



Visitors study the latest technologies displayed at the Guiyang Big Data Expo.
YANG JUN / CHINA DAILY

PREMIER URGES INTEGRATION OF REAL AND VIRTUAL WORLDS

Guiyang expo looks to merge big data and traditional craftsmanship

By YANG JUN and WANG HUAZHONG

Premier Li Keqiang said China should build “dual engines” that couple innovative concepts, such as big data, and the craftsmanship of traditional industries for its economy when he attended the big data expo in Guiyang last week.

The China Big Data Industry Summit and China E-commerce Innovation and Development Summit, which is widely known as Guiyang Big Data Expo, was held from Wednesday to Sunday in the capital city of Southwest China’s Guizhou province. It became a State-level expo this year.

“The old and new dynamics should develop together to drive and upgrade traditional industries. And the development of the virtual and real worlds should be integrated,” Li said.

Globally influential experts, academics and industry insiders converged in Guiyang for the expo. More than 40,000 delegates shared their new concepts ideas for a consensus to be delivered at the conclusion of the summit.

More than 300 big data companies brought with them over 1,000 products and solutions to showcase at the expo. The event attracted about 90,000 visitors, of which about 10,000 were professionals.

According to statistics, over 80 percent of China’s information resources are in government hands. The delegates expressed their wishes to work with the State to open up big data resources in an orderly and secure way according to market needs.

They also plan to push forward an agenda to converge the flow of capital, the flow of technology and

the flow of talent on the basis of the flow of data, to create new opportunities for innovation and business startups.

The delegates called for society to take a proper view of big data security and urged for legal efforts to crack down on internet fraud to allow a clean and safe network.

The event is also seen as a platform where business leaders and government officials can meet to share their insights on solving problems relating to national and local economies.

As Chinese industries face numerous tasks including cutting production capacity, reducing stock and controlling leverage tools, it is not easy to prioritize when reforming the supply side.

Decision-makers always have to answer similar questions such as how the Guiyang government should spend fixed-assets investment budget reasonably and which industry needs the investment most.

The collecting and mining of big data may address these issues in the

near future, according to industry experts.

He Zhong, chief information officer of Guiyang MacroData is leading his team to develop an early warning platform for the industrial economy of Guiyang on the basis of big data technologies.

The goal of the platform is to consolidate data including industrial demand, economic dynamics, employment and livelihood figures and then prepare a report for decision-makers.

“Strategic leaders, management and executors can have dialogues in the same context on this platform, rather than speaking from their own angle like in the past,” He said.

According to He, the platform is a pilot project that the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology is developing in Guiyang, Guizhou province, because the city plans to build itself into a base for the big data industry providing flexible policies.

“Seven government departments in Guiyang have opened their data to the

public. This is crucial and a prerequisite for us to mine and establish the platform,” He said.

The MacroData project just settled in the Guiyang Big Data Innovation Industry (Technology) Development Center, which was launched last week in Guiyang’s Guanshanhu district.

The project is just one example of efforts the Guizhou provincial government is making to foster the big data industry.

Since 2014, Guizhou has led the country’s pace to develop big data as a special and innovation-driven industry. The provincial capital of Guiyang was appointed China’s first State-level general pilot zone for big data.

The big data expo closed on Sunday and released a Guiyang Consensus on E-commerce. The consensus calls on the industry to reform the supply side to provide “new dynamics” for better quality and efficiency of China’s economy.

Contact the writers through wang-huazhong@chinadaily.com.cn

Guizhou’s evolution a source of pride

REPORTER’S LOG | WANG HUAZHONG

I was born in Guizhou, so I’ve often heard the old saying about my home province: “Sunshine lasting no more than three days and flat lands lasting no more than three miles”.

But I never imagined that the saying would one day describe the conditions underpinning the emergence of the big data industry in Guizhou.

Valleys and caves and the rare sunny day are the main reasons for the cool climate in the plateau province. The mild temperatures mean big data-storage facilities consume less energy. Electricity commonly takes about 50 to 70 percent of a data center’s operational costs.

My home province also boasts rich water and fossil fuel resources that can supply the utilities at lower prices.

These are all ideal for the storage of big data, according to officials and experts, which in turn has made Guizhou the first State-level pilot zone for developing the big data industry.

This year, I could not be prouder of my hometown as it faced the challenge of changing its image from a latecomer in the country’s industrialization to become a leader in big data.

Its milestone was the China Big Data Industry Summit and China E-commerce Innovation and Development Summit, which Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou, hosted last week, becoming elevated to a State-level expo.

I’m as excited for the Guiyang population of 4.7 million after hearing Premier Li Keqiang say at the expo that industries related to big data are booming and a more transparent and equal market will support them.

I was upbeat when I heard CEOs from global tech companies such as Qualcomm, HP, Dell, Tencent and Alibaba announce their commitment to Guiyang with major projects.

Yet I am more interested to find out how the industry has changed people’s lives.

So far, 2.8 million people in Guiyang have access to free Wi-Fi thanks to a project that aims to cover the entire city by 2017.

In return, data records of Wi-Fi logins that can reveal which shopping malls are the busiest and which restaurants are the most visited, are vital to the big data industry.

I was told that efforts to help poverty-stricken residents in Guizhou have become more efficient. A data base monitoring 6.23 million low-income people, their whereabouts and their incomes is in place in 9,000 poor villages, 34 townships and 66 counties.

Such cases of change are happening everywhere in my home province.

“Big data is not heavy industry. It’s not manufacturing. It’s that massive leap into the future,” said Andrew Cockburn, a senior official with UK Trade and Investment.

“Guizhou may not have the resource that other regions had previously in China. But it’s going straight to the front and to the cutting-edge.”

I can’t agree more.



A LeSee concept car that incorporates the latest information technology is displayed at the Guiyang Big Data Expo.
HE JUNYI / FOR CHINA DAILY

whattheysay

We will not only transfer technologies, but make a significant investment into the joint venture. It will be one of the primary vehicles we use to bring tech here and create innovation as the Internet Plus and other initiatives take hold in China.



It is very timely for Guizhou province to stand up and say we want to be leaders and drive this innovation (of big data).



MARK GIBBS, president of SAP SE Greater China

Whenever you share information, one of the risks is you are not really understanding the information that you are sharing. So it will be very much about understanding the data dictionaries, the standards, and the rules that will emerge for sharing information.



DEREK ABERLE, president of Qualcomm

The momentum is here. The air smells big data too.



MICHAEL DELL, chairman and CEO of Dell Inc

We had a preliminary consensus in 2012 that the ecology in Guizhou is fragile and vulnerable. Then what industry can we develop? The emerging big data industry might be a very good direction.



GUO YIKE, director of the Data Science Institute of the Imperial College London

The Big Data Expo has attracted the world’s attention. Cloud Guizhou (a cloud computing project) will be another beautiful and international calling card for Guizhou.



I’ve already inspected many caves (for building a data center) in Guizhou.

TERRY GUO TAI-MING, chairman of Foxconn

MA HUATENG, chairman and CEO of Tencent Holdings

‘Tongkers’ seek out solutions

By WANG HUAZHONG

Li Jun, 35, is not happy with the many advertisements he sees on WeChat Moments, a module of a popular social network on which friends share their personal moments.



Li Jun is one of 10 finalists in a “tongker” contest.
WANG HUAZHONG / CHINA DAILY

The formerly clean platform has become a show-place for advertisements, products and shopping malls according to Li, who served in the army in remote Tibet for 13 years.

Latest figures from WeChat’s holding company Tencent show the mobile phone application had 760 million active users around the world in April.

“This turns WeChat Moments into a very distracting and noisy place,” said Li, who is now a civil servant for the administration for industry and commerce in Yubei district, Chongqing municipality.

Li is also concerned that advertisements on WeChat Moments are sometimes misleading or even dishonest about the quality, as the network is difficult to regulate.

“I’m very annoyed,” he said.

“I want a solution that can help me clear commercial information I don’t need and I want technical measures in place to monitor and follow sales actions on WeChat Moments. This is beneficial for consumers to defend their rights.”

Li is not merely complaining but is a “tongker”, or problem shooter, who spoke out about the problem on Sunday with nine others concerned about other common problems to hundreds

of listeners in Guiyang to compete for a top prize.

The tongker competition, a part of the Guiyang Big Data Expo, aimed to screen general problems of the public and seek business opportunities by solving those problems.

The Guiyang city government began to solicit public problems and solutions in March. By early April, 22,185 people had registered to participate in the contest and submitted 2,700 proposals.

Winners of the tongker competition shared 1 million yuan (\$151,645) in prizes and their proposals will receive government subsidies and venture capital investment.

Ten tongkers including Li took to the stage on Sunday to present their proposals for final evaluation. The show is a program under the 2016 Guiyang Big Data Expo.

Gao Weidong, deputy mayor of Guiyang, said many problems in governance have been raised with possible solutions, which are good models of “collabora-

tive social governance”.

“I hope tongkers can be new drivers of our economic innovation,” he said.

Zhou Tao, a professor at the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China said many people who start businesses do not understand the demands behind problems in the field, and therefore may not solve fundamental issues.

“Many innovation are like water without a source if we don’t have a tongker platform collecting and screening problems and solutions.”

Zhang Xiang, executive president of Caixin Media, said the tongker platform would “promote a relatively fair redistribution of resources, solve problems relating to people’s livelihood and build a more harmonious society”.

According to the organizers of the event, a tongker’s platform will be established after the contest, helping link tongkers, makers and investors for opening new businesses based on tongkers’ ideas and solutions.