

'Internet Plus' injects vigor into economy through IT integration

By HUO WENQI

The central government's new "Internet Plus" action plan will facilitate the integration of information technology and industry, scholars said at the 14th China Internet Conference, held from July 21 to 23.

Consisting of around 30 forums, the conference is the first to be held since the strategy was introduced and was mainly dedicated to elaborating on the significance of Internet Plus.

Promoting industrial integration

As of the end of June 2015, the number of Internet users in China had reached 668 million, accounting for 48.8 percent of the population, according to the 36th Statistical Report on Internet Development in China released by the China Internet Network Information Center on July 23. Of those, mobile Internet users numbered 594 million, or 88.9 percent of the total online population. This indicates that the Internet has not only become integral to social life but also sparked a revolution in productive forces.

In addition to e-commerce, finance and tourism, the Internet has also permeated other fields, including media, agriculture, manufacturing, education and healthcare.

"With the rise of 'Internet Plus Technology,' 'Internet Plus Integration' and 'Internet Plus Innovation,' traditional industries and the Internet industry should take advantage of the opportunity to make strategic choices," said Lu Wei, secretary-general of the Internet Society of China.

Cao Shumin, president of the China Academy of Information and Communication



The 14th China Internet Conference was held from July 21 to 23 in Beijing.

Technology, said that the Internet will certainly bring great and even revolutionary changes to the industry. "Two significant government documents—the Guiding Opinions of the State Council on Actively Propelling the Internet Plus Action Plan and Made in China 2025—show that China emphasizes studying industrial networking from the perspectives of industry as well as the Internet, while the international practice for industry 4.0 only pays attention to the industrial perspective," Cao said, adding that the Internet, bringing together billions of users and millions of enterprises, provides a platform for creating new operating models and patterns.

Entrepreneurship, innovation

In addition, the Internet will also present opportunities to promote entrepreneurship and innovation and serve as a comprehensive and strategic platform for creative makers, said Wu Hequan, a member of the China Engineering Academy.

Talking about the trends of mobile app development and creative activities of small and medium-sized enterprises, such as petty vendors on mobile terminals, Yu Xiaohui, chief engineer at the China Academy of Information and Communication Technology, said mobile Internet has set off the biggest wave of innovation since 2007 and China has grasped the critical moment.

"In the next five to 10 years, mobile Internet

will still be the most significant driving force in the field of information communication and rank first in terms of scale and growth rate," Yu said. "And it will exert profound effects on all aspects of economic and social development as Internet Plus is widely implemented."

Strengthening security, management

Lin Nianxiu, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission, said scientific management and normative systems are needed to safeguard Internet security and maintain fair competition in markets.

He said the implementation of Internet Plus requires strengthening online security, establishing standards and regulation, improving the credit system, and being rigorous in investigating and punishing unfair competition to cultivate a favorable environment for sustainable and sound development of the Internet industry.

Furthermore, many scholars said it is necessary to improve the infrastructure for broadband network services to achieve synergetic development in Internet and real economy.

To this end, various measures need to be taken, including improvements to laws and regulations on intellectual property and other Internet rights, incentives for venture capital financial support for emerging industries and increasing financing to key projects, they suggested.

<<FROM PAGE 1

In the war-torn state, a number of warlords and militias coexist, and the main resistance to the government was led by the Islamic Courts Union (ICU). With the dissolution of the ICU following the invasion of Somalia by the locally-reviled Ethiopian military, al-Shabab, a subordinate of ICU, arose as the most competent and capable resistance force against the Ethiopian occupation. It once took control of most of the territories, including part of the capital.

Seeking to create a religious state ruled according to their radical interpretation of Sunni Islam, al-Shabab has declared jihad against "enemies of Islam" and refuses to reconcile with the government, posing the greatest threat to Somalia and neighboring states. Right now, it is the main target of Somali security forces and the African Union Mission to Somalia.

Al-Shabab's growing strength and militancy can be attributed to the following four reasons.

First, the failure of the state and subsequent competition among warlords and militias for influence and resources has paved the way for the rise of al-Shabab. Since the civil war in 1991, Somalia underwent three major phases. Somalia has been without a functioning central government from 1991 to 2004, and then it underwent an eight-year transitional period from 2004 to 2012.

In 2012, under its first formal parliament, Somalia entered a new phase. However, the constant fighting has displaced millions of Somalis, and the ordinary people are struggling to stay alive.

In turn this state of affairs created widespread hopelessness among the youth. Unemployment among the youth has left them vulnerable to manipulation by elites who are pursuing self-interest by unlawful means. Some join al-Shabab, while others become pirates.

Next, clan enmity, collective punishment and adverse antagonistic features of Somali culture reward violence. The horn of Africa is also constantly plagued by drought.

Ioan Lewis, a well-know British scholar in Somali studies, wrote in his book *A Modern History of the Somali* that "The nomadic Somali are a warlike people, driven by the poverty of their resources to intense competition for access to water and grazing."

In addition, they carry on the tradition of blood feuds. At times, a conflict between clans starts over a mere expression of hostility. One clan may kill a member of another clan merely because the victim's clansmen have killed an individual from their own. As a result, it is not hard to understand that the attack in Mogadishu was another retaliation in response to as-

saults by African Union forces and the Somali government.

Third, the ambivalence and military weakness of the international community offer further encouragement to al-Shabab.

The international community has widely expressed determination to combat the violent extremist group. In 2008, it was designated as a terrorist organization by the US, but tormented by "Somalia syndrome," the US could not spare any resources. The United Kingdom and Italy, as the former colonial patrons of Somalia, remained silent. Members of the League of Arab States oppose foreign interference in the internal affairs of Somalia, complaining about the external forces fighting against the ICU. Kenya and Ethiopia have sent troops to Somalia, and so has the African Union Mission to Somalia, but due to limited human, financial and material resources, the overall outcome has been far from satisfactory.

Finally, its connections to al-Qaeda have equipped the splinter group with abundant expertise and funding, which is the objective condition for its existence. It pledged allegiance to the militant Islamist organization al-Qaeda in February 2012, enlarging its recruitment, mobility and funding inflow, which is why it can plot attacks in Somalia and neighboring countries.

Yue culture reveals pattern of Chinese civilization

By MAXIANZHONG

Over the past few millennia, Yue culture, a regional culture centered on Shaoxing of Zhejiang Province, has generated numerous cultural achievements known throughout the world.

Study on the Development of Yue Culture by Ye Gang, Chen Minzhen and Wang Hailei draws on quantitative and qualitative approaches to analyze traditional texts, unearthed documents, archaeological materials and research achievements in molecular anthropology.

Though it primarily uses the research methodology of cultural history, it also borrows from history, bibliography, sociology, politics, anthropology and geography. In particular, it applies a method of historical research that studies the evolution of Yue culture over a long period to gain a comprehensive perspective.

The book points out that Yue culture, a typical regional culture in southeast China, underwent three major transformations: from "barbarism" to "civilization," from a regional culture to an integration with the Han culture, and from a traditional agricultural society to modernity.

Yue culture achieved a high starting point during Liangzhu culture period (3300-2300 BC) and the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC). Afterward, it developed rapidly in the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220) and after the Western Jin (265-317) was overrun, when the chaos and devastation of the north led to a mass migration of Han Chinese to the south. Yue culture continued to flourish in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and after the Jingkang Incident, which ended the Northern Song (960-1127) and forced the imperial family to flee to the south.

Under the influence of internal and external factors, Yue culture showed a pattern of consistent growth in spurts, whereas Central Plain culture experienced ups and downs in the course of its development. The discovery of such a pattern is conducive to furthering the understanding of Yue culture and Chinese culture as a whole.

The book targets a regional culture but offers a new perspective for the study of Chinese culture that will help clear the air about the traditional theory of Central Plain dominance, correcting the existing perception and prejudice of the law of development of Chinese culture, thus providing evidence for the theory of cultural development.



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