

Guiyang shines in international spotlight

Provincial capital becomes powerhouse for big data development, investment, growth

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The China International Big Data Industry Expo, which ended on Wednesday, has gained growing international influence and helped the world know more about Guiyang, capital of Southwest China's Guizhou province. The area has pioneered the nation's big data development, an official said.

The four-day event attracted 803 overseas attendees from 61 countries and regions, up 49.8 percent and 117.8 percent year-on-year. Among them, 36 countries are involved in the Belt and Road Initiative. Twenty countries, including Brazil, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Ukraine, joined the expo for the first time.

The number of overseas exhibitors grew 178.6 percent to reach 156. Companies from the United States and United Kingdom had the largest presence. Big overseas names included Dell, Pivotal, NTT Data, Google and Apple. A total of 39 Fortune Global 500 companies participated.

It shows attending the big data expo has become a fashion in big data-related industries to find innovative ideas and establish business partnerships, said Xu Hao, executive vice-mayor of Guiyang.

According to the event's organizing committee, more financial support was given to foreign exhibitors to build a booth there. Companies covered intelligent manufacturing, health, robots, the internet of things and intelligent energy supply. In addition, there were nine high-level dialogues, 53 forums, 26 report releases and six competitions.

Dang Minh Khoi, Vietnamese ambassador to China, attended the expo for the first time. He said he told embassy staff members they will come every year and send delegations to study in Guizhou.

Top professionals gave speeches at the expo, where the rooms were often packed with audiences. Many of the new views gave inspirations boosting the industry's development.

Speakers included Paul Romer, co-recipient of the 2018 Nobel Prize in economics and professor at New York University; Whitfield Diffie, renowned cryptologist and winner of the Turing Award, and Kevin Kelly, founder of US-based Wired magazine.

Cutting-edge technological

achievements were displayed at the expo, such as the foldable mobile phone display, light-weight electronic bicycle and artificial intelligence broadcaster.

The experience of Guiyang in application of big data has been shared with the world.

The local government is accelerating to apply big data to the real economy, rural development, civil affairs and social governance.

Guizhou stories

At the High-Level Dialogue on Big Data and Global Poverty Reduction, foreign participants from African countries, such as Morocco, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya and Mozambique, learned how big data can help improve the lives of rural people after hearing the stories of Guizhou.

Big data is used in a kiwi fruit farm in Xiuwen county to monitor the climate, temperature and soil conditions to give a targeted solution for watering, fertilization and pollination.

The online platform of Guizhou-based fertilizer producer Wengfu Group can collect the data of farming and serve farmers to sell products, rent farming machines and learn agricultural skills.

The Diandingding app can monitor electricity usage and warn of possible fires in a village of Miao ethnic group in the Qianlongnan Miao and Dong autonomous prefecture, where wooden buildings are popular.

In Guiyang, facial recognition technology is used in airports, communities, railway stations and public security departments.

Intelligent devices are adopted in traditional manufacturing factories to increase productivity and optimize management.

Guizhou Tyre said its production grew by 26 percent after adopting an intelligent control system, intelligent logistics and big data analysis.

"Through big data, we found a new path of development that's different from that of other regions. The innovation-driven path can help us realize modernization," Xu said.

During the event, 125 projects were signed with a total investment of 100.76 billion yuan (\$14.59 billion). That included Huawei's new projects in Guizhou.

Yang Pin, deputy general manager



Experts from China and overseas talk about the role of big data in economic development during a high-level dialogue at the expo.

LI QIUMING / FOR CHINA DAILY



Left: Representatives from 61 countries and regions attend the China International Big Data Industry Expo held in Guiyang from Sunday to Wednesday. LI QIUMING / FOR CHINA DAILY



Right: Children are attracted by robots displayed at the expo. LI HANYI / FOR CHINA DAILY

er of the Guizhou branch of China Telecom, said his company released a new app to help poor farmers in Guizhou to sell agricultural products during the expo.

UK-based Relx Group, global provider of information-based analytics and decision tools, joined the expo for the third time.

Flavio Villanustre, senior vice-president and chief data security officer of the company, said he was

quite impressed by how China has so many big data-related companies and institutes.

He added he found much business potential with them, and establishing links with those people is important to the future development of the company.

Viktor Mayer-Schonberger, a professor in internet governance and regulation from Oxford University, said he was amazed by how

Guiyang developed so fast each time he came there.

"I saw more new buildings and roads. I felt the vitality of the city, which continues making progress."

He added the digital revolution is like the industrial revolution back in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the revolution is changing the economic models when old models cannot support the demands of growth.

"Digital economy can help our market operates better. Guiyang can grasp the opportunity of the digital era to develop itself."

Xu Hao said the expo is an important platform for the opening-up of Guiyang. And they will continue to make the event more international and professional and improve its influence, to promote the development of the big data industry in the region.



Guiyang's experience in using big data for poverty reduction is studied by attendees from many countries at the expo.

CHEN HAINING / FOR CHINA DAILY

Global cooperation embraced at expo

By CAO YINGYING

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China International Big Data Industry Expo 2019 attracted attendees from across the globe to the Guizhou province capital of Guiyang to discuss the latest trends and future development in the burgeoning industry.

Held from May 26 to 29, the event has also attracted 448 enterprises from 61 countries and regions, including 36 involved in the Belt and Road Initiative, to showcase the lat-

est products, solutions, technologies and achievements in big data.

The North African nation of Morocco was the fifth expo's guest of honor, with senior representatives attending to take part in forums and exchanges. Abdelhamid Souiri, vice-president of Morocco's House of Councillors, said he was impressed with how big data is being used in poverty alleviation projects in China and that Morocco should implement actions.

Morocco and China signed a

memorandum of understanding in November 2017 in relation to the BRI, which according to Souiri "marked a turning point" in relations between the two countries.

In March, Morocco signed an agreement with Guizhou province on the import of tea valued at \$21 million. It is the largest single order of tea for the province in recent years.

Souiri said Morocco hopes to take part in more cooperation projects with Guizhou in more fields such as big data, tourism and agriculture, in the future.

In addition to Morocco, countries such as France and India strengthened cooperation with Guizhou during the expo.

India's National Institute of Information Technology signed cooperation agreements with Guizhou University and Guiyang education bureau on Monday at a Sino-Indian information technology and data technology industry cooperation development forum.

Aquino Vimal, India's deputy ambassador in Beijing, said at the forum small and medium-sized IT enterprises in India,

focusing on manufacturing and artificial intelligence, are seeking cooperation projects with Chinese companies. He said that this would also help Chinese companies find more IT solutions and improve competitiveness and efficiency.

Last year, a China-India IT industry cluster was launched in Guiyang as part of efforts to step up cooperation in software and IT between the Guizhou capital and India.

Shi Kaifen, assistant to the director of the big data development administration of Guizhou, said as an important junction of Sino-Indian cooperation, the province will continue to promote two-way cooperation and development.

In other parts of the country, a China-India IT corridor project was launched in March in Xuzhou, Jiangsu province, with the aim of building an international services outsourcing cooperation platform.

France took part in the expo for the first time, starting with the Sino-French Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Forum on Monday. Chinese and French experts, company representatives, suppliers and purchasers in the AI industry discussed the revolution of AI in the two countries.

Guiyang big data development administration and France's leading AI hub signed an MOU for AI cooperation during the forum.

Antoine Couret, president of France AI Hub, said international cooperation is important for the future success of AI.

He hopes to cooperate with China and Guizhou to set up a data exchange platform and strengthen bilateral investment cooperation.

Reporter's log

City showcases its future vision

By CHEN MEILING

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When I approached the hotel in Guanshanhu district of Guiyang, my memory flashed back to when I first attended the big data expo in 2017.

The city has become more modern, advanced and intelligent, which is apparent by the many high-rise buildings and broad, busy streets. The landscape around the hotel reminds me of the Beijing CBD, only more quiet.

This time, I was able to see how big data has entered people's lives. At the expo venue, robots gave guidance and sold items. Self-service machines stood in line for information or charging services. Attendees wore virtual reality headgear to see the landscape of Guiyang. Staff members rode intelligent segways to pass through the corridors.

The 60,000-square-meter exhibition area was crowded with people even at 4 pm, one hour before closing time. Visitors waited in long queues to try out cutting-edge technologies.

There are devices that can test your body fat, sugar and protein rate by standing on them for about two seconds. There are seats where you can operate a real excavator far away with trolley and buttons. By giving the right gesture, the cartoon images of horses or birds appear on the screen. I can see the joy and excitement of people when they engage with this technology.

Since big data was written in the country's Government Work Report in 2014, the term has become a hot topic both in industrial and commercial sectors. However, besides making factories more efficient and businesses more profitable, how would that help people live better? The answer may be found in Guiyang.

Just like the theme of the expo — Innovative Development, Digital Future — the futuristic scene is shown in this city every day and people are willing to try out what's new. The spirit of inclusiveness opens the gate to a new digital era, and that's crucial to building an innovation-driven economy.