and the spring water.

Li said the Jinan Rail Transit Group has established over 200 long-term groundwater monitoring stands, forming a complete monitoring system with 24-hour real-time monitoring of the groundwater level along the metro lines. This data can also be used to protect the springs and develop urban underground

space in the future.

The Shandong Provincial Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources has developed a groundwater monitoring system platform that can issue centimeter-level fluctuation warnings 15 days in advance. It can also visualize and quantify karst water transportation.

Jinan is now planning the third phase of its urban rail transit. The harmonious running of subway trains along the flowing springs will continue in the "City of Springs."

Case Study

Dalian Customs Empowers Businesses to Unlock RCEP Benefits

By Staff Reporters

Dalian Customs has issued 87,000 certificates of origin to help local exporters reduce costs, speed up customs clearance, and gain stronger footholds in international markets, since the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) came into force in January 2022.

The RCEP has become a key instrument for Chinese companies seeking preferential access to Asia's major economies. In order to maximize benefits from the deal, customs authorities in the northeastern China port city of Dalian have rolled out a raft of targeted services to businesses, ranging from large manufacturers to small traders.

One success story is Changchun Chemical (Panjin) Co., Ltd., a high-level certified enterprise that produces epoxy resins and refined copper foil. With RCEP certificates of origin, the company successfully entered markets in Indonesia and South Korea in 2025.

"The certificate of origin is a tax-saving document and a 'golden key' to global markets," said Hou Dan, head of the company's foreign trade department. "It allows our overseas customers to enjoy faster customs clearance and lower tariffs, which has significantly boosted our reputation abroad."

To deliver these benefits to more companies, Dalian Customs has maintained an ongoing upgrading of its services. Dalian Jinshengyuan Home Textile Co., Ltd., a local exporter of household cleaning products and pet wipes, is one such beneficiary. Thanks to the RCEP, the import tariff on its goods in destination countries dropped from 5.8 percent before the agreement took effect to 2.1 percent today. In 2025 alone, the company's export value under the RCEP rose by 28.59 percent compared to 2024.

"When the policy first came out, we wanted to use it but didn't know

how to apply the rules," said Han Xiangmei, head of the company's customs clearance department. "Customs officers came to us, explained everything step by step, and helped us get it right."

Dalian Customs also provides comparative analysis between the RCEP and other overlapping trade deals, such as the China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement and the China-South Korea Free Trade Agreement, to help enterprises choose the most favorable option.

Beyond guidance, digital upgrades have dramatically simplified procedures. In the past, enterprises had to submit stacks of paper documents in person. Now, thanks to reforms like smart automated review, self-printing, and the removal of redundant registration steps, businesses can obtain certificates online within seconds.

Today, 95 percent of RCEP certificates in Dalian are processed without any physical visits to customs offices, and the average issuance time has fallen from half a day to immediate.

Over the past four years, Dalian Customs has held more than 150 training sessions, online and offline, reaching over 8,000 enterprises. In addition to smart visa facilitation measures for exporters, intelligent services for import enterprises have also been continuously upgraded. On December 31, 2024, the China Customs Preferential Origin Service Platform was officially launched on the China International Trade Single Window. To support businesses in maximizing the use of this platform, Dalian Customs has developed a user guide to help enterprises independently claim preferential tariff benefits under free trade agreements.

In total, RCEP-related imports and exports handled by Dalian Customs have exceeded 30 billion RMB, with tariff savings for businesses reaching nearly 200 million RMB.



The cruise ship Adora Mediterranea docks at a port in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Yangtze Belt Epitomizes Rivers as Shared Growth Engines

From page 1

This progress has been underpinned by integrated infrastructure and industrial coordination.

Major water conservancy projects and modernized shipping networks have significantly enhanced the Yangtze's transport capacity, providing low-cost, high-efficiency logistics support for industries along the river. Five globally competitive industrial clusters — electronics, high-end equipment, automobiles, home appliances and textiles — have taken shape.

Regional innovation collaboration has accelerated industrial upgrading. Along the river, cities have formed tightly linked production networks: Upstream and downstream regions specialize in research, manufacturing, assembly and testing.

In the new energy vehicle sector alone, a "four-hour industrial circle" has emerged, with the Yangtze River Delta

accounting for around 40 percent of national output and more than a quarter of global production.

China's planning framework has for the first time proposed "expanding the river-basin economy," extending successful practices from the Yangtze to other major river systems.

The concept emphasizes ecological co-governance, shared infrastructure, coordinated industries, and benefit-sharing across regions, transforming natural waterways into platforms for integrated development.

From the Yangtze to the Yellow River and beyond, coordinated basin development is gaining momentum. By combining top-level coordination with place-based specialization, China is steadily shaping a new development landscape in which technological innovation, ecological restoration, and regional cooperation flow together — much like the great rivers themselves.