

## INSIGHTS

## Injecting Vitality into Global Economic Development

## Voice of the World

Edited by TANG Zhexiao

"As an important engine of world economic growth, China insists on promoting high-level opening up to the outside world, bringing long-term benefits to global development," Teguh Darto, dean of the School of Economics at the University of Indonesia, said in a recent interview, adding that China will continue to contribute positive forces to global economic development.

China's GDP reached a record of 134.91 trillion RMB in 2024, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

**China's economy rebounds**

As its economic strength, scientific and technological strength, and comprehensive national strength continued to increase, China actively responded to the impact of changes in the domestic and international environment.

In 2024, China's economy rebounded and is on an upward trajectory, with its GDP growing five percent year on year, meeting the government's full-year target, NBS said. And its grain output has surpassed 700 million tonnes, filling the nation's bowls with more Chinese grain.

A report issued by the National Energy Administration showed that China's total natural-gas output is estimated at 246 billion cubic meters, an increase of 10 billion cubic meters.

In the past year, new quality productive forces have also developed steadily and new economic momentum has continued to grow.

Furthermore, China's annual production of the new energy vehicles hit 10 million amid global carbon reduction efforts. The order number for its homegrown C919 jet has grown to more than 1,000, while new achievements in integrated circuits, artificial intelligence, quantum communications and other fields have flourished.

At home, the domestic economy showed stable growth trends with positive factors. According to the NBS, from January to November 2024, the added value of high-tech manufacturing above designated size increased by nine percent year on



Workers steer a boat loaded with kelp back to the port in the waters of Lidao town, Rongcheng city, Shandong province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

year, and investment in high-tech industries increased by 8.8 percent year on year, which was significantly faster than the growth rate of total investment.

"China is a super-large economy with a large economic scale and market capacity, strong industrial supporting capabilities, which can support the domestic circulation on both the supply and demand sides. This is what [helps] make the country's economy move forward steadily," said Han Wenxiu, executive deputy director of the Office of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs.

**Sharing opportunities with the world**

As the world's second-largest economy, China hit a record high in its foreign trade total value in 2024, with a total goods imports and exports reaching 43.85 trillion RMB last year, up five percent year on year, according to data re-

leased by the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

The data showed that the annual value of cross-border e-commerce imports and exports reached 2.63 trillion RMB in 2024, an increase of one trillion RMB compared to 2020.

Meanwhile, the nation was at the forefront of green trade last year, and its green products trade made a significant contribution to the global response to climate change and the green and low-carbon transition in 2024, according to Lyu Daliang, spokesperson of the GACC and director general of the Department of Statistics and Analysis of the GACC.

China has many advanced technologies and its innovation speed is amazing. The development of China's new energy industry has set an example for other countries and brought opportunities to the world, according to Dartanto.

## Opinion

## Trade, Investment Promote High-quality Development

By LU Zijian

With its GDP achieving a five percent growth year on year in 2024, China made great strides in its high-quality development, with trade and investment playing a crucial role in it.

China is now a major trade partner to more than 150 countries and regions. Data from the General Administration of Customs show imports and exports reached 43.85 trillion RMB in 2024, increasing by five percent year on year, a record high. Imports grew by 2.3 percent and exports by 7.1 percent.

The trade in goods with Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries alone amounted to 22.1 trillion RMB, and nearly 54 percent of all imports were from BRI countries.

China also signed 23 free trade agreements (FTAs) with 30 countries and regions, and the trade value with FTA partners accounted for one-third of the total foreign trade. In 2024, the FTAs with Nicaragua, Ecuador and Serbia officially came into effect.

Service trade imports and exports in the first 11 months of 2024 hit 6.7 trillion RMB, with a significant uplift of 14.2 percent year on year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Cross-border e-commerce imports and exports grew by 10.8 percent and their share in total imports and exports rose to six percent.

Chinese enterprises paid more attention to the added value of products. Mechanical and electrical product exports climbed to 59.4 percent,

and the number of exported cars reached six million for the first time.

The export of green, low-carbon, intelligent and digital products accelerated while traditional products with competitiveness like textiles focused more on brands and technology.

Inward and outward investment also displayed strong vitality. In the first 11 months of 2024, there were 52,000 newly established foreign invested companies in China, with 749.7 billion RMB in investment. The BRI countries invested 99.87 billion RMB in China.

In the same period, China's non-financial outbound direct investment went up by 12.4 percent with a value of 915.2 billion RMB, out of which 214.66 billion RMB was invested in BRI countries. The value of newly signed foreign contracted projects was 1.4 trillion RMB, surging by 13 percent. The accomplished turnover of China's foreign contracted projects in BRI countries reached 826.34 billion RMB.

In 2025, the ministry will accelerate the implementation of policies and measures issued last year to promote the steady growth of foreign trade, cultivate new driving forces for foreign trade, and expand export.

Investment-wise, China will further relax restrictions on market access for foreign investors, optimize its business environment, and build high-level open platforms. New driving forces for trade and investment are being unleashed at a quickened speed, which will facilitate the high-quality development of the country.



Vehicles to be loaded for export at the Lianyungang Port, east China's Jiangsu province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

## Tech with Heart AI for Good

## AI for a Better Life

## AI Ripples

By ZHONG Jianli, LONG Yun, FANG Linlin, HE Yi &amp; WANG Junming

As AI continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, with breakthroughs in generative models, ethical guidelines, and applications across various sectors, the question is often asked — how will these advancements positively impact people's daily lives?

Science and Technology Daily recently organized a panel discussion "Tech with Heart, AI for Good," where experts took a deep dive into the topic "AI for a Better Life." They explored the transformative potential of AI, discussing its role in healthcare, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), legal services and beyond.

Hosted by Wu Baojun from the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, two experts were invited: Chen Yingying, an associate researcher at the Institute of Automation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Professor Gao Shaolin, an expert from Peking University Law and AI Research Center.

**AI is revolutionizing healthcare**

The discussion began with examples of how AI is revolutionizing healthcare, particularly in bridging the gap between urban and rural medical resources.

"By utilizing smart technology, the experience and knowledge of seasoned doctors can now be shared more widely, reaching remote villages and mountainous regions as well as community hospitals," Chen said.

This democratization of quality medical care not only alleviates the shortage of primary-level medical

staff, but also improves diagnosis accuracy and efficiency through advanced image recognition technologies, such as those used in CT scans.

The application of AI in healthcare extends to TCM, which has been traditionally practiced based on centuries-old wisdom. The integration of AI into TCM could potentially make this ancient practice more accessible and accurate, thereby benefiting people globally.

TCM, described as an information science, relies on collecting various types of data through observation, listening, inquiry, and pulse-taking. Traditionally, it takes decades for TCM practitioners to accumulate enough experience to make accurate judgments.

"However, with AI, this process could be accelerated, making the wisdom of experienced TCM doctors accessible to everyone," Professor Gao said.

He added that the integration of AI into TCM has the potential to improve preventive healthcare, enabling early detection and intervention based on comprehensive health information analysis.

For instance, AI can analyze collected data like facial complexion, tongue coating, and pulse patterns to predict potential health issues before they manifest. This approach aligns with the TCM principle of "treating disease before it occurs," which emphasizes prevention over cure. In this way, AI can help maintain public health by identifying risks and

suggesting personalized preventative measures.

**Legal services transformed by AI**

AI is also transforming legal services. In the past, comprehending the vast body of laws and regulations was a monumental task for legal professionals. Now, AI tools are being developed to organize legal knowledge, analyze disputes, and provide guidance on legal procedures.

Gao said these advancements not only promote legal education but also simplify court proceedings by simulating courtroom scenarios. As a result, trials can be more efficient, and many cases may reach agreements without arguments, reducing the need for formal legal processes.

Furthermore, AI applications in contract review systems help prevent legal disputes by identifying potential points of contention before contracts are signed. This proactive approach ensures that contracts meet the true requirements of both parties, thereby minimizing conflicts during execution.

Additionally, AI can assist in finding similar case studies, providing individuals with a better understanding of legal procedures and enabling them to handle disputes more effectively. The use of AI in legal firms also opens up new career paths, combining computer science and law to create innovative solutions for complex legal challenges.

**A future shaped by interdisciplinary collaboration**

Looking ahead, both experts

agreed that AI's influence will permeate all industries and fields, acting as a super-large framework that integrates diverse disciplines.

From mathematics and physics to energy and humanities, AI has the potential to empower different academic and industrial developments. The future of AI lies in interdisciplinary collaboration, where professionals from computer science and AI join forces with domain experts in various sectors. Such collaborations will drive innovation, leading to new professions and opportunities.

For young people planning their educational paths, the advice is clear: embrace interdisciplinary learning, understand technological trends, and focus on developing skills in creativity and imagination — qualities that remain irreplaceable by AI.

Professor Gao emphasized that while some jobs might evolve or change due to AI, new opportunities would arise, particularly in areas requiring human interaction, creativity, and emotional intelligence.

**AI products benefit all**

International cooperation in AI development was also discussed. Chen said that many Chinese companies are striving to "go global," bringing excellent products developed within China's complete industrial chain to the world, like the social-networking and video-sharing platform TikTok.

Professor Gao noted that with more countries joining the Belt and

Road Initiative, cultural exchanges and AI collaborations are deepening. Chinese intelligent products going global bring in smart applications that promote local AI industry development, contributing to China's vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

In essence, China's fundamental attitude towards developing AI highlights mutual benefit and common development, thus making countries more willing to cooperate with it. China's international collaboration in AI research aims to make joint efforts to improve people's livelihoods worldwide.

We can expect that as AI continues to evolve, it will offer a tool for humanity to explore wider horizons, assisting in the discovery of fascinating aspects of the universe and ultimately contributing to better lives for current and future generations.

The discussion concluded with the hope that AI would become a collaborator rather than a competitor, aiding humans in achieving greater fulfillment and development, envisioning a world where AI and humans work together to overcome challenges and build a better tomorrow.



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