

INSIGHTS

An Anchor for Global Uncertainties

Voice of the World

Edited by QI Liming

The Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2023 drew about 2,000 delegates from about 40 countries and regions.

All participants agreed that this year's BFA Annual Conference, held from March 28-31, provided important guidance for coping with the uncertainty of today's world, and the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind pointed out the right direction for all countries to work together to meet common challenges.

Ban Ki-moon, Chairman of Boao Forum for Asia, called for abandoning confrontation. He said that "Geopolitical confrontation, ideological conflict and geoeconomic fragmentation will only waste precious time and energy. The right way to overcome uncertainty is to unite to meet long-term and common challenges."

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said, "We welcome China's commitment to continue opening up its economy, and to continue supporting multilateralism and regional cooperation."

Meanwhile Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said no global problem can be solved unilaterally. "Europe and Asia must join forces to tackle global challenges and promote economic devel-



Boao Forum for Asia International Conference Center. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

opment worldwide," he said.

From an African perspective, Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire Patrick Achi said, "I believe that resolutions reached through cooperation and solidarity between nations are closely linked with the future of Africa and even all humanity."

At the same time, leaders, analysts and experts also expressed confidence in China's economy and its positive role in global growth. The rebound of China's economy is positive for global growth, they said.

"In the first three months of this

year, we've seen significant economic growth in China. I think the momentum will continue with the policies that China has in place. We're going to see strong economic growth in the following months to come," said David Olsson, national president of the Australia China Business Council.

According to *South China Morning Post*, as the world's second largest economy, China's economic recovery and sustained and steady development have become the focus of attention at the forum.

According to Benjamin Simpfordor-

fer, a partner with American management-consulting firm Oliver Wyman, even with the pandemic and geopolitical entanglements straining China's supply chain, the country is poised to remain a global manufacturing hub for the foreseeable future.

"The country accounts for 80 percent of all smartphone exports. I suppose three years [of pandemic impact] has made it decline slightly, but they aren't possibly back to zero, because no other market has the [same production] scale as China," said Simpfordorfer.

Opinion

Out-of-control AI Race Could Threaten Humanity

By GONG Qian

An open letter signed by some of the biggest names in the tech world is attracting global attention and heated discussion about AI ethics.

In recent months, AI labs are out-of-control in their race to develop and deploy ever more powerful digital minds that no one, not even their creators, can understand, predict, or reliably control, said the letter.

In the letter titled *Pause Giant AI Experiments: An Open Letter*, the signatories said due to fears that, "AI systems with human-competitive intelligence can pose profound risks to society and humanity," they called on "all AI labs to immediately pause, for at least six months, the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4."

Published by the Future of Life Institute, the letter has managed to attract more than 15,500 signatures including Space X & Twitter CEO Elon Musk, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, and prominent AI researcher Stuart Russell.

After being released, the letter sparked immediate controversy. Some critics argue that the letter focuses too much on hypothetical and long-term risks and as *The Verge* noted, it is unlikely to have any effect on the current climate in AI research.

However, others insisted AI tools have already raised some social or ethical problems that cannot be ignored, such as providing biased responses, spreading misinformation, and impacting consumer privacy.

Concerns about AI technology's negative influence have been increasingly intensified, particularly with the upgrade of ChatGPT. For example, the ChatGPT enables errant students to cheat on academic performance. Ac-

ording to Reuters, the EU police force Europol warned about the potential misuse of the system in phishing attempts, disinformation, and cyber-crime.

Even Open AI, creators of ChatGPT, said in a statement that at some point, "It may be important to get independent review before starting to train future systems, and for the most advanced efforts to agree to limit the rate of growth of compute used for creating new models."

That "some point" is NOW. Simeon Campos, the CEO of AI safety startup SaferAI, told *TIME* magazine he signed the letter because it is impossible to manage the risks of systems, when even the inventors of those systems don't know exactly how they work, don't know what they're capable of, and don't know how to place limits on their behavior.

It is undeniable that humanity greatly benefits from the advancement of AI technology. But if cutting-edge technology poses potential and unpredictable risks to human survival, who should undertake the responsibility of such devastating consequences?

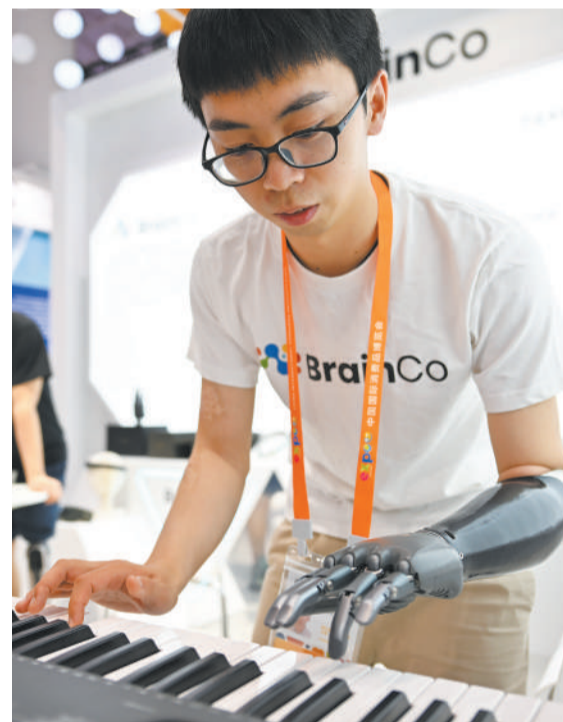
It's not only about the AI creators and developers, but everyone on the planet.

So the open letter isn't perfect, but the spirit in which it is written is correct.

"We need to slow down until we better understand the ramifications," Gary Marcus, a professor at New York University who also signed the letter, told Reuters.

We need to attach more importance to regulations and laws on AI before it's too late. The future of humanity should be determined by humanity, rather than the AI systems.

Hi-tech Products in Spotlight of 3rd CICPE



An exhibitor is playing digital piano with a smart bionic hand.



The AI robot arm with a Chinese calligraphy brush writes Chinese characters, which read "May all your wishes come true."



This hydrofoil e-bike made of carbon fiber can ride on water at a speed of 20 kilometers per hour.



This marine fishery shipboard terminal is powered by a combination of solar energy and lithium batteries, using the Beidou Navigation Satellite System to locate ship positions.



BES-HV waist exoskeleton robot can improve the strength and endurance of the waist and hip joint, which effectively reduces the labor burden of workers by more than 50 percent.



The XPENG X2 is a two-seater eVTOL flying car that can autonomously plan flight path and does not produce any carbon emissions during flight. (PHOTO: S&T DAILY/TANG ZHEXIAO/XINHUA)

China, Europe Share Prospects in Green Development

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A number of major green energy projects have been implemented with joint effort. In the field of renewable energy, the first Mediterranean offshore wind farm in Taranto, Italy, has its wind turbines delivered by Mingyang Smart Energy. The Senj wind farm in Croatia was built and operated by China North Industries Corporation and uses turbines from Shanghai Electric.

The Mozura onshore wind power project in Montenegro and Portugal's Solar4 project are also contracted by Chinese companies. The Solar4 photovoltaic power station has the largest single-unit capacity in Europe and is amongst the top 20 largest solar PV plants in the world. It can generate enough electricity to power 200,000 homes.

In emerging areas of green energy like batteries, the EU has constantly emphasized the importance of localizing battery manufacturing. In August 2022, China-based battery manufacturer CATL announced its plan to invest 7.34 billion euros to build a 100 GWh battery plant in Debrecen of east Hungary, which is also its second battery plant in Europe after its German plant.

The Hungarian plant will promote the deep integration of central and eastern European countries with the German auto industry and will accelerate the transition to e-mobility in Europe.

"With CATL we have a technology

leader as our partner to provide us with top-notch carbon-neutral battery cells for our next-generation EVs in Europe," said Markus Schäfer, Member of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group.

Active players in biodiversity and climate change

Apart from green energy, China and European countries have worked together productively to tackle challenges such as climate change and biodiversity protection.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen appreciated the vital role China played in securing the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and hailed China as an active player in the international treaty to protect biodiversity in international waters this March.

"At a time of global conflict and tension, these are notable diplomatic achievements, which China and the EU worked on together. And we look forward to working together in the same spirit ahead of COP28 later this year," said von der Leyen on March 30, before her visit to China.

On April 6 in Beijing, von der Leyen again commended China's efforts to cut carbon emissions. The EU stands ready to enhance communication and coordination with China to jointly meet global challenges and contribute to peace, stability, and development in the world, von der Leyen said.