'AI+' Initiative Powers Intelligent Transformation

Policy Express

By CHEN Chunyou

AI has become a critical variable reshaping the global industrial landscape. Against the sweeping trend of AI development, how will China's centrally administered state- owned enterprises (SOEs) leverage their inherent resource endowments to seize AI opportunities during the 15th Five- Year Plan period (2026-2030)?

Dai Xi, director general of the bureau of planning and development of the State- owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC), said at a recent press briefing that in recent years, SASAC has guided central SOEs to advance across application scenarios, data, computing power, models and ecosystems with the "AI+" special initiative, achieving multi-pronged and in-depth progress.

Progress includes accelerated rollout of application scenarios to frontline production, Dai said. SASAC has released around 100 benchmark strategic high- value AI scenarios for central SOEs, covering 20 sectors including industry and energy. These scenarios help address real operational bottlenecks and reshape business workflows.



Visitors at an exhibition booth showcasing domestically developed chips and AI4S (AI for Science) computing infrastructure at the 26th China International Industry Fair in east China's Shanghai, October 12, 2026. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

For example, iron and steel enterprise China Baowu's AI furnace controller enables end-to-end AI management of batching, steelmaking, tapping and slagging, generating tens of millions of renminbi in annual economic gains.

Central SOEs continue to develop and aggregate industrial data, shifting dataset development from broad data accumulation toward vertical business empowerment.

Four data industrial communities for energy, transportation, low-carbon development and finance have assembled more than 1,000 high-quality datasets to better support the development of intelligent agents and industry-specific applications.

The quality and efficiency of intelligent computing infrastructure is continuously improving. SASAC has guided telecom operators to speed up the construction of intelligent computing clusters. Computing scheduling platforms such as Xirang and the Computing Network Brain can provide inclusive, green and secure token services.

Homegrown foundation models are delivering effective industrial empowerment. Based on self- developed Xingchen and Jiutai foundation large models, super- intelligent agents have been launched, driving central SOEs across industries to build over 100 industry-specific vertical models.

Looking ahead to the 15th Five-Year Plan period, SASAC will balance development and security to seize new opportunities brought by the intelligent economy, Dai said.

It will consolidate industrial foundations, scale up investment and optimize the layout of computing networks, and deepen power- computing coordination and computing- network integration.

It will also accelerate AI application in the real economy. Focusing on industrial sectors, SASAC will continue building "AI + " industrial communities, and advance large-scale AI deployment on production frontlines.

Case Study

Beijing to Develop More Capable AI Agents

By CHEN Chunyou & SUN Mingyuan

Recently, the Beijing Municipal Development and Reform Commission and three other municipal departments issued measures for accelerating the development of AI agents.

As large language models become digital workers and smart assistants handle tasks for users, compliance and governance must keep pace.

Proactive security governance

The measures stress improving safety governance capacity and exploring a tiered and categorized regulatory framework for AI agents.

Beijing has filed 259 large models and registered 195 AI products. They include general large models, vertical industry models and on- device models. Leading models have amassed over two billion registered users, with daily API calls exceeding 1.4 billion.

"The huge call volume requires governments to deliver proactive services and frontline safeguards," said Li Degang, deputy director and spokesperson of the Beijing Cyberspace Affairs Office.

Beijing has implemented dual marking requirements for explicit and implicit labels on AI-generated synthetic content, and rolled out rules for anthropomorphic interactive services.

Lin Jianhua, deputy director of the Beijing Municipal Development and Reform Commission, said Beijing will further build security infrastructure for AI agents, and support the development of large models, and open shared services such as security testing via testbeds to realize "governing models with models."

Building an integrated support system

"We support innovations in online model learning, autonomous evolution and other architectures and training paradigms to continuously raise the upper limit of intelligence," Lin said.

Beijing is home to cutting- edge foundational models topping global open- source leaderboards, such as Zhipu GLM5.2 and Moonshot Kimi K3, alongside general intelligent agent platforms including ByteDance Coze and Baidu's ERNIE Bot.

Li Yantao, deputy director of the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area Administrative Committee, said the Beijing E- Town has built the city's first token factory with a daily token output of 1.4 trillion, supporting model training and applications.

The Beijing AI Origin Community in Beijing's Zhongguancun Science City has gathered more than 1,000 AI researchers, 13,000 AI developers and over 100,000 young students, according to Tang Chao, deputy director of the Zhongguancun Science City Administrative Committee and deputy district mayor of Haidian district. With 31 universities nearby, it forms an innovation hub.

Haidian has launched computing subsidies and token vouchers, and partnered with cloud service providers to set up elastic computing labs to cut computing call costs on both ends, Tang said.

Opening real-world testbeds

The measures speed up native AI agent applications and benchmark scenarios.

AI agents have delivered early breakthroughs in scientific research. Liu Weihua, deputy director of the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Commission, said, "Our 'Literature Compass' intelligent agent can generate professional reviews at 90 percent accuracy within three hours. It has produced over 40,000 reviews and delivered millions of scientific inferences to date."

Beijing has guided the development of Lingji OS, China's first open- source AI agent operating system, addressing four major pain points of AI agents: poor connectivity, inability to execute tasks, weak governance and unstable control.

The measures encourage deep embedding of AI agents into smart terminals including smartphones, smart glasses and intelligent vehicles.

"As applications go deeper into real- world scenarios, they need data from these settings to keep improving," Lin said. "By rolling out new models to expand on-the-ground implementation, massive structured feedback is generated through interactions. This collaborative approach amplifies data value, enabling AI agents to get smarter with use."



A robot with an embodied large model is trained to clean a water tank at Beijing AI Origin Community. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Int'l Vocational Education Standards Released

By Staff Reporters

A framework of world vocational education standards, developed to promote mutual recognition of vocational education standards and professional qualifications across countries, was released at the closing ceremony of the World Vocational and Technical Education Development (VTED) Conference in Tianjin on October 17.

The Framework of World Vocational and Technical Education Standards (Beijing Agreement), led and promoted by China, was jointly released by 45 countries. It covers key areas of global concern in vocational education, including values, systems, governance, support and measures.

The common value pursuit of vocational education includes promoting economic prosperity and social progress, serving people's all- round development, deepening exchange of vocational skills, and actively responding to future challenges, according to the agreement.

It proposes to improve the vocational school operation system, build a lifelong education and training system for all, jointly develop teaching materials with industry and education, and develop teaching staff through school- enterprise cooperation.

It also proposes carrying out internships and practical training according to actual position requirements, and empowering educational and teaching reforms with AI.

The Beijing Agreement is based on China's vocational education practices and draws on the experiences of countries around the world. The education authorities, industry departments and trade associations of more than 40 countries were invited to participate in the discussions and help refine the text during more than a year of drafting and consultations, said Peng Binbai, an official with the Ministry of Education.

Peng said China's vocational education has become a vital force in international exchanges and cooperation in education. China has hosted the World VTED Conference three consecutive times, providing an important platform for exchanges and close cooperation. The Luban Workshop initiative has promoted over 500 VTED cooperation projects in more than 80 countries and regions, providing solid talent support for international production capacity cooperation and for Chinese enterprises "going global."

In addition, China hosts the annual World Vocational College Skills Competition, which plays an important role in promoting the common development of global VTED and facilitating exchanges.

China has developed a vocational education model that is rooted in local practice and features an independent knowledge system. This Chinese model has been recognized by an increasing number of countries at several World VTED Conferences.

Although different countries have different vocational education models, they share common demands. The shortage of skilled workforce is restricting economic growth, said Kondek Tarha, president of the UNESCO General Conference.

Under the framework of the Beijing Agreement, countries can reach consensus on the value of vocational education, providing better institutional guarantees for the subsequent joint construction and sharing of vocational standards and the orderly flow of skilled workforce among countries, said Pan Haisheng, chair professor at Tianjin University and director of a national vocational education think tank.

Plan to Boost Digital Village Development

By CHEN Chunyou

The Office of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology have jointly released the action plan for high- quality digital village development (2026- 2030), outlining the goals, key tasks and policy measures for digital rural advancement over the next five years.

Spurred by a new round of technological and industrial transformation, rural production and lifestyles are evolving rapidly. The new plan responds to emerging opportunities and challenges in digital rural development by setting clear, targeted objectives for 2030, paving the way for high- quality progress during the 15th Five- Year Plan period (2026-2030).



A farmer livestreams in a navel orange orchard along the Yangtze River in Wangjialing village, Zigui county, Hubei province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Targets have been set for comprehensive digital rural upgrading by 2030. Rural digital infrastructure will be improved, digital transformation across rural industries accelerated, rural informatization and smart governance enhanced, and long- term sustainable development mechanisms for digital villages optimized. These initiatives will help rural communities benefit from digital progress and enhance their sense of gain and security.

The action plan covers 24 key tasks in five priority areas: strengthening foundational digital support for rural areas, advancing industrial digital upgrading, improving rural informatization, scaling up smart rural governance, and fostering sustainable internal driving forces for digital rural development.

It prioritizes rural digital network improvement. 5G and gigabit optical networks will be expanded across rural regions, while high- throughput and low-orbit satellite Internet will be leveraged to deliver wide- ranging network access for remote areas.

With solid network infrastructure in place, rural digital application facilities are poised for improvement. Satellite and aerial remote sensing resources will see wider shared use, and the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System is scheduled for accelerated rollout in precision agriculture, disaster monitoring, early warning and other key rural scenarios.

To advance smart farming, pilot operations of unmanned agricultural machinery are planned to raise overall agricultural intelligence. Qualified regions will be supported in building innovation centers to drive technological progress in digital rural construction.

In addition, rural digital commerce and logistics systems are set for further upgrading. County- level logistics hubs and township express outlets will undergo intelligent transformation. Under sound safety supervision, low- altitude logistics services will be rolled out as needed, and village-level integrated logistics stations will be expanded to boost rural circulation.

Chinese Products Gain More Popularity in First Three Quarters

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In power transmission, exports of wires and cables grew by 28.1 percent, and transformer exports rose by 22.5 percent. In energy storage, exports of batteries of various types increased by 34.8 percent, reaching more than 200 countries and regions.

In response to the global trend toward more scenario-specific and personalized consumer products, China focuses not only on scale but also on customer needs, valuing small orders and niche demands as much as large ones.

For example, immersive first- person short videos are gaining international popularity. In response, Chinese enterprises have developed portable filming devices with functions such as subject tracking, voice and gesture controls, and AI-powered automatic editing, which are welcomed by short video creators around the globe. In the first three quarters, the export of digital cameras increased by 40.5 percent.

China will accelerate the development of a modern industrial system underpinned by advanced manufacturing, offering trade partners and consumers worldwide a wider range of choices through manufacturing that combines cutting-edge innovation with practical solutions to everyday needs, Wang said.