

Science Advances When People Share, Co-create

Dialogue

By LONG Yun & BI Weizi

"We're not racing to see who gets there first. We're building a ship together that can carry all of humanity toward a healthier, more sustainable future," Bill Moran, global director of Custom Publishing, International Collaboration and Advertising for Science Publications and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), said during a conversation at a recent conference.

Moran has spent over two decades fostering connections between researchers, institutions and nations. In recent years, much of this work has centered on how emerging technologies, such as AI, can be integrated into the scientific enterprise not only as ends in themselves but also as tools to address real human needs.

He described the current moment as "probably the biggest paradigm shift in science in several decades," pointing to the ways AI is reshaping research: accelerating drug discovery, reimagining clinical trial design, and even mining insights from past experimental failures once written off as dead ends.

"Imagine being able to simulate Phase I, II and III trials virtually," he said, "and use real-world data to predict side effects before they occur in patients. That's not science fiction. And it is happening now."

Yet for all the promise AI holds, Moran also issued a clear warning: Enthusiasm must be tempered with responsibility.

"The application side of AI is racing



Bill Moran. (COURTESY PHOTO)

ahead, which is exciting, but without ethical guardrails, international standards and inclusive governance, we risk amplifying bias, inequity or misuse."

For him, the central question is how AI's direction should be shaped.

This sense of shared governance leads him naturally to the value of dialogue. "If people committed to continuing the conversation, that's already a win." Challenges like pandemic response, climate modeling or ensuring research integrity, he stressed, cannot be solved by any single country.

"What we're shaping isn't just today's agenda. It's the scientific foundation for future generations," he said. And that foundation must include voices beyond the usual power centers.

"We need perspectives from diverse countries too, because different ways of seeing the world lead to more resilient,

creative solutions."

In particular, China occupies a critical place in this vision. Moran applauded China's active role in international discussions on AI governance and scientific collaboration. "China's engagement is crucial," he said, noting that global problems demand joint action.

Looking ahead to China's new Five-Year Plan with its strong emphasis on science, technology and social development, he sees opportunity not just for national advancement, but for global benefit.

"When China invests in green tech, precision medicine or AI-driven diagnostics, it doesn't help China alone, it also creates knowledge and tools the whole world can use."

But he added an important caveat here too: such progress must be grounded in openness. "Innovation thrives

when ideas flow freely across borders. We don't care if a breakthrough happens in Beijing, Boston or Berlin. What matters is that it reaches those who need it."

Moran is equally committed to advancing open science, a principle woven into AAAS's broader mission. He likes to discuss best practices in data sharing, research transparency and equitable access to knowledge with partners. While his own work focuses on publishing and custom collaborations, he highlighted how colleagues in science diplomacy and policy regularly engage with institutions worldwide, including in China, to ensure that technological progress aligns with the public good.

"Scientific publishing isn't just about putting papers out there," he explained. "It's about building ecosystems where trust, reproducibility and collaboration can flourish."

As the discussion turned back to the future, Moran returned once more to the metaphor that opened the conversation: the shared ship. He acknowledged the breakneck pace of innovation but cautioned against framing progress as a competition.

From his perspective, the most urgent opportunities for collaboration lie in healthcare, where AI could turn failed clinical trials into learning moments. He also called for cooperation in the field of climate science because the predictive models depend on globally pooled data.

Ultimately, he believes success hinges less on algorithms than on relationships.

"Science advances when people trust each other enough to share, challenge and co-create," he said. "That's always been true and in the age of AI, it's more essential than ever."

Tech+Culture

Unique Memories From AI Infused Souvenirs

By Staff Reporters

"What was supposed to be a standard tourist souvenir ultimately transformed into a unique Song Dynasty narrative featuring my own image," said Ms. Wang, a tourist from Nanjing, as she demonstrated her unique creation to a media crew in Kaifeng. "This is far more interesting than average fridge magnets," she added.

"AI-powered Cultural & Creative" experience stations are quietly being rolled out across Kaifeng, the ancient capital of eight dynasties of China, located in the central province of Henan.

These stations symbolize the seamless integration of the ancient capital's cultural tourism with cutting-edge technology.

Unlike traditional tourist souvenirs, this exciting initiative fuses technologies, such as AI and augmented reality, with Kaifeng's profound cultural heritage from the Song Dynasty.

AI-powered cultural technology transforms the consumption of culture from a process of passive selection into active co-creation, empowering tourists

to no longer just be consumers, but active participants in culture creation.

The user-friendly process begins with selecting a cultural theme. Visitors can select from specific scenic spots and scenes of daily urban life, to the poetic aesthetics of the Song Dynasty, or the legacy of historical figures such as Bao Zheng, a judge in the Song Dynasty and a symbol of justice in Chinese culture.

They then input personalized elements via photos, voice recordings or text. Within a minute, the AI system processes this input to generate exclusive, personalized cultural content. Finally, visitors receive a digital file (downloadable via a QR code) and a physical product, such as a metal fridge magnet, card holder or button badge.

AI-powered cultural creativity represents a distinct trend in cultural tourism consumption, as it shifts from material consumption to experiential and emotional consumption. Kaifeng's practical implementation of this concept shows how technological innovation can enhance the added value of cultural tourism products and elevate the overall visitor experience.



Kaifeng, Henan province, sees the ancient Bianliang city illuminated with lights showcasing the splendor of Song Dynasty aesthetics, March 1, 2026. (PHOTO: VCG)

Traditional Eastern Wisdom

Genesis of Confucianism

By BI Weizi

The Four Books and Five Classics constitute the core texts of Confucian thought. They were the basis of the civil examination in traditional China from the Han Dynasty onwards and can be considered the Confucian canon.

The Four Books include the Doctrine of the Mean, the Great Learning, Mencius, and the Analects, and the Five Classics comprise the Book of Odes, the Book of Documents, the Book of Changes, the Book of Rites, and the Spring and Autumn Annals.

The Four Books are classic Chinese texts that demonstrate the fundamental values and belief systems of Confucianism. The Great Learning serves as a manual for cultivating moral character. By exploring or studying various subjects, one gains insight into the underlying principles of all things, enabling a deeper understanding of the world.

Similarly, the Analects also highlights the importance of learning. The Analects states that the initial step to understanding the "way" is to commit oneself to education. Besides education, the Analects also highlights the significance

of effective governance, respect for parents, morality and ceremonies.

Mencius comprises a series of dialogues between the scholar Mencius and the kings of his era. Unlike the concise and self-sufficient sayings of Confucius, the Mencius features lengthy dialogues filled with elaborate prose. The Doctrine of the Mean, meanwhile, emphasizes adhering to the way and behaving in a manner that is right and natural, yet recognizes that individuals frequently fail to act appropriately.

The Five Classics consist of five pre-Qin Chinese texts that are integral to the

Confucian tradition:

The Book of Documents is a collection of 58 chapters that recount the history of ancient China and the exploits of early sage-kings Yao and Shun.

The Book of Odes features 305 poems addressing various topics, such as love and marriage, agricultural issues, everyday life, and warfare.

The Book of Rites outlines the societal standards, political structure and ceremonial practices in the Zhou Dynasty.

The Book of Changes offers a method of divination primarily focused on the concepts of yin and yang.

And the Spring and Autumn Annals, as the longest of the Five Classics, serves as a historical record for the State of Lu.

Want Younger Brain? Better Get Moving

Science Outreach

By Staff Reporters

Do you ever feel as though you're forgetting things, or reacting more slowly?

Don't worry — it might not be because you're getting old, but rather a sign that your brain is encouraging you to get moving!

When it comes to exercise, many people's first thought is running or walking. However, the type of exercise that has the greatest effect on brain aging is resistance training.

A February 2026 study in *GeroScience*, a leading journal on the biology

of aging, found that moderate-to-heavy resistance training can reduce MRI-based "predicted brain age" by about 1.4-2.3 years, suggesting that strength training may slow aspects of brain aging.

Those who did not engage in resistance training did not experience this reverse-aging effect.

Resistance training improves brain health by promoting neuroplasticity, re-

ducing inflammation, increasing blood flow, and boosting cognitive function, especially in older adults. It specifically triggers the release of muscle-derived compounds (myokines) that may help support brain health and memory-related brain regions such as the hippocampus.

Resistance training involves overcoming external resistance, such as dumbbells, resistance bands or your own body weight, to build muscle strength. Examples include push-ups, squats, dumbbell lifts, glute bridges and wall squats.

Tech Empowers Lancang-Mekong Cooperation

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For innovation-driven development, the Lancang-Mekong countries accelerated the implementation of the Joint Initiatives on the LMC Innovation

Corridor Development. China has proposed establishing a computing-infrastructure cooperation network with Mekong countries based on the Lancang-Mekong Cloud Computing Innovation

Center to support regional AI capacity building and digital development.

To facilitate the integration of the regional digital economy, the six countries jointly released an initiative on

technology cooperation for cross-border data flows in November 2025. It aims to improve data governance, digital infrastructure, AI and blockchain technology R&D as well as applications.

Future Industries: From Niche Innovation to Ecosystem Building

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The report added that since most of China's leading AI models are free to use, Chinese consumers are directly feeling the benefits of AI.

Indeed, openness has become a defining feature of China's AI development model. This approach has accelerated technology diffusion, allowing AI advancements to benefit a broader range of industries.

The Two Sessions served as a crucial window for the world to observe China's strategic direction for the next five years and beyond.

Foreign experts interviewed by Science and Technology Daily emphasized that China's strategic layout of industries of the future, such as quantum technology and bio-manufacturing, precisely targets the core breakthrough directions of the global technological revolution.

"China's industries of the future do not emerge in isolation but are rooted in its industrial system, the most comprehensive and largest in the world," said Francesco Faiola, an Italian scientist. He described China's approach as "gradual industrial cultivation," a development path grounded in objective conditions.

Dennis Simon, a senior fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft in the U.S., said that China's unique institutional advantages translate into powerful organizational and mobilization capabilities. He observed that under national policies, China's model of technological and industrial

innovation demonstrates higher system integration efficiency than international peers, thanks to its ability to rapidly scale complex engineering systems.

It is precisely this institutional guarantee and effective pathway that enable Chinese technological achievements to spill over globally. This proven model of organizing complex engineering projects holds potential for broader "replication" and "promotion" worldwide.

China's nurturing of emerging industries and industries of the future is currently at a stage where rapid technological evolution runs parallel to the maturation of commercial ecosystems. Equipped with core emerging technologies, Chinese enterprises are riding the waves, striving for "technology export" and "brand globalization."

Recently, Alibaba Cloud has reinforced its global presence with its Agentic AI Development Platform, offering private deployment solutions for international enterprises. Meanwhile, humanoid robot manufacturer Zhiyuan (AGIBOT) has secured a landmark strategic partnership with Singaporean telecom enterprise Singtel Enterprise to launch robot leasing services in Singapore, and is actively expanding its reach through collaborations with key automation integrators such as RH BOTS in Spain.

In 2026, China's tech industry, poised as a frontrunner, is ready to join hands with like-minded partners worldwide to embrace the next wave of technological revolution.