

China Development Forum 2024 The Continuous Development of China

Symposium on Digital Empowerment for Industrial Transformation (Keynote Speech)

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. On the afternoon of March 25, the "Symposium on Digital Empowerment for Industrial Transformation" took place, presided by Zhang Junkuo, Chairman, China Development Research Foundation (CDRF); Deputy Director of the Committee on Proposals, the 14th CPPCC National Committee. During the "keynote speech" segment, the guest speaker was LI Wenhai, Vice Mayor, the People's Government of Tianjin Municipality.

Digitalization fuels industrial transformation, serving as a significant manifestation of new quality productive forces. Li Wenhai believed that the digital empowerment for industrial transformation had been accelerating in an all-round way, presenting the following five characteristics: First, computing power had become the foundational support to promote industrial digital

development; second, digital technology had become an important engine driving industrial digital progress; third, data elements had become strategic resources for driving industrial digital advancement; fourth, the manufacturing industry had emerged as the main battlefield for industrial digital transformation; fifth, digital governance had become a new challenge in promoting industrial digital transformation and development.

Reflecting on these characteristics, Li Wenhai outlined Tianjin's initiatives to forge new strengths in the digital economy during his keynote speech. In recent years, Tianjin has embraced comprehensive digital development, rapidly built a modern industrial system via industrial digitization, and propelled the high-quality growth of various sectors through digital industrialization. Tianjin has established its unique new strengths in fostering new quality productive forces and bolstering the digital economy.

First, the development and enhancement of digital infrastructure have quickened. Tianjin has spearheaded the creation of a dual-gigabit network and erected 73,000 5G base stations. It hosts the National Supercomputing Centre (Tianjin), leading companies like Sugon, and a suite of new computing infrastructures, including the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Big Data Intelligent Computing Centre.

Second, the digital industry is flourishing. Tianjin has pioneered in China the establishment of a comprehensive industrial chain encompassing chips, operating systems, databases, computers, servers, supercomputing, and more. The added value

of the digital economy's core industries comprises 7.2% of the GDP, placing the city's digital economy development in the top tier nationwide.

Third, scientific innovation capacity has continually improved, with significant advancements in the technological innovation of key products. Notable breakthroughs include the world's first dedicated brain-computer interface chip "Brain Whisperer" and the Haiguang DCU Deep Computing Unit No. 2, both reaching international advanced standards. The high-standard, ambitious Tiankai Higher Education Science and Technology Innovation Park has been promoted, pioneering an "academia + talent + industry" innovation model. This fosters production-education and science-education integration, creating a pivotal platform that merges education, technology, talent, and industry.

Fourth, the unlocking of data value has been fast-tracked. Tianjin was at the forefront in issuing regulations to encourage big data development and application, and in setting up a northern big data trading centre, drawing in data service providers. It issued China's inaugural standard for data classification and grading in pilot free trade zones, offering guidance for these zones in handling data categorization and grading, bridging the systemic gap in this area, and establishing a robust basis for cross-border data flow.

Fifth, digital empowerment has yielded significant achievements. The count of cloud-operational industrial enterprises in Tianjin has surpassed 10,000, with over 300 lighthouse factories, smart factories, and digital workshops established. The city's "informatization and industrialization integration" index is among

the highest in China. It fosters the deep integration of new generation information technologies with agriculture and service sectors, spawning numerous new business forms and models.

Sixth, the potential for digital transformation is vast. Leveraging its industrial base, geographical advantages, and other strengths, Tianjin has actively integrated into the global digital economy's industrial chain. International cooperation and exchanges in the digital realm have grown increasingly dynamic, offering expansive opportunities for digital transformation.

Li Wenhai mentioned that moving forward, the digital empowerment of new quality productive forces will serve as Tianjin's strategic foundation for fostering the deep amalgamation of the digital and real economies. This will advance the high-end, intelligent, and green evolution of the manufacturing industry, broaden leading sectors, and hasten the establishment of a modern industrial system underpinned by the real economy.

Specific measures entail: First, to enhance industrial clustering and promote ecological construction. Develop a renowned software park and a top-tier digital economy industrial park in China, establish a globally competitive digital industry cluster, and position Tianjin as a new pinnacle for global digital economy growth. Second, to reinforce technological leadership and emphasize innovation-driven transformation. Maintain a dual focus on scientific and technological innovation as well as industrial innovation, concentrate on enhancing foundational research in blockchain, privacy computing, data space, and related areas, and hasten the integrated innovation of digital technologies. Third, to bolster

platform development and solidify computational support. Pioneer in China the creation of computational power trading platforms, heterogeneous computational power scheduling platforms, and the Tianhe Integrated Computational Power Cloud Platform. Advance the establishment of the Sugon Supercomputing Internet Platform, Tianjin Supercomputing Centre, and basic telecommunication operators' computational facilities. Enhance the fundamental capabilities of intelligent computational power and expand its reach. Expedite the emergence of a smart, comprehensive digital information infrastructure characterized by high-speed ubiquity, space-ground integration, cloud-network synergy, intelligence and flexibility, eco-friendly and low-carbon progression, as well as security and controllability. Provide full support for actuarial computations and become a crucial junction in the national east-to-west computing resource redistribution initiative. Fourth, to intensify data governance and unlock the value of data. Fifth, to enhance openness. Concentrate on regulating and facilitating cross-border data flows, foster institutional innovation regarding data import and export in pilot free trade zones, integrate deeply into the global digital innovation network, develop a globally competitive data element market, and establish an accommodating setting for expanding high-level international engagement.

(China Development Press Authors: Liu Changjie; Reviewer: Cui Keliang)

--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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