Big data expo in Guiyang lauded across the globe

Record attendance includes over 150 foreign companies

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Guiyang, capital of Southwest China's Guizhou province, has pioneered China's big data industry, impressing the world with digital tools to serve the real economy and promote high-quality development. The city is again standing in the spotlight as the key expo newly opened.

The China International Big Data Industry Expo, the most influential annual event in the big data industry, kicked off Sunday.

This time, a record 59 countries, 156 foreign companies and 39 Fortune Global 500 companies joined the expo. The larger-than-ever conference participation shows the growing influence of the expo and Guiyang claim to fame as the Chinese data valley.

"The big data expo is an international carnival that displays the latest technologies, applications and business modes of big data," said Sun Zhigang, Party secretary of Guizhou province at the opening ceremony.

"It aims to promote cooperation and communications in a global context by sharing achievements that have been made and realizing further development with joint dialogue."

Guizhou province is the first national big data comprehensive experimental zone, the first industrial cluster, technological innovation area and internet safety pilot zone in terms of big data.

It is also home to the first big data exchange, the first national big data laboratory and first international big data expo.

The big data technology is not an abstract concept to Guizhou, but it's seen, heard and felt in everyday life. The tool has been applied in segments, such as financial service, tourism, pension, logistics and culture.
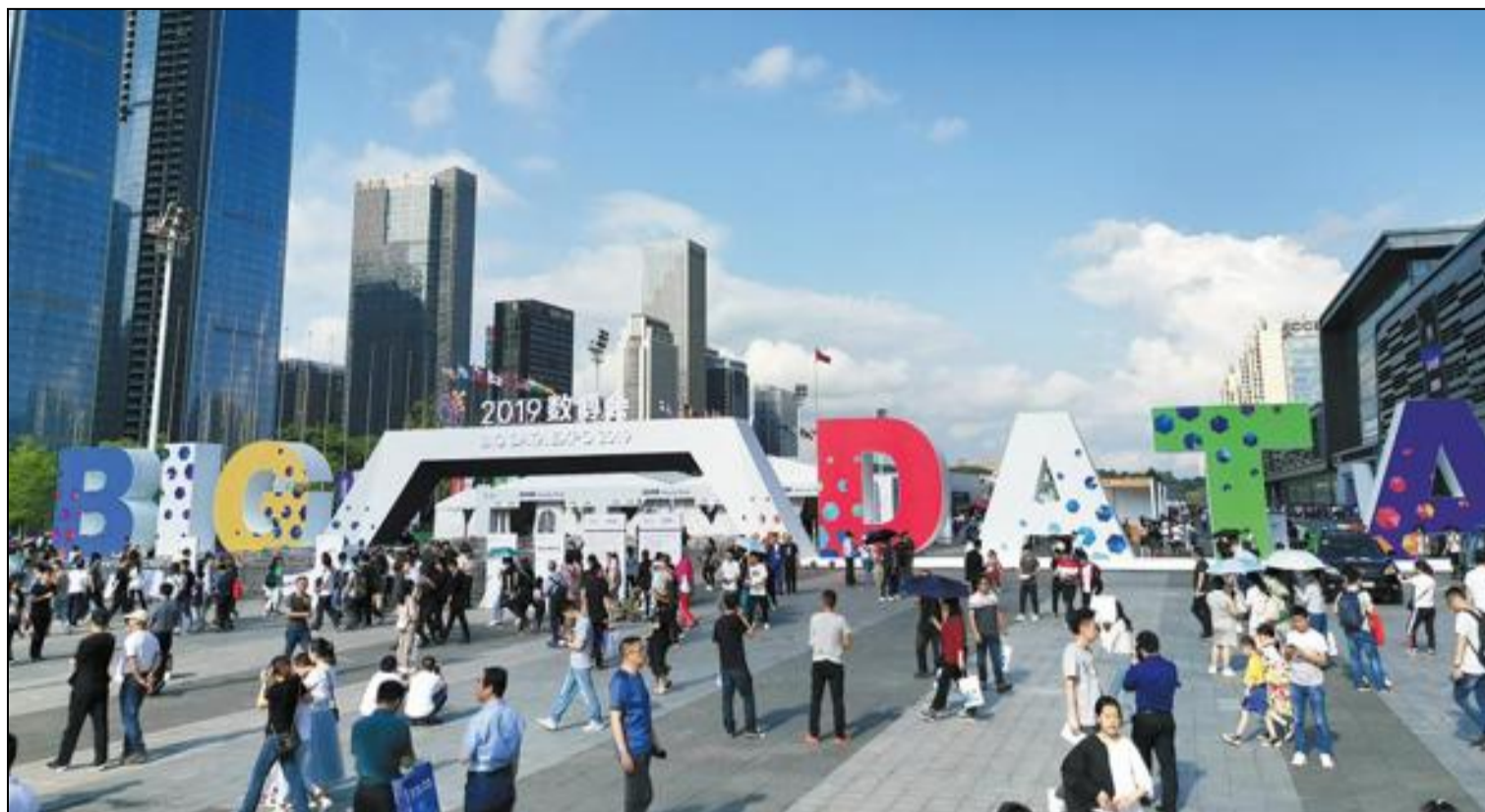
Traditional mining factories are equipped with intelligent devices.

Farmers shook off poverty by selling their agricultural products to the outside world by e-commerce.

People in the mountainous areas access medical resources through remote medical treatment. The efficiency of government has been significantly improved as paperless platforms and inter-department shared information techniques were commonly adopted.

Jim Yong Kim, former World Bank Chief, once investigated the region, saying "China's big data center is in Guizhou."

Kamal Dhuper, president of Indian talent development company NIIT in China, told local media in Guizhou that globalization has brought different countries together and created more cooperative opportunities.

"Guizhou has become a pioneer in big data and will bring about more opportunities."

Besides nine high-level dialogues, 53 forums and the release of 49 cutting-edge scientific and technological achievements, this year's expo for the first time invited Morocco as host country and held high-level dialogue on big data and global poverty reduction as well as organizing artificial intelligence and automatic driving competition.

Sidi Mohammed Drissi Melyani, director-general of the Moroccan Agency of Digital Development, said at a high-level dialogue Sunday that the expo has become an indispensible event for foreign and Chinese companies, with a goal to promote innovation and technological breakthroughs.

He said Guizhou has many experiences that they can learn from, especially in poverty-relief backed by big data.

The country has set up a digitalization development department aiming to create more jobs and improve people's livelihood.

"We hope to expand cooperation with Guizhou in more areas," he said.

Wang Chen, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said the expo has become a new wind indicator for the development of big data globally. The expo, which ends on May 29, includes various activities, such as the release of the top 10 advanced big data products, a large-scale drone light show, digital art exhibition, as well as business matching.

The event has attracted officials, top business executives and renowned experts to discuss the hottest topics in big data, including 5G, data security, digital economy, industrial internet, blockchain and AI.

Exhibitors include leading companies in internet and telecommunications, such as 360, Inspur, Google, Tencent and Alibaba, as well as Seagate, Dell, Huawei and ZTE.

Visitors gather at the venue for the China International Big Data Industry Expo held in Guiyang, Guizhou province.
PHOTOS BY DONG XIANWU / FOR CHINA DAILY

A participant tries out the virtual reality facility.

A child talks to an intelligent robot at the expo.

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>
> **Sun Zhigang,** Party secretary of Guizhou province

What they say

Big data and its application to artificial intelligence have great potential to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. From medicine to transportation to farming, big data presents the world with a remarkable tool to advance global progress. Algorithms can help to identify who will benefit from new medical treatments, but can also be used to invade privacy and violate human rights. We must work together to ensure that big data and the technologies that it enables, are harnessed for the benefit of humankind while minimizing the risks to development, peace and security and human rights.
Antonio Guterres, *secretary-general of the United Nations*

The estimated value of the big data industry has reached $42 billion worldwide. China plays an important role in the industry because 60 percent of big data experts are in the nation. China's development model is a good example for Morocco and the country is also a huge market for Morocco's exports. The two countries should strengthen cooperation following the principle of mutual benefit and win-win solutions.
Abdelhamid Souiri, *vice-president of the House of Councillors, Morocco*

As the first big data-themed expo worldwide, the China International Big Data Industry Expo has become the leading guide of big data's development around the world and an international and authoritative platform for achievement exchanges. International Telecommunication Union will make efforts with other groups to set standards for the big data industry, which will be beneficial to innovative development of the industry and global markets.
Zhao Houlin, *secretary-general of the International Telecommunication Union*

Every country can benefit from new technology, and city management based on big data will bring people a better life. Urbanization is the energy of economic development, which allows everyone to have the chance to learn new technologies and make contributions. With clear governmental plans, cities in China will compete to take advantages of technology.
Paul M. Romer, *professor of economics at New York University*

Cooperation between countries will become more profound. Guizhou has taken the lead of the big data industry and the province is expected to promote collaboration and platforms for us to exchange and communicate.
Kamal Dhuper, *vice-president of India's National Institute of Information Technology*

We hope to seek more business partners and cooperation opportunities through the international platform — the big data expo. It is a good platform for us to expand businesses with Guiyang and other southwestern regions, while setting up new cooperation models.
Chris DeAngelis, *China general manager of Alliance Development Group*

AI competition designed to draw investment, partnerships in province

By CAO YINGYING
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A contest on artificial intelligence was launched among global participants in Guiyang, Southwest China's Guizhou province on Saturday, as part of an effort to promote the development, innovation and collaboration of AI.

As an important part of the 2019 International Big Data Industry Expo, the China International Big Data Fusion Innovation and AI Global Competition kicked off at the end of February and lasted for three months.

The preliminary rounds were held in Germany, Israel and China's Shenzhen, Chengdu, Wuhan and Beijing. Ten teams stood out from more than 1,100 participating groups worldwide and competed in the final contest.

Interstellar Glory Space Technology Co, an aerospace high-tech startup, won the first prize of 500,000 yuan ($72,474) thanks to an intelligent control system of launch vehicles.

According to Zhang Siwen, director of investment relations for the company, the system is powered by the architecture of a hardware platform and equipped with intelligent power supply and distribution, online diagnostic and health management and other functions.

The system is designed to help reduce the cost of recycling launch vehicles through controllable recovery and reuse.

The company has cooperation projects with Guizhou on ground equipment, motor and battery sectors.

Zhang said Interstellar Glory hopes to promote the company's intelligent development based on fusion with big data and the support of the province.

"The contest is a good platform to showcase our company, and people can learn about the details of launch vehicles through our project," Zhang said.

"It also provides us a learning platform to discuss project cooperation on algorithms, chips and applications with other teams," Zhang said.

Guizhou Crancloud Technology Co and True Micro Technology Guangzhou Co won the second and third prizes, respectively.

An AI big data company in Israel named Pzartech, which focuses on visual recognition technology to serve the maintenance department in airline companies, won the Excellent Award.

Jeremie Brabet-Adonajlo, CEO of Pzartech, said the company conducted research on Guiyang and the big data industry before coming to the competition.

They hope to find business partners and launch projects in Guizhou in the future. Chen Jian, vice-president of Guizhou Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said AI as the core driving force of a new industrial revolution will become a new engine of economic growth.

"This year's competition is more mature and professional with better participating teams," Chen said. "Through the brand effect of the competition, we will build a long-term AI innovation ecosystem and attract professionals and companies to Guizhou."

Wang Jingtian, vice-president of Tencent Cloud, the cloud computing arm of internet giant Tencent and one of the judges of the contest, said AI is one of the most important investment fields of Tencent.

The company launched an accelerator program, which selected 40 AI projects from 1,500 companies worldwide, covering more than 20 sectors, such as medicine, retail, agriculture, robot and autonomous driving. After nine months' acceleration, their valuation increased from 13.5 billion yuan to 36.2 billion yuan. "It's the fifth year for Tencent to participate in the big data expo. We will start deep integration with Guizhou, Guiyang and the expo with our techniques, professionals, investment in the future," Wang said.

Winners for the contest on big data fusion innovation and artificial intelligence receive awards during the event. LI HANYI / FOR CHINA DAILY

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> **Chen Jian,** vice-president of Guizhou Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

1,100+
groups
participated in the AI competition during the 2019 International Big Data Industry Expo

The page is sponsored by Guiyang city.