

New Plan to Boost ICT Industry

Policy Express

By CHEN Chunyou & CUI Shuang

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) recently issued the 15th Five-Year Plan for the development of the information and communications technology (ICT) industry to boost high-quality development in the sector.

According to MIIT, the 2026-2030 period is an important stage for the industry to consolidate and improve its development advantages. Driven by AI and other new-generation information and communications technologies, domestic technological innovation and industrial integration are accelerating, bringing important opportunities for industrial upgrading.

However, the industry still faces weak links in infrastructure capacity, core technologies, integrated applications and governance systems. The plan will guide steady and high-quality industrial progress in the next five years.

There are clear development targets for 2030. China will build a comprehensively covered and high-performance new-generation communication



This photo taken on June 26, 2026 shows an exterior view of the National Supercomputing Center in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

network, and develop an advanced, secure and controllable information and communications industrial system.

The industry's governance capacity will be improved with coordinated technical and regulatory measures, strengthened practical network and

data security safeguards, and enhanced empowering capabilities. A solid foundation for the modernization of the information and communications industry will be established by 2035.

The document contains 13 major development indicators covering overall

growth, innovation-driven development, green development, infrastructure building and application promotion, aiming for balanced progress in both quantity and quality.

Key goals for 2030 include industrial revenue reaching 4.1 trillion RMB, a cumulative information infrastructure investment of 3.8 trillion RMB, and an average annual growth rate of seven percent in telecom business volume.

In addition, per 10,000 people, 50 5G and 5G-A base stations will be established, as well as an intelligent computing scale of 9,800 EFLOPS, and a 95 percent user penetration rate for 5G and 5G-A services.

To advance infrastructure construction, four special columns will be launched on network quality upgrading, computing infrastructure improvement, space-ground integrated development, and intelligent Internet construction.

To strengthen industrial competitiveness, the plan includes two special columns focusing on 6G technology research and industrial chain optimization. They will support core technology breakthroughs, stable industrial supply chains, and collaborative innovation among enterprises of different sizes.



15th FYP for Pharma Industry Eyes Innovative Drugs

By TANG Zhexiao

Ten government departments, including the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, jointly released the 15th Five-Year Plan (FYP) for the development of the pharmaceutical industry, setting the goal that China's biomedical research, development and application will stand at the world's forefront by 2030, with systematic breakthroughs in key core technologies across priority areas.

The plan emphasizes deeper integration of digital intelligence and expanding open, mutually beneficial cooperation, aiming to build a robust

material and technological foundation to meet full-lifecycle health needs and advance the Healthy China initiative.

Ten targets have been set for 2030. They include the operating revenue of pharmaceutical industrial enterprises above designated size exceeding 3.5 trillion RMB, first-in-class drugs accounting for more than 25 percent of the global total, 200 innovative medical devices approved for market launch, and establishing at least 20 pharmaceutical industrial parks with annual output surpassing 100 billion RMB.

Twenty-five key tasks around eight fronts — including innovation-

driven development, precision diagnosis, and open, win-win cooperation — have been laid out. Specific measures include:

- ◆ Accelerating the R&D and application of a batch of cutting-edge, leading high-end medical devices;
- ◆ Launching action for efficient substitution of off-patent drugs;
- ◆ Supporting retail pharmacies in expanding professional services and health promotion functions;
- ◆ Promoting the inheritance and innovation of traditional Chinese medicine culture;
- ◆ Strengthening monitoring of production and supply information for key

drugs;

◆ Accelerating the market entry of clinically urgent imported drugs and medical devices and introducing their production in China.

The plan also proposes nine special programs focusing on key innovation areas and products, as well as the cultivation of high-value application scenarios for AI-driven drug development. AI-assisted target screening, drug molecule design and optimization will be prioritized for R&D and application. Development of drugs for rare diseases will also be accelerated.



Smart Tech Highlighted for Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection

By CHEN Chunyou

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism recently released China's 15th Five-Year Plan for the protection and inheritance of intangible cultural heritage (ICH), outlining a package of measures for systematic conservation.

By 2030, a preliminary framework will be established for systematic ICH protection. This includes refining conservation mechanisms, achieving solid progress in the national ICH survey, protecting representative heritage items, expanding the talent pool, and creating more scenarios to integrate the heritage into modern life.

Building a sound talent develop-

ment system ranks high on the agenda. Universities and research institutions are encouraged to develop ICH-related academic disciplines. Deep partnerships will be forged among preservation institutions, inheritors, universities and vocational schools for targeted training. National training programs for university faculties specializing in this field will continue, alongside expanded expert think-tanks, forming multi-level talent pools to consolidate conservation work.

Keeping pace with digital, networked and intelligent trends, the plan promotes smart technology-driven protection. China will promote the development and implementation of metadata standards for ICH databases, and ad-

vance the application of standards for the collection and cataloging of digital heritage resources.

High-quality ICH corpora will be built and applications of general-purpose large AI models explored in the preservation and transmission of this heritage. The plan also encourages the use of knowledge graphs, AI agents and other methods to support the dissemination and popularization of knowledge about the heritage.

Virtual reality, augmented reality, holographic imaging and 3D real-scene reconstruction will be more widely used for the protection, while generative AI will be trialed for innovative exhibitions and communication.

Tech companies are encouraged to unlock the value of ICH data and develop diverse digital cultural products. Localities will roll out cloud exhibitions, virtual experiences and digital ICH museums.

For cross-border cultural engagement, the plan calls for deeper heritage protection cooperation and supports the global market expansion of ICH-themed products. Inheritors and preservation organizations will be supported to showcase heritage highlights at international festivals and multilateral events, advancing mutual learning among civilizations.



True Stories Behind the Long March

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On November 26, 1934, when the Red 25th Army was ambushed at Dushuzhen in central China, Wu Huanxian, a leader of the army, seized a broadsword and shouted: "Chinese Communists, follow me!" He charged first, and the army broke through. This embodied the willingness to sacrifice — no difficulty is too great, no sacrifice too costly.

On May 29, 1935, 22 soldiers crossed the Luding Bridge over the raging Dadu River in the southwest by swinging from its iron chains as the

enemy had removed the planks. Despite the hail of bullets, they captured the bridge and opened the Red Army's route northward.

The spirit of the Long March was about remaining committed to independence and autonomy, to seeking truth from fact, and to proceeding from reality in all endeavors.

During the Xiangjiang Campaign, a battle by the Xiangjiang River in the south, the Red Army was reduced from 86,000 to just over 30,000. The turning point came at the Zunyi Meeting held in

the southwest where the Party broke free from dogmatism and turned toward independent exploration grounded in China's reality.

The spirit of the Long March was about seeing the bigger picture, maintaining strict discipline, and uniting closely. During the Xiangjiang Campaign, Chen Shuxiang, commander of the 34th Division, led 6,000 soldiers as the rearguard. Chen was wounded during the fierce battle and seized by the enemy. He refused to surrender and chose to die rather than give in.

Red Army medic Long Siquan treated the people of Zunyi day and night. Once, he failed to return in time, and while catching up with his unit, was killed, not yet 20 years old. The people buried him in secret, and his grave became known as the "Red Army Grave," protected and honored to this day.

The spirit of the Long March was also about relying closely on the people, sharing the same fate as the people, and fighting bitterly alongside the people.

Case Study

Cold Climate, Hot Industry: Tech Empowers Plateau Agriculture

By TANG Zhexiao, YU Huizhen & ZHANG Tianfu

In Huangzhong, a district of Xining city, capital of northwest China's Qinghai province, cold-climate vegetable farms have entered their peak harvest time. The vegetables are picked and packed, and then shipped to markets both at home and abroad.

Cold-climate vegetables are produce suited to high-altitude (typically above 800 meters) or high-latitude cold regions, with an optimal growing temperature of 17-25°C. Major varieties include Chinese cabbage, radish, broccoli, onion, pumpkin and potato.

From scattered, extensive cultivation to tech-enabled standardized production, Huangzhong's transformation is a vivid microcosm of Qinghai's efforts to revitalize its ecological resources via tech advancement.

A recipe for higher yields

Huangzhong, at an altitude of over 2,200 meters, has a cold climate with a short frost-free period. The pristine ecology means fewer pests and diseases, while the abundant sunlight and sharp day-night temperature swings help crops accumulate more nutrients, improving their taste and quality.

Around 2010, Huangzhong put its cold-climate vegetable industry on a fast track, shifting from scattered smallholder planting to contiguous, standardized cultivation.

After 2016, the district moved toward facility-based, technology-driven farming, expanding plastic greenhouses and solar greenhouses year by year and building a cluster of large-scale facility planting bases. Variety selection has

since grown from conventional types to more than 50 varieties, including choy sum and crown daisy.

Building on its modern agriculture industrial park, Huangzhong has set up an intelligent seedling center. Using the Internet of Things to precisely control temperature, humidity, light, water and nutrients for seedling growth, the center has revolutionized traditional seedling raising techniques.

Wang Jianzhong, deputy head of the district seed station, said seedlings cultivated with the new technologies have stronger cold resistance and higher survival rates. Combined with the cold-climate resources, yields can be lifted by more than 20 percent.

From local supply to national market

Currently, Huangzhong has a stable vegetable planting area of around 130,000 mu (approximately 8,667 hectares), with an annual output of 344,500 tonnes. The industry drives employment and income growth for nearly 100,000 people.

Huangzhong's story mirrors the broader rise of Qinghai's cold-climate vegetable sector.

In 2025, the planting area for cold-climate vegetables in the province reached 695,000 mu (about 46,333 hectares), with a total output of 1.79 million tonnes. It accounted for 12 percent of the province's primary industry value-added.

In the first half of this year, Qinghai exported over 3,700 tonnes of cold-climate vegetables, up 91.9 percent year-on-year, making the sector a key pillar of its export of green, organic agricultural and livestock products.



Farmers harvest romaine lettuce at a vegetable base, Huzhu Tu autonomous county, Haidong city, northwest China's Qinghai province. (PHOTO: VCG)

Satellite Remote Sensing Empowers China-Africa Cooperation

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In addition, it has jointly trained more than 10 African doctoral and master's students with universities.

Gaspard Twagirayezu, chief executive officer of the Rwanda Space Agency, said satellite remote sensing is more than a technological advancement; it is also a critical enabler of sustainable development for Africa. CACSA has been instrumental in providing useful satellite data and offering capacity-building opportunities, and Rwanda Space Agency has been using Chinese satellite data, especially in disaster management. "I'm certain that this cooperation will contribute immensely to enhancing our country's decision-making, efficient resource management, and the overall resilience."

Citing applications of images from the natural resources satellite remote sensing cloud service platform node in Nigeria as an example, Godstime James, director of the Strategic Space Applications Department at Nigeria's National Space Research and Development Agency, said the story is no longer only about receiving imagery, but also about converting imagery into national use cases. "China-Nigeria earth observation collaboration becomes most valuable when imagery is translated into repeatable applications for public decisions."

The CACSA Week 2026 was jointly hosted by the Land Satellite Remote Sensing Application Center under the Ministry of Natural Resources and the National Satellite Ocean Application Center.