



CHINA • YUNNAN



TWO SESSIONS

Technological innovation becomes hot topic during China's two sessions

Han Jie

China's "two sessions", namely the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, are held in Beijing between March 2 and 16. During this year's two sessions, deputies from the Internet and manufacturing industries show a keen interest in the latest development of artificial intelligence (AI) and unmanned vehicles. Reporters who cover the two sessions, are equipped

with gadgets like virtual reality (VR) cameras and 3D cameras. Technological innovation has become the real focus of attention.

AI is often considered to be the next hot topic among the scientific community. Recently the Go match between Google DeepMind's AlphaGo and the South Korean Go master Lee Se-dol attracted the attention of China's Science and Technology Minister Wan Gang. At a press conference on March 10, Wan applauded the AI development for promoting human labor

into a more advanced level, but also joked that he would enjoy playing the board game with a man rather than a computer.

Wan said, China has made tremendous development in AI and supercomputers, such as Tianhe-2, which has been widely used in the fields of seismic modeling, large aircraft design, anti-Ebola drug screening and more.

The latest development of AI is making complex operations more controllable. For instance, robots will be able to complete heavy and complex labor tasks following predetermined procedures, better improving work quality and efficiency, leaving better and more advanced jobs for human being.

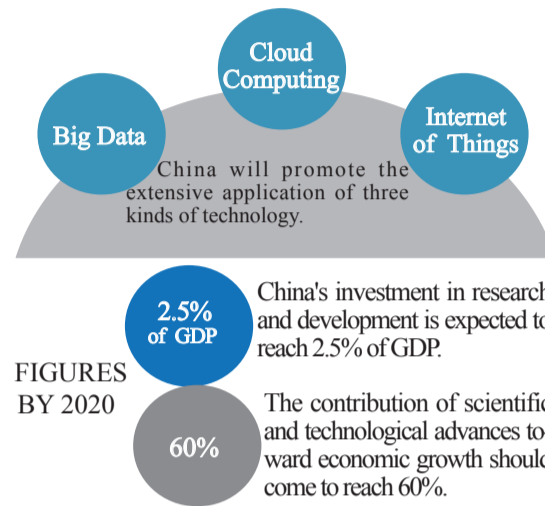
Technological innovation in information technology is also gaining momentum in Yunnan.

Kunming Inspur Cloud Computing Industry Park is working on building South Asian language labs to help local companies go further.



A reporter uses the VR camera to cover two sessions. Photo by Xing Guangli (Xinhua Agency)

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT



Lei Chang, Deputy General Manager of the Yunnan Energy Investment & Inspur Science and Technology Co., Ltd. introduced that, their cloud computing industry park intends to establish a South Asian and Southeast Asian languages research center. It will serve as a platform to translate the companies' websites into whatever languages used in their target markets so as to minimize

communication barriers. Lei said that such translation service is not only text-based, but also voice-based for online customer services. "Our research center will provide semantic translation based on big data of these languages, so that its translation can do much better than the current online translation software, meeting the standard of "faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance".

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

Olivier: I want to stay in Yunnan

Wang Shixue

"Ah, well, I am Swiss, Peruvian or Mexican," Olivier would say when asked about his nationality. He has curly hair and is talkative. His father is a Swiss diplomat, his mother is Peruvian and he was born in Mexico. He used to study in Australia and is now learning Mandarin in China.

In 2013, Olivier became a waiter at a local hotel in Queensland. The hotel often received Chinese guests who mostly came to Australia for sightseeing. One evening, a Chinese guest called reception for help. The hotel manager told Olivier to serve the guest. Olivier could not speak Mandarin and had many difficulties communicating with the guest. It was then that he thought of learning Mandarin.

In 2015, Olivier decided to study in China for one or two years. After much comparison, he chose Kunming because of the

liveable environment, good weather and affordable tuition. It is not easy to integrate into a new environment, but the best way to learn a language is to talk with locals, Olivier said.



"So far, I have neither met any unpleasant things in Yunnan nor heard of other foreigners complaining about Yunnan. If everything goes well, I wish to stay on in Yunnan to make my fortune."

Olivier

"So far, I have neither met any unpleasant things in Yunnan nor heard of other foreigners complaining about Yunnan," said Olivier. He felt that he had made the right choice. In the past year, Olivier deeply felt the friendliness of Yunnan people.

More fortunately, Olivier became acquainted with a Kunming local surnamed Zhang, who took him in his car to half of China. Olivier is very grateful. Now Mr. Zhang is preparing to open a bar and would like him to manage it.

Olivier has his own idea: In Switzerland, even a small town has more than 200 craft beer pubs, while a city as big as Kunming has only four such establishments. So craft beer will have a good market in Kunming.

Yunnan is close to Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and India. With China reviving the Maritime Silk Road, Yunnan is in a better position to learn about South and Southeast Asia and spread craft beer to neighbouring countries. Olivier is already making preparations for the new bar. He said, "If everything goes well, I wish to stay on in Yunnan to make my fortune."

TECHNOLOGY

In-orbit delivery of Laos' 1st satellite launched



The ceremony of in-orbit delivery of Lao's first satellite cooperated with China was held in Vientiane. Photo by Liu Ailun (Xinhua Agency)

The ceremony of in-orbit delivery of Lao's first satellite cooperated with China was held in Laos' capital Vientiane on Wednesday night.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lao Minister of Post, Telecommunication and Communication Hiem Phommachanh said that the in-orbit delivery of Laos' first satellite was a milestone in cooperation between Laos and China in field of space technology. At present, all technical tests of the satellite have been successfully completed and the satellite is ready to provide services.

Lao government, especially Ministry of Post, Telecommunication and Communication will create

favorable conditions for the operator in terms of policies and international cooperation, Phommachanh said.

Vice President of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation Yang Baohua said the satellite project is of great significance as it was the first export project of China's satellite to an ASEAN country, marking a solid step in space technology cooperation between China and Laos.

The satellite, which is a major project in implementing the "Belt and Road" initiative proposed by China, will promote the image of Laos, driving the development of Laos' hi-tech industries as well as economy and culture, Yang said.

(Xinhua Agency)

COOPERATION

Vientiane water treatment upgrade completed

In December 2015, the final acceptance check on the second phase of the Upgrading Project of Dongmakhai Water Treatment Plant in Vientiane, Lao PDR was completed by the Lao Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Vientiane Water Supply Company. The acceptance panel declared that the project, implemented by Yunnan Construction Engineering Group, conforms to relevant technical specifications, legal procedures, as well as design and construction requirements, thus meeting acceptance conditions.

In order to address increasing water demand in downtown Vientiane and its comprehensive development zone, the project was signed between the Government of Laos and Yunnan Construction Engineering Group Co., Ltd. After the upgrade, the daily water treatment capacity of Dongmakhai Plant increases from 180,600 m³ to 280,600 m³, and its daily supply capacity from 20,000 m³ to 120,000 m³. (Yunnan Construction Engineering Group)

INDUSTRY

KIB Dendrobium Base passes certification

Chen Xinlong

Recently, the Dendrobium planting and breeding base at the Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), has passed organic certification by Nanjing Guohuan National Organic Product Certification Center.

China's Dendrobium planting area totals 6667 hectares, of which 50% is in Yunnan. Safe and pollution-free ingredients are key factors affecting the quality of raw materials used in medicinal and health care products. The project team, led by the CAS KIB researchers Hu Hong and Zhang Shibao and following GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) cultivation guidelines, focuses on the collection of choice Dendrobium germplasms, as well as the research and design of key technologies on green Dendrobium breeding and cultivation at their base in Pu'er. Currently, the team has made important progress in key industrial technologies, including large-scale seed breeding, cultivation of new varieties and organic farming.

