Two Sessions

Technological Solutions for People's Livelihood

By Staff Reporters

During the Two Sessions, a series of innovative proposals were put forward by NPC deputies and CPPCC National Committee members, aimed at leveraging technology to enhance societal well-being.

Li Fanrong, a member of the CPPCC National Committee and chairman of Sinochem Holdings Corporation, said it was urgent to accelerate the development of digital agriculture. He advocated bolstering digital infrastructure, enhancing data-sharing mechanisms, and fostering talent in this field.

Dai Hegen, CPPCC National Committee member and chairman of China Railway Construction Corporation, underscored the importance of harnessing underground spaces for urban sustainable development. He proposed initiatives to deepen underground space development, ensure safety, and integrate it into the broader urban planning framework.

Lu Tiezhong, CPPCC National Committee member and chairman of China National Nuclear Power Corporation, said the green and low-carbon aspects of nuclear energy must be recognized. He suggested incorporating nuclear energy fully into green energy policies and advocated obtaining international recognition of its benefits in carbon reduction.

Wu Hanqi, NPC deputy and chairman of CITIC Heavy Industries Corporation, called for improved diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases. He proposed measures to strengthen medical capabilities, enhance interdisciplinary cooperation, and streamline access to rare disease medications.

Zhu Tao, CPPCC National Committee member and chief scientific officer of CanSino Biologics, addressed concerns about adverse reactions to vaccines. He urged the establishment of a national compensation mechanism and emphasized the importance of integrating clinical research with information systems to promote high-quality healthcare.

These proposals underscore the pivotal role of technology in addressing societal challenges and improving the quality of life. By embracing innovation and collaboration, China aims at a brighter and more sustainable future. It encapsulates part of the essence of the delegates' contributions, showcasing China's commitment to leveraging technology for societal advancement.

An Intelligent robot plays Chinese chess in an exhibition in Shanghai. (PHOTO: VCG)

Policy

New Plan to Develop Top Talent Pool

By CHEN Chunyou & SUN Mingyuan

Recently, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), together with the Ministry of Science and Technology and six other departments, issued a notice on implementing a plan to develop highly skilled personnel, which proposed that from 2024 to 2026, China will center on major national strategies, projects and key industrial needs, and mobilize all sectors of society to carry out technological innovation, skill improvement and development of talented personnel.

This move will be implemented in such fields as advanced manufacturing, strategic emerging industries and digital skills, pledging to take about three years to develop a new talent pool of more than 15,000 leading high-skilled experts.

This document highlights the training of talented personnel working in enterprises. According to the plan, enterprises are encouraged to spend more than 60 percent of the employee education funds on frontline staff education and training. They should create opportunities for this group in key projects, to sharpen their R&D technology skills through cooperative training and project collaboration with universities and research institutes.

The document encourages enterprises to give rewards such as bonuses and equity from the proceeds of the transformation of research results, to develop their top staff. In addition, experts who solve major process technology problems and major quality problems, and whose technological innovation achievements have won provincial or ministerial level awards, can be promoted to certain vocational skill levels.

Meanwhile, the protection of the intellectual property rights of leading personnel and the rights and interests they earned from the commercialization of technological innovation achievements are stressed. They will also get opportunities to participate in international projects, such as domestic and foreign large-scale industrial exhibitions, the South-South Cooperation Skill Development Network under the Belt and Road Initiative, and foreign aid projects.

The government will also encourage top personnel to serve as mentors for younger staff in enterprises, and do part-time jobs at vocational schools.

"This aims to further create a good atmosphere in the whole society through the implementation of the training program for highly skilled personnel, and encourage workers, especially young people, to set their feet on the road of becoming technical experts," said the MOHRSS.

Innovation-led New Quality Productive Forces in Spotlight

Edited By TANG Zhexiao

In the face of the global economic uncertainty, China's high-quality development and new quality productive forces are among the hot topics at this year's Two Sessions.

China's economy grew by 5.2 percent last year, matching the official target of around five percent, CNBC reported on March 4.

In recent years, Beijing has been pushing for high-quality growth. In 2024, the target is economic growth of around five percent, exceeding the expectations of some international institutions.

Chinese development success offers a great opportunity for the world economy, Badiea Shaukat, a Pakistani economic expert from the Sustainable Development Policy Institute told Xinhua, adding that China has been seizing opportunities such as new energy and digitization and shift toward high-quality development.

The world is full of expectations for China's development in 2024, Fernando Lugris, Uruguayan Ambassador to China, said in an interview with Xinhua.

It is the world's second-largest economy's projected confidence, said *The Wall Street Journal*.

The concept of "new quality productive forces" has provided fresh hope and impetus for China to speed up its economic transformation.

"The new quality productive forces in China are no doubt a success story in some respects," said Bloomberg, such as China displacing Japan as the world's top vehicle exporter in 2023 and the installation of solar panels reaching a record high.

Many media headlines said, "China plans for 2024 prioritize technology." According to the 2024 Government Work Report, China will step up research on disruptive and frontier technologies, develop emerging industries including quantum computing, and continue striving for self-reliance and strength in technology.

With innovation playing a leading role, new quality productive forces feature high-tech, high efficiency and high quality, which is in line with the new development philosophy.

According to Italy's Agenzia Nova online news bulletin, new quality productive forces are "fundamental to promote self-sufficiency in science and technology."

The domestically produced C919 jet at a flight convention in Jiangxi province.

Shidaowan Nuclear Power Plant is the world's first 4th generation nuclear power plant.

Sunway TaihuLight located in Jiangsu, is one of the world's fastest supercomputers.

An automated-line produces lithium batteries in Yongzhou, Hunan province.

Electric vehicles are assembled in Nanchang, Jiangxi province.

A solar power plant in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. (PHOTO: VCG)

Case Study

Anhui Gears Up to Lead in Quantum Tech and Industry Hubs

By CHEN Chunyou & HONG Jingpu

Quantum technology is the key to reshaping the future industrial landscape. Hefei city in Anhui province in east China is speeding up the construction of a national quantum information sci-tech park for future industries, aiming to create internationally leading hubs for quantum technology and industry development.

Relying on its sci-tech resource advantages, including the University of Science and Technology of China and the national laboratories based in Hefei, the Hefei High-tech Zone (HHZ), the core area for quantum industry development in the city, is focusing on such fields as quantum communication, quantum computing and quantum precision measurement to notch up more quantum sci-tech achievements and promote their industrial application.

Researchers at the QuantumCTek Science Park in the HHZ were busy with a new generation of kilobit superconducting quantum computing control system. They stood in front of a superconducting quantum computing control system, observing whether the system could accurately manipulate the quantum bits in the "brain" of the quantum computer and read microwave signals.

"Compared with the previous generation of products, the density of integration of the new generation of equipment is about 10 times higher, and it is the smallest and best performance control system in China," Li Dongdong, a technical expert at QuantumCTek Co., Ltd. said.

Currently, two office buildings in the HHZ Innovation Industrial Park are under renovation. They will be the headquarters of the Qudoor company, which launched China's first modular ion trap quantum computing engineering machine, Tiansuan 1, taking a crucial step in China's atomic quantum computing with breakthroughs in key technologies, laboratory R&D and prototype development, and product engineering.

In order to attract more high-level quantum talents to work in Hefei and create an environment that respects talents, the HHZ has issued favorable policies and service guarantees for them vis-à-vis their children's schooling, medical treatment and academic leave, enabling them to take up residence and start businesses smoothly.

Thanks to these favorable policies, many high-tech enterprises have settled down or established branches in the HHZ, making it a national quantum information industry development cluster.

"The provincial and city-level science and technology authorities listed our company as one of the key industry chain enterprises for 2023 in the quantum field, and provided strong support for building industrial innovation research institute of quantum information," said Wang Zhen, deputy general manager of the China Telecom Quantum Information Technology Group.

Hefei makes the best use of this industrial advantage to promote high-quality development. There are 58 quantum enterprises in the HHZ, including 25 core enterprises engaged in R&D and application of quantum key technologies, ranking first in the country, and 33 related quantum upstream and downstream enterprises, according to HHZ officials.

A view of the CAS Center for Excellence in Quantum Information and Quantum Physics. (PHOTO: VCG)

Building a Sci-tech Powerhouse, Supporting Young Talents

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Supporting young talents

In recent years, a batch of young sci-tech talents have been undertaking major sci-tech projects. MOST is rolling out a series of measures to support them to play a leading role.

Young people, the most creative group with biggest innovation potential, are a dynamic force in promoting the country's high-level self-reliance and self-strengthening in science and technology, and will become the main force to build the country into a sci-tech powerhouse, said Yin.

Last year, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council released specialized policies and measures to boost the development of young people.

MOST is working tirelessly on the implementation, said Yin, citing measures such as boldly entrusting young people, enhancing their cultivation, and providing corresponding services and guarantees.

He pointed out that, 80 percent of the projects of the National Natural Science Foundation of China are undertaken by young talents under 45 years old. Up to now, more than 1,100 national key R&D programs have been led by young scientists under 40 years old, accounting for more than 20 percent of the total.

Young people are also often seen in many national major sci-tech projects, such as the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, China's Lunar Exploration Project, and the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope Project. The average age of many teams in such projects is just a little more than 30 years old.

MOST has rolled out policies to encourage eligible institutes to channel more than half of their fundamental research funds to young sci-tech personnel under 35 years old, said Yin, adding that the cultivation of young talents is listed as one of the key indicators in the evaluation of key labs.

For those engaged in basic, frontier, and crossover researches, the ministry is finding ways to strengthen stable support efforts, and reduce review frequencies, so as to keep young people free from distractions and let them concentrate on R&D.

It will continue to advance a special campaign to lessen the burdens of young sci-tech talents, in order to relieve them from miscellaneous matters, such as procurement, reimbursement and form-filling, and ensure they have sufficient time for R&D.

MOST will make the cultivation of young sci-tech talents as a long-term strategic work, and strive to create a favorable research environment for their development, said Yin, noting that the ministry will provide opportunities, build platforms, and create environments in their work.

The ministry, together with relevant parties, will make every effort to address various concerns of young people, such as salaries and welfare, family life, and physical and mental health.

Efforts will be made to enable young sci-tech talents to settle down to their research, and invigorate their creativity, so as to let them display their talents and fulfill their dreams in the great undertaking of building a sci-tech powerhouse, Yin concluded.