

China Leads Global Green Transition

Voice of the World

By LIN Yuchen

Nations across the world are increasingly looking to innovation and policy leadership to transition toward sustainable energy solutions. China, as one of the biggest economies, has undertaken a comprehensive transformation toward a low-carbon future. With its dual carbon goal — carbon peaking and carbon neutrality — it is integrating green technologies into its industrial, economic, and social systems.

The international media has started paying keen attention to China's green technologies, analyzing its achievements in green innovation and how its experiences can contribute to a global green future.

The New York Times highlighted breakthroughs in electric vehicle (EV) technology, particularly China's development of a system capable of charging EVs in just five minutes. This technological leap, alongside advances in solar panels, wind turbines, and other clean energy solutions, has positioned China at the forefront of clean energy innovation. It also leads the world in clean energy patents, with its installation of wind turbines and solar panels in 2024 surpassing the rest of the world combined.

"With its vast industrial scale and technological ingenuity, China is uniquely positioned to drive breakthroughs in critical emerging clean technologies —



An agricultural photovoltaic power station in Guizhou province in southwest China. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

from green hydrogen to negative-emissions solutions and smart grids — that could reshape both its economy and the planet's future," said the East Asia Forum, an international policy forum based at the Australian National University.

It added that emerging solutions languish in the "innovation valley of death" — the gap between prototype and market-ready deployment. China's industrial and technological strengths could tip the scales.... Closer international collaboration, led by China, in co-developing and scaling emerging cleantech solutions can transform the green transition into a shared economic imperative."

Behind China's rapid advancements is a firm, long-term strategy. As AnewZ, a TV station in Azerbaijan, reported, China

has fully integrated its dual carbon goal into national planning. In July 2024, China announced it had already met its 2030 target for wind and solar power installations, six years ahead of schedule. China's investment, innovation, and strategic planning have positioned it as a global leader in clean energy.

According to the International Energy Agency's *2025 World Energy Investment Report*, China now accounts for nearly a third of global clean energy spending, further cementing its status as a key player in the energy transition.

The *Japan Times* remarked that China's emphasis on green innovation has led to its leading role in the green technology supply chain. This success is the result of a combination

of government support, economies of scale, and forward-looking industrial ecosystems, all aligned to foster growth in renewable energy technologies.

China's green innovations are now helping other developing countries transition to cleaner, more sustainable futures. As the World Economic Forum reported, China's low-cost solar panels are lighting up rural communities in Zimbabwe, while its EVs are becoming popular in cities across Mexico and Thailand. These affordable solutions are making it possible for countries with limited resources to embrace clean energy technologies, accelerating their own green transitions.

The *Financial Times* also highlighted how China's leadership in clean energy technologies is benefiting the Global South. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, China has facilitated support for green energy projects, providing other developing nations access to affordable, cutting-edge technologies. This not only benefits China but also helps address the urgent need for low-carbon solutions in emerging economies.

Overall, domestically, according to the *2024 China Patent Survey Report* by the China National Intellectual Property Administration, nearly half of Chinese enterprises have initiated or are planning to pursue green innovation. Among these, 30.9 percent of companies in emerging strategic industries have already started green innovation projects. China's efforts are not only reshaping its development but also offering lessons and solutions for global sustainability.

Digital Assets Reshaping Youth Culture

Opinion

By YU Haoyuan

With the rapid growth of the digital economy, digital assets have gradually transcended their "niche origin" to become a mainstream phenomenon, particularly garnering the attention and participation of the young demographics.

In contemporary society, young people are leveraging blockchain technology to digitally collect cultural artifacts, such as the standing bronze figure from Sanxingdui, a major Bronze Age culture that flourished in the 11-12th centuries BC in today's Sichuan in southwest China, and the Dunhuang Flying Apsaras, the celestial beings in the murals of the Mogao Grottoes, a cluster of caves in Gansu province in northwest China.

Young people are even creating unique "guochao virtual museums" via tokenized collections, guochao being a rising consumer trend of showing preference for domestic brands and taking pride in them.

Behind this phenomenon lies not merely the impact of technological accessibility on lifestyle paradigms, but also

the younger generation's pursuit of cultural identity.

Generation Z, as digital natives, plays a pivotal role within the digital asset ecosystem. Comprising approximately 260 million individuals born between 1995 and 2009 in China, this cohort is contributing to 40 percent of aggregate consumer expenditure though accounting for less than 20 percent of the population. Projections indicate that by 2035, their purchasing power will burgeon, cementing their position as a linchpin of market expansion.

For them, digital assets are not only emerging investment vehicles but also new ways of individual expression and social identity construction. Whether by showcasing their collections within metaverse environments or engaging in discourse on non-fungible token transactions across online communities, young people are forging community identities and shared values through digital assets.

The ascendance of digital assets is underpinned by sustained technological advancements. Blockchain technology is resolving the challenges of uniqueness and ownership, while AI-generated content is expanding the creative frontiers. By 2024, the revenue generated by major digital cultural enterprises reached

885.5 billion RMB, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 10 percent. Looking forward, the integration of AI and digital assets will deepen, encompassing digital collectibles and interactive interfaces between virtual characters and physical contexts, equipping young creators with entirely new tool sets.

This "techno-cultural fusion" not only enhances industrial added value, but also positions China competitively in the global digital economy.

Concurrently, interest-driven consumption patterns, enabled by social connectivity, are steadily propelling digital assets from periphery to prominence. Among Taobao's Top 10 Products of 2024, merchandise tied to the "guzi economy," literally merch collectibles such as designer toys, action figures and pin badges, registered a nearly fivefold surge in sales, while intellectual property-driven digital products like the action game *Black Myth: Wukong* became huge hits, significantly enhancing emotional engagement among young consumers. These cases illustrate digital assets emerging as important conduits of emotional connection, individual expression, and cultural recognition.

The value of digital assets goes beyond economics — it lies equally in

their role as cultural symbols and social tools. How to protect investors' rights while avoiding speculation that could dilute cultural value remains a challenge. In response to the rapid development of the digital asset market, the Chinese government has adopted a proactive stance, encouraging innovation while preventing risks. The frequent action plans issued to popularize digital asset knowledge over the years have assisted people in identifying risks and enhanced their financial literacy.

In conclusion, the rise of digital assets signifies a profound convergence of youth culture and technological innovation. They afford traditional culture a contemporary idiom while incubating novel ecosystems for entrepreneurship, self-expression, and social networking for the younger generation.

From the Dunhuang murals to *Black Myth: Wukong*, from digital blind boxes to AI-generated art, Chinese youth are scripting a new cultural narrative through digital assets. As technology advances and policy frameworks mature, digital assets are poised to become a crucial connector bridging tradition and futurity, as well as individuals and society, exemplifying the creativity and responsibility of China's youth in the global digital economy.

Comment

Data Protection, or a Smokescreen

By LI Shan & GONG Qian

The Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection recently asked Apple and Google to block Chinese AI startup DeepSeek from Germany's app stores, citing concerns about data protection, despite the lack of substantial evidence. The fallout surrounding the request could have stark implications for DeepSeek.

DeepSeek has caused a sensation in the global tech community since January this year, as it developed an open-sourced, low cost AI model with outstanding capabilities, which rivals U.S. competitors such as ChatGPT. DeepSeek enables AI developers with limited resources to participate in AI model research, allowing researchers worldwide to focus more on innovation and optimization. In a way, DeepSeek has broken the monopoly of U.S. AI companies and become the top app on Apple's and Google's app stores for some time.

According to a press release, the commissioner explained that DeepSeek "processes extensive personal data of users, including all text entries, chat histories, and uploaded files, as well as information about location, devices used, and networks," and transfers the data to China, which is "unlawful" as per the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR, which came into effect in May 2018 as a data privacy and security framework, is now becoming a frontline of Europe's AI regulations.

However, the collected data is essential for DeepSeek to provide its services and is collected with the prior consent of its users. The double standard lies in the fact that some AI models developed by U.S. companies collect and transfer data, yet have not been banned

from app stores by the Commissioner. Meanwhile, DeepSeek has not been able to convince the commissioner that the "data of German users is protected in China at a level equivalent to that of the European Union."

Currently, the commissioner, who as a local authority can only notify the app stores' operators, said she collaborated with the German Federal Network Agency, which is responsible for enforcing the Digital Services Act in Germany, to take measures. If Apple and Google remove DeepSeek from their app stores, this would trigger an EU-wide ban. This will not only harm the legitimate interests of DeepSeek, but also set a concerning precedent for other international AI companies.

Germany's move is not just a restriction, but rather a signal that the GDPR is now being enforced not only on European companies but also on foreign AI companies operating in the open market, the *Euro Weekly News* said.

Europe risks isolating itself from the AI revolution by prioritizing protectionism over progress, ultimately leaving Europe further behind in the global AI race. Data protection authorities, empowered by EU regulations, have often been labeled as "obstacles to innovation." Excessive regulatory interference, especially when driven by geopolitical biases rather than objective legal standards, creates an unpredictable business environment.

DeepSeek's open-source has brought tangible benefits to global AI development. It could have been an alternative for Europe to reduce reliance on U.S. technology, fostering homegrown innovation and even serving as a strategic bargaining chip. Unfortunately, some choose to feign ignorance. But the biggest loser would be Europe itself.

Hi-Tech

Humanoid Robots Kick off AI Football

By GONG Qian

The final of the 2025 ROBO League robot football tournament was held at the Beijing Smart E-sports Event Center on June 28. It was not only a test run for the 2025 World Humanoid Robot Games, scheduled to be held in August, but also China's first fully autonomous 3v3 AI robot football match.

The participating robots incorporate highly complex real-time perception and cognitive decision-making, advanced motion control, multi-agent collaborative tactics, as well as agile, lightweight, and impact-resistant hardware bodies.

The four teams in the final used standardized robots provided with the same hardware bodies and underlying technologies. However, the AI strategies including gameplay rules, offensive tactics, and defensive maneuvers were entirely programmed by the team themselves.

A defining feature of this match was its full autonomy — unlike earlier robot marathons and boxing bouts that allowed remote control, these humanoid players

could operate individually based on AI-driven strategies. Without any human intervention, they could independently execute complex actions, including recovering from falls and resuming play.

AI-powered autonomous robot players primarily rely on three core algorithmic systems: perception, motion control, and decision-making, according to Cheng Hao, founder of Booster Robotics and official robot supplier for the event. Perception algorithms enable robots to track the football's position and movement while monitoring teammates' and opponents' positions. Motion control algorithms execute physical skills like kicking, while decision-making algorithms determine optimal actions — whether to pass, defend, or collaborate with teammates, Cheng added.

The participating robots players demonstrated China's state-of-the-art breakthroughs in humanoid robotics, covering motion control, visual perception, positioning and navigation, decision-making systems, and multi-robot collaborative mechanisms.



The final of the 2025 ROBO League robot football tournament is held at the Beijing Smart E-sports Event Center on June 28. (PHOTO: VCG)

BRICS Summit Strengthens Sci-tech Collaboration

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As to climate change, the BRICS leaders called for a strengthened global response in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, underscoring that multilateralism and Global South cooperation can shape a more inclusive and sustainable governance for a better future.

Addressing the plenary sessions of the summit, Chinese Premier Li Qiang called on the international community to strengthen global synergy in tackling climate change, resolutely implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris

Agreement, uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and deepen cooperation in clean energy, carbon markets and other fields.

The declaration reiterated commitment to strengthening collaboration in environmental protection and sustainable development within the BRICS framework, upholding multilateralism and strengthening global environmental governance.

Global healthcare is another key issue. The leaders reiterated the importance of BRICS actions and initiatives in promoting resilient, equitable, and

inclusive health systems, aiming to achieve universal health coverage and ensuring fair and timely access to essential health goods and healthcare services.

BRICS cooperation on strengthening the capacity to prevent communicable and noncommunicable diseases and other health issues, as well as experience sharing, including on traditional medicine systems and digital health, greatly contributes to international efforts. The leaders also recognized the need for cooperation in the area of nuclear medicine and radio pharmacy within the BRICS Nuclear Medicine

Working Group.

LI said China has always honored its commitments and actively contributed to global needs within its capacity, and will continue to take concrete actions, shoulder its due responsibilities, and work with all parties to promote greener, healthier and more sustainable global development.

The summit also adopted the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence, the BRICS Leaders' Framework Declaration on Climate Finance, and the BRICS Partnership for the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases.