

China Development Forum 2024 The Continuous Development of China

Symposium on AI Development and Governance (Keynote Speech I)

Hosted by the Development Research Centre of the State Council (DRC) and organized by the China Development Research Foundation (CDRF), the China Development Forum (CDF) 2024 was held at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing from March 24th to March 25th. The "Symposium on AI Development and Governance" took place on the afternoon of March 24, featuring Wu Zhaohui, Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, as the speaker for "Keynote Speech I". He outlined his comprehension of AI development and governance from three standpoints: the present status of China's AI progress, the direction of AI technology evolution, and jointly constructing a community with a shared future in the era of intelligence. The symposium was chaired by Zhang Shunxi, vice president of the DRC.

Currently, global AI technological innovation is highly dynamic and has emerged as a critical focus and developmental sector for nations worldwide. Wu Zhaohui stated that the Chinese government places high importance on the development of AI and consistently regards fostering the integrated growth of AI and the

economy as a key developmental objective. The State Council has promulgated and enacted the Development Plan for a New Generation of AI, instituting a suite of efficacious policies and measures addressing the significant demands of economic and societal advancement. Consequently, a favorable ecosystem is materializing, characterized by the deep integration of AI across various sectors.

First, bolster scientific and technological innovation in AI. Centered on the pivotal requirements of economic and social progression, the Chinese government has persistently intensified avant-garde frameworks and allocated scientific research endeavors across the spectrum. It dedicates itself to advancing research in fundamental AI theories, developing industry-wide generic technologies, and applied scientific and technological advancements, innovating AI products and services, and hastening the conversion and application of AI technologies. Regarding algorithms and structures within AI, China has developed systematic capabilities and actively offered its insights to the worldwide scientific and technological innovation of AI.

Second, advocate for AI to profoundly enable the advancement of the real economy. The Chinese government has launched the "AI +" initiative, aiming to address issues like significant applications and the industrialization of AI through scenario innovation. It aims to establish numerous key demonstration application scenarios and carve out new domains and trajectories for the intelligent economy. Simultaneously, the Chinese government has expedited the intelligent overhaul of

enterprises and advanced the development of infrastructure like industrial internet, big data centers, and cloud computing platforms, enhancing the degree of industrial intelligence and the smart industrialization process. The future of China's industry, led by AI, is starting to materialize, propelling the growth of new productive forces.

Third, China should progress in the ethical governance of AI. Firstly, the Chinese government has consistently emphasized both development and security equally. It introduced the Global AI Governance Initiative, released and implemented the Principles for New Generation AI Governance and the Ethical Code for New Generation AI, actively supported industry enterprises in pioneering governance practices, encouraged the establishment of AI ethics committees, and reinforced self-regulation within enterprises and industries. Second, the Chinese government is fast-tracking AI legislation research and enacting administrative measures in domains like generative AI. Third, the Chinese government has engaged extensively in global AI governance efforts. It has actively partaken in the ethical governance of AI within international bodies such as UNESCO and the United Nations High-Level Advisory Body on AI, and it facilitated the passage of the inaugural draft resolution on AI by the General Assembly on March 21, 2024.

In terms of understanding and assessing AI development, Wu Zhaohui remarked that AI is currently at the threshold of a collective technological transformation. Significant breakthroughs are continuously arising, which will holistically propel economic and social advancement while giving rise to new, substantial shifts.

First, AI is advancing towards a new phase of multi-intelligence integration. Major breakthroughs in large-model technology exemplified by ChatGPT and Sora have signaled the onset of general AI. Large models have emerged as the dominant technological approach and are rapidly evolving through iterations. Advances in foundational language large models have been achieved, and new deep network architectures continue to emerge; multimodal large models have now become the principal focus of current model research. The cross-integration of multiple technical paths has hastened the advent of general AI, with large model technology increasingly intersecting with various AI domains. These advancements will advance AI from the 2.0 stage, characterized by deep learning, to the 3.0 stage, marked by extensive model collaboration and the swift emergence of new forms of intelligence.

Second, AI will become a standard feature of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. AI is the central driving force behind the Fourth Industrial Revolution, spurring a transformative upgrade of the real economy, thereby creating a new intelligent economic form and becoming a key pioneer in the development of new productive forces. AI will expedite the transformation and upgrade of traditional sectors, achieve reforms in quality, efficiency, and dynamics, and reshape aspects like industrial base reconstruction, production, and service mode innovation. This will guide new industrialization and supply fresh momentum for the intelligent economy. AI-driven innovation in business models and economic structures is rapidly influencing and permeating every sector, forging a new model of

intelligent economy characterized by data-driven processes, human-machine collaboration, cross-sectoral integration, and a culture of co-creation and sharing, thereby creating new points of economic growth. AI will propel significant scientific breakthroughs and the deployment of leading-edge technologies, intersecting with fields such as biomanufacturing, neuroscience, economics, energy, and cultural creativity. It is poised to generate disruptive products and industries, hastening the growth of industries of the future.

Third, AI will trigger profound changes in social development. AI will see extensive application in sectors like education, healthcare, elderly care, and domestic services. As the intelligence level enhances, service robots are increasingly entering homes, contributing to an improved quality of life. The promotion and application of large-scale model technology in the medical field will accelerate the realization of personalized and exclusive digital hospital prospects. AI will foster innovation in cultural creation and communication methods, diversify cultural products, enhance the efficiency of cross-disciplinary and cross-temporal cultural exchange, and speed up the integration of cultures. AI is anticipated to usher human society into an era of intelligent augmentation where humans and machines coexist. The physical, virtual, and informational worlds will intermingle in parallel, transforming the dual space of "human-physical world" into a quaternary space of "human-physical world-intelligent machine-virtual information world," thereby fulfilling the needs for automation, real-time interaction, and personalization of emotional perception.

Fourth, the widespread cross-sectoral application of AI will introduce multiple security risks and challenges. Generative large models, among other emerging technologies, can inexpensively create inaccurate portrayals of individuals and events, diminishing public trust in authentic information, leading to cognitive disarray, and affecting the established social and life order. Misuse, abuse, and privacy breaches involving AI, along with the value distortion and emotional dependency stemming from the use of AI products, contravene moral principles, compromise fairness and justice, result in ethical aberrations, and thus spark profound ethical issues. Simultaneously, AI might outstrip human intelligence in certain domains, posing a threat to the shared interests of humanity. Determining how to coexist with AI and maximize its benefits for human society while ensuring its safety and controllability has emerged as a significant global and societal challenge.

Wu Zhaohui suggested firmly grasping the tremendous opportunity AI presents in reshaping economic and social development, effectively addressing the various risks and challenges posed by AI, and collaboratively constructing a community with a shared future for human development in the digital age.

First, guiding the integrated advancement of industries through AI technological innovation is imperative. China should target the forefront of AI, hasten the generation of original and groundbreaking scientific research, and pursue the development of general AI through various approaches. It is urgent to expedite the conversion of cutting-edge AI technology into tangible productivity,

encourage intelligent industrial upgrades and disruptive technological breakthroughs, create new industries, models, and drivers, and establish new growth points for the future.

Second, strengthening the integration of AI with humanistic concepts is necessary. China should adhere to a people-oriented approach to science and technology, actively encourage the complete integration of scientific, technological, and humanistic concepts throughout the AI innovation process. This is to ensure the creation of products and services that align with human values, aesthetics, emotional experiences, and cognitive patterns. It's crucial to guarantee that AI development remains true to the purpose of "benefiting humanity and enhancing human life," while preserving and elevating the level and scope of human civilization.

Third, continuing the deepening of AI security governance is crucial. Nations worldwide should unite to foster AI development responsibly, uphold the principles of intelligence for good and progress, and ensure AI remains under human control, thereby ensuring security, reliability, and controllability. Strengthening data security and privacy protection in AI, expediting the establishment of an inclusive and cautious governance mechanism, refining ethical guidelines for AI research and development, and jointly advancing AI security governance are essential measures.

Fourth, continued promotion of open and collaborative international cooperation is essential. China should view AI as a key tool for solving global issues and persist in deepening international collaboration in tackling climate change, poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation, and other areas critical to

global sustainable development. Joint efforts in technology R&D and product development should be undertaken, global AI governance and cooperation deepened, and regional, global, and multi-tiered AI governance platforms and mechanisms established, to shape new international governance rules through collaborative consultation and widespread consensus.

(China Development Press Authors: Liu Changjie; Reviewer: Yang Liangmin)

--Background Information--

Under the mandate 'Engaging with the world for common prosperity', China Development Forum (CDF) serves as an important platform for Chinese government to carry out candid exchanges and discussions with leaders of global businesses and international organizations as well as foreign and Chinese scholars. Initiated in 2000, CDF has made remarkable contributions for the policy exchange and international collaborations between China and the world.

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