

# The Youth Reference

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## Report on Digital Technology Supporting Youth Development in China

Newsletter from All-China Youth Federation



## NOTE

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This e-magazine is a product of All-China Youth Federation, China Youth Daily and China International Youth Exchange Center to introduce the youth work and youth development in China on a regular basis. We hope that it can provide you with updated information about Chinese youth, youth policy and youth programs, and we sincerely look forward to feedbacks and suggestions from friends all over the world.

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# Report on Digital Technology Supporting Youth Development in China

## ABSTRACT:

In the context of economic globalization, digital technology is becoming a key force in restructuring global factor resources and reshaping global economic and social structures. Digital technology has a profound impact on the work and life of contemporary

Chinese youth, playing an active role in their access to health care, education, employment and entrepreneurship resources, and also playing a positive role in poverty eradication, political and social participation, and coping with climate change.

China has always attached great importance to helping youth

development through digital technology and promoting youth participation in the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We have sorted out the situation and formed the “Report on Digital Technology Supporting Youth Development in China”. The relevant contents are as follows.



(Source: Visual China Group)

## I. General situation and policies concerning digital technology supporting youth development in China

### I. Overview

In the context of economic globalization, digital technology is becoming a key force in reorganizing resources and reshaping economic and social structures all around the world. China attaches great importance to the development of

digital economy, and has regarded it as part of national development strategy, setting up for the first time a section on “Digital China” in the “Outline of the Fourteenth Five – Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development and the

Long – Range Objectives Through the Year 2035” (hereinafter referred to as the “14th Five–Year Plan”) to improve the policies and stipulations for promoting the development of digital economy. In 2021, China’s digital economy has reached 45.5

trillion yuan, accounting for 39.8% of the total GDP. Digital transformation has accelerated, the level of informatization of agriculture has rapidly increased, industrial internet is now accessible in 45 major sectors of the national economy, and e-commerce transactions have grown from 29 trillion yuan in 2017 to 42 trillion yuan in 2021.

China has always regarded youth as an important force for national development, and has taken youth work as a fundamental and extremely important task to promote high-quality youth development. Since 2012, the Chinese government has actively advocated the concept of prioritizing youth development, formulated and implemented the “Medium and Long-term Youth Development Plan (2016 – 2025)” which has proposed a series of initiatives around ten key areas of youth development, and released the



(Source: Visual China Group)

White Paper on “Youth of China in the New Era” which has introduced the Chinese government’s stance on youth policy and showed the enthusiasm and vigor of Chinese youth in the new era.

Young people are the driving forces in the digital era. From 2017 to 2022, the number of China’s Internet users

grew from 772 million to 1.051 billion. Among them, young Internet users account for more than half. The gap between urban and rural penetration of Internet applications among minors narrowed to 0.3 percentage points from 5.4 percentage points in 2018. Digital technology has profoundly shaped China’s youth, playing an active role in increasing their access to health care, education, employment and entrepreneurial resources. It has helped to lift many of them out of poverty, enhance their political and social participation, and enable them to address social issues such as climate change. With the accelerated application of new technologies such as 5G, Internet of Things, cloud computing, big data, artificial intelligence and block chain, Chinese youth are active on both the supply and demand sides of the digital economy, greatly expanding and stimulating the development of digital



China 5G Industrial Internet Conference opened in Wuhan on Nov. 19th, 2021.

(Source: Visual China Group)

economy. Industries such as information technology and technology applications are based on digital technology and are centered on innovation for its core

competitiveness. In these fields, youth account for more than half of the total staff. A large number of youth-founded digital economy enterprises have been driving China to become

the world's largest e-tailing market for eight consecutive years. China has moved up from 29th place in 2015 to 12th place in 2021 in the Global Innovation Index.

## 2.Relevant policies and measures

China has always insisted on development as its first priority and has comprehensively launched its sustainable development agenda. In September 2021, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative at the general debate of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, committed to promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and identified poverty alleviation, digital economy, connectivity in the digital age, development financing, and industrialization as key areas, which received positive responses and support from more than 100 countries as well as the UN and other international organizations. In June 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed at the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development that China will improve digital literacy and skills for all, accelerate the transformation and upgrading of industrialization, and promote connectivity in the digital age to inject new momentum into the development of all countries. To take concrete actions under the framework of the Global Development Initiative, China issued

the Deliverables of the High-level Dialogue on Global Development, including launching a Digital Literacy and Skills Improvement Initiative and initiating the Action Plan for Global Youth Development.

The Chinese government actively promotes the digital literacy and skills of various groups including the youth. In March 2021, the "14th Five-Year Plan" states that it will "strengthen education and training on digital skills for all people and enhance citizens' digital literacy." The "Outline of Action to Enhance

Digital Literacy and Skills for All," the "14th Five-Year Plan for National Informatization," and the "14th Five-Year Plan on Digital Economy Development" all make it clear that the Chinese government will enhance digital literacy and skills for all, and clearly state that priority will be given to building a national digital skills education resource system, carrying out digital skills education and training, helping the digitally disadvantaged, as well as giving guidance to promote the development of digital green manufacturing.



Guangzhou Pazhou Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy Pilot Zone under construction, Sept. 3rd, 2022. (Source: Visual China Group)

## II. Digital technology promoting youth development: key areas of achievement

### i. Digital Technology and Youth Education

#### 1. Relevant policies and regulations

In terms of promoting the MOOC supporting system, in April 2015, the Ministry of Education issued the “Opinions on Strengthening the Building and Application of Online Open Courses in Higher Education Institutions,” which is based on the principle of “the university takes the main action, the government supports, and the society participates.” The policy of mutual recognition and conversion of online course credits has been formulated to ensure the healthy development of MOOC courses. In March 2022, the Ministry of Education and other five departments jointly issued a document to further clarify the main responsibilities of universities, education platforms, teachers, students and education administration departments, to ensure the substantial equivalence between online and offline teaching, and to help online education grow steadily and far-reaching.

In promoting the supporting system for vocational education digitalization, the 2022 revised Vocational Education Law stipulates that the government supports the use of information technology for the development of vocational education



On April 7th, 2022, in Liuzhou, Guangxi, a teacher of Liuzhou Railway Vocational and Technical College wore AR glasses to teach a course related to high-speed railway technology to students from Thailand.

(Source: Visual China Group)

online courses, and the use of innovative teaching methods and school management methods to promote the informationization of the vocational education.

In promoting the supporting system for online education in primary and secondary schools, in early 2021, the Ministry of Education launched the “Opinions on Vigorously Strengthening the Building and Application of Online Education and Teaching Resources in Primary and Secondary Schools,” proposing to

accelerate the establishment of a clearly targeted, interconnected and shared online education platform system. The platform system will cover education resources for various themes and curriculum systems that apply for different versions of textbooks. The document also calls for the establishment of the integrated policy supporting system that ranges from the construction, operation and maintenance, resource development, teaching application, as well as the implementation and promotion of the online education platform.

## 2.Relevant initiatives and results

(1)Launch of the National Smart Education Platform.On March 28, 2022, China’s Ministry of Education launched the National Smart Education Platform, which includes three resource platforms for basic education, vocational education and higher education, as well as the “24365” career service platform for college students. The platform is a comprehensive and integrated platform for national education public services, such as learning, teaching, school governance and education innovation. Since the platform was officially launched, the number of views has been increasing. As of July 12, 2022, the total number of views on the portal and the four platforms has exceeded 3.03 billion, and the total number of visitors has reached 430 million.

(2)Accelerating the digital transformation of education. Faced with the pressure of the pandemic, the Ministry of Education quickly

mobilized 37 online course platforms and technology platforms to open 41,000 online courses such as MOOC courses and virtual simulation experiments to colleges and universities nationwide for free, more than 110 social and college online course platforms followed to participate. The government also arranged online teaching or other alternative teaching programs for international students, in order to improve the quality of online teaching and online tutoring.



On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, staff of Shanghai Jiao Tong University showcased the MOOC “Chinese Medicine and Chinese Traditional Culture” presented on the global platform.

(Source: Visual China Group)

(3) Sharing the digital educational resources with other countries. Since 2020, China have held the Global MOOC Conference, established the Global MOOC and Online Education Alliance, and offered global public courses focusing on major global issues which have attracted 6.5 million Chinese and foreign learners to participate. China are deeply involved in the United Nations Transforming Education Summit and its preparatory work, inviting young representatives to participate in the conferences and speak out their voice. China also promotes the concept and practice of digital-led education transformation in the field of digital learning and transformation. The International Training Initiative for Artificial Intelligence Talents in Chinese Universities has carried out 44 programs, which have benefited more than 16,000 teachers and students in more than 400 universities.

## ii. Digital Technology, Employment, and Entrepreneurship

### 1.Overall situation

The huge number of jobs created by the digital economy and the huge talent gap it faces provide important opportunities for the young people. Among the 5 lists of 74 new occupations released by China’s Ministry of Human

Resources and Social Security since April 2019, more than 20 are directly related to the digital economy. The scale of employment in the digital industry is expanding rapidly, which accounts for 32.6% of the total number of jobs and

24.2% of the total number of recruits in 2020. It is expected that by 2025, China’s digital economy will ensure the employment of 379 million people. This opens up a wide range of employment prospects for the youth.

## 2.Relevant policies and regulations

The Chinese government has introduced a series of measures such as the “Internet+” initiative and the big data strategy to encourage employment and entrepreneurship and apply digital technology to increase youth employment and entrepreneurship. The government strengthens the protection of rights and interests of those in flexible employment. On July 31, 2020, the Chinese government issued the “Opinions on Supporting Flexible Employment through Multi – Channels,” which provides support for flexible youth employment in terms of broadening channels, optimizing the employment environment, and providing services and guarantees. On July 16, 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and eight other departments jointly issued the “Guidance on Safeguarding the



On August 29, 2022, workers were making filters in the workshop of Nantong Risen Optical Co. in Qutang Town, Haian City, Jiangsu Province. (Source: Visual China Group)

Labor Rights and Interests of Workers in New Employment Forms”. On May 13, 2022, the Chinese government issued the “Notice on Further Improving the Employment and Entrepreneurship of College Graduates and Other

Youths,” proposing to build a credible employment service platform for college graduates, accelerate the modernization of the current economic system, and provide more jobs suitable for college graduates.

## 3.Relevant initiatives and results

(1) Carry out vocational skills enhancement activities and provide digital skills training for the youth. The “Internet + Vocational Skills Training Program” and the “100-day Free Online Skills Training Action” were launched to provide digital training for young people in more than 100 occupations, especially in fields such as artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing, etc. Since 2019, new occupations relevant to

digital technology, such as digital manager, industrial robot system operator and maintenance technician, and Internet of Things engineering technician, have been released to provide guidelines for young workers to join the digital industry.

(2) Rely on digital technology to improve youth employment and entrepreneurship. To address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry

of Education has launched the “24365 Campus Recruitment Service” to provide online employment services for graduates. The Ministry has upgraded the online college employment service platform with the support of the digital technology such as the intelligent algorithms and big data. The platform can offer personalized, efficient and accurate employment information for graduates in match with their job



preferences and majors. Up to now, the number of 2022 college graduates registered for use is 5.47 million, accounting for more than half of the current graduates, and the number of employers registered

has reached more than 550,000. Continuous efforts have been made to improve the platform so as to update the recruitment information of public positions and talent service agencies at all levels nationwide. A

mini program for job search is launched so that graduates who have not yet found employment can scan the QR code on their cell phones to access public employment services with one click.

### iii. Digital Technology and Youth Health

#### 1.Relevant policies and regulations

In 2016, the Chinese government promulgated the “Guidance on Promoting and Regulating the Development of Health Care Big Data Applications” to further promote online appointment, test result notification and uploading, medical insurance networking and other people-friendly applications in the mode of “Internet + Health care”. The government attaches great importance to the development of intelligent remote health care equipment, striving to make data “run”, and patients “relax.” In the same year, the “Outline for Health China 2030 Plan” pointed out that it is necessary to develop Internet – based health services, and explore the



On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, Guangzhou, Smart medical robots at Guangzhou Convention and Exhibition Industry Association. (Source: Visual China Group)

development of wearable devices, intelligent health electronics and health care mobile application services.

In April 2018, the Chinese government promulgated the

“Opinions on Promoting the Development of Internet + Health care”, which proposed 30 measures to comprehensively promote services of Internet + Health care. The government has established an internet platform for science popularization, introduce healthy lifestyles, and improve the health literacy and the self –management ability of the young people. The government has released service actions to further promote ‘Internet + Health care’” for the elderly, minors and youth. The local administrations are asked to make both online and offline services more convenient and patient – friendly.

#### 2.Related initiatives and results

(1) Digital means to improve the ability to prevent and control pandemics. AI products and services are used to effectively support pandemic prevention and control . The main directions include pandemic monitoring and analysis, personnel and material management, logistics support,

medication research and application, medical treatment, and resumption of work and production. From contactless temperature measurement equipment to auxiliary diagnostic technology, from robotic contactless distribution to telecommuting , AI products and applications are widely used,

significantly saving labor costs, reducing wastage of human resource, improving efficiency, and greatly lowering the risk of virus spreading.

(2)Digital technology to protect the mother and child. In 2017, China’s National Health Commission issued



On July 30, 2021, Shanghai, the nineteenth ChinaJoy was held in the New International Expo Center. The picture shows the audience experiencing the dance fitness game. (Source: Visual China Group)

therapy based on the premise of necessary offline visits and maternity examinations, and guided low – risk pregnant women to online therapy so as to facilitate patient access while reducing crowds at the hospital.

(3) Develop youth fitness programs facilitated by digital technology. In 2022, the All – China Youth Federation and the General Administration of Sport of China jointly launched the national fitness program online, such as “21 – day sports daily attendance”, “sports skill challenge”, “my sports diary”, and “fitness knowledge sharing”. Through these activities, young people in China are encouraged to record their physical exercises on their virtual “punch card,” creating a hot topic of national fitness on the internet. As of August 30, 2022, a total of 1.161 million young people have participated in the series of activities, of which 179,000 participated in the sport programs.

the “Work Plan for the Promotion and Use of the Maternal and Child Health Handbook”, which provides systematic and standardized services for mother and child throughout the whole process of pregnancy and childbirth by using a unified Maternal and Child Health Handbook

nationwide and integrating services such as pregnancy health care, labor and delivery in the ward, child health care, and child vaccination. Since the outbreak of the COVID – 19 pandemic, Chinese medical institutions have actively adopted a combination of online and offline

## iv. Digital Technology and Poverty Alleviation

### 1. Relevant Policies and Regulations

For a long time, the Chinese government has been making full use of the Internet in poverty alleviation, and promoting the deep integration of digital technology with agricultural development, rural governance and farmers’ livelihood. “The 14th Five – Year Plan” has made the important deployment of

“accelerating the construction of digital countryside.” The “Outline of Digital Countryside Development Strategy,” “Digital Agricultural and Rural Development Plan (2019 – 2025)” and “Action Plan for Digital Countryside Development (2022 – 2025)” focus on developing the rural digital economy, improving

farmers’ digital literacy and skills, reviving rural culture through the internet, and improving the effectiveness of rural digital governance, which are expected to provide strong support to promote agricultural and rural modernization, and the construction of digital China.

## 2. Relevant initiatives and results



On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Attendees experienced the metaverse live broadcast at China International Fair for Investment and Trade in Xiamen. In the past ten years, the number of Chinese mobile Internet users has increased by more than 600 million. (Source: Visual China Group)

(1) Develop new business models and modes in rural areas. Measures are taken to develop agricultural e-commerce, establish and publicize the brands of featured agricultural products through the internet. Measures are also taken to cultivate new modes of rural businesses, promote smart rural tourism with a number of well-equipped, multi-functional, intelligent and convenient leisure and tourism parks, rural B&Bs, forest houses and recreation bases built. Platform enterprises such as shared farms, cloud farms, online tourism, e-commerce, location information services, social media, smart finance are encouraged to provide their products and services to the countryside. E-commerce training programs are carried out for rural youth, including rural women. The All-China Youth Federation has established the “Youth Agriculture

for China” Livestream Farming Alliance, joined by young public service anchors to help sell agricultural products. “Digital Business Youth” e-commerce online courses are recorded and broadcast through new media for rural young start-ups.

(2) Increase public support for rural areas. Measures are taken to promote “Internet + education” in the rural areas. “MOOC to the Western Regions Program” is implemented to take full use of the advantages of faculty and resources in the eastern regions through MOOC as well as online and offline hybrid teaching. Up to now, 170,000 MOOC courses and customized courses have been provided for 725 western universities

and 2.61 million hybrid teaching courses have been carried out with 330 million students participated and 1.67 million teachers trained on the use of MOOC application. The construction of digital campuses is accelerated in the rural areas to improve the digital hardware and software. Trainings on digital agriculture are carried out for rural youth. Supports are also given to improve the digital infrastructure in less-developed regions. Public welfare programs are carried out to promote youth education, employment, entrepreneurship and medical assistance. Programs are also carried out to protect the rights and promote the development of vulnerable groups such as women, children, disabled groups.



On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, students experienced VR teaching at the elementary school affiliated with Jishou University Teachers College in Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Hunan Province.

(Source: Visual China Group)

(3) Promote digital literacy and skills nationwide. China mobilizes the educational institutions, public libraries, operators, enterprises and other social resources to share digital education resources with rural and less-developed areas so as to better meet the needs of the youth there. Digital skills training programs are conducted for the public, including the use of smart terminals, employment, medical care, consumption, business, finance, network security, etc., and regular and scenario-based digital skills courses are set up in schools and universities to stimulate young people's potential for

digital innovation.

(4) Provide specific help for the digitally disadvantaged. Resources are mobilized from all stakeholders to carry out regular digital skills support for groups such as low-income groups, the elderly, the disabled, orphans, left-behind children, children in low-income families and residents of remote areas and areas newly out of poverty, so as to effectively improve the literacy level of digitally disadvantaged groups in the fields such as the use of digital devices, access to online services, digital consumption, and online fraud prevention.



On July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Guizhou Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, Cong Jiang County, Luo Xiang town, Shang Pulin village passion fruit base, villagers were on live to sell local agricultural products via cell phone.

(Source: Visual China Group)

## v. Digital Technology and Youth Participation

### 1. Overall situation

In recent years, the application of digital technology has greatly improved the degree of youth social participation and helped the youth to better display their own advantages and realize their personal values in

social affairs: (1) with an increase of online social activities, more young people can participate in social affairs in innovative ways; (2) with young people get information and enroll for social projects through the online

platform, young people are mobilized in more innovative ways; (3) the young people can better match their capacities with the social needs, which make their social participation more efficient and targeted.

### 2. Initiatives and results

(1) Digital technology helps deepen youth political participation. Young people can rely on online consultation platforms such as “Direct Channel for Legislation” and “I’d like to Speak to the Premier” to contribute their opinions and participate in the democratic process.

In 2019, the China National People’s Congress (NPC) website publicly solicited opinions on two important laws regarding minors, the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Protection of Minors (Draft Revision) and the Law of the People’s Republic of China on

Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Draft Revision). Many young people especially the minors participated and voiced their opinions. 44% of the public’s opinions on the Law of the People’s Republic of China on Protection of Minors (Draft Revision) were put forward by

minors and a quarter of the opinions on the Law of the People's Republic of China on Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Draft Revision) came from minors. In 2020, during the preparation of the "the 14th Five-Year Plan", the All-China Youth Federation mobilized young people to contribute their opinions and suggestions. The total readership on this topic reached 1,229,200, and 4,210 effective suggestions were raised. The All-China Youth Federation also carried out the annual "Youth Voice@National Two Sessions" online suggestion collection campaign, with a total of 525,000 young people participating and 41,000 valid suggestions submitted over the past three years.

(2) Digital technology promotes youth volunteer services. Since 2003, the Chinese Young Volunteers Association has been implementing the "University Student Volunteer Project for the Western Regions," which recruits college graduates or graduate students to carry out 1 up to 3 years of volunteer work at the grassroots level in the western regions. In recent years, digital technology has been used to help achieve educational equality in areas with unbalanced educational resources. They have explored new models of online education and teaching, such as "cloud classroom," which turns volunteers from colleges and universities into "cloud volunteers" and carry out regular



On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, youth volunteers for the 2022 Taiyuan Energy Low Carbon Development Forum assembled at the conference center.

(Source: Visual China Group)

cloud education activities. Besides, quality education resources have been made into digital products, and educational teaching products such as lecture videos, animation works and teaching games are produced. Cloud computing, Internet of Things, big data and other technologies are also used to integrate with school management and school education, build smart campus and smart classrooms, and promote the sharing of high-quality educational resources in less-developed areas. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chinese Young Volunteers Association has launched a special volunteer service of "Hand in Hand with Families of Medical Personnel on the Front Line of the Fight against the Pandemic," which has organized

and mobilized more than 200,000 youth volunteers to provide academic counseling, reading exchange, psychological counseling and other online volunteer services for families and children of medical personnel on the front line of the fight against the pandemic.

(3) Digital technology helps enhance youth participation in environmental protection. Programs such as "Clear Plate" and "Beach Cleanup" are carried out to mobilize youth not to waste food and to participate in the "River Youth" river patrol and river protection activities. These programs have realized the systematic combination of registration management, team recruitment, data recording, publicity in internet and incentives mechanism. Up to now, the "Clear Plate" action has mobilized 8.7 million young people to participate, with a total of 81.4 million attendances, equivalent to saving of 3093.5 tons of food. The "Beach Cleanup" campaign has carried out 25,000 activities, mobilized youths to participate 414,000 times, and cleaned up 1,006.4 tons of river garbage. Besides, in the framework of "Beautiful China - Youth Action" national youth campaign, "green plants adoption" program has been launched online to encourage young people to adopt green plants and created a good atmosphere for planting and protecting plants. Up to now, more than 3.21 million college students have participated in the program.

## vi. Digital Technology and International Exchange and Cooperation

As China is opening wider and wider to the outside world, Chinese youth in the new era are getting to know and integrate into the world in an

unprecedented way. In addition to the traditional ways of “going global” such as studying, working, and traveling abroad, Chinese youth are

frequently using digital technology to carry out international exchanges and promote international cooperation in the digital field.

### 1. International exchange and cooperation among young people in the digital field

In recent years, China has actively built open platforms such as the World Internet Conference, the World 5G Convention and the World Artificial Intelligence Conference, which have created great conditions for professionals from various countries, including youth, to strengthen cooperation in the digital field. Starting from 2016, youth focused parallel forum has been set up in World Internet Conference. In July 2022, the All – China Youth Federation held the World Youth Development Forum both online and offline, with about 2,000 youth representatives from more than 100 countries participating in the forum. The Forum included a thematic forum on digital economy, where government officials, heads of



On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, Ms. Beate Trankmann, Resident Representative of UNDP China, delivered an opening address at Thematic Forum for Digital Economy of World Youth Development Forum.

international organizations, young entrepreneurs and start – ups, and young scholars discussed and exchanged focusing on youth

participation in digital economy and contributing to global development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

### 2. Using digital technology for international exchanges

In the background of the global development of digital technology, Chinese youth have maintained communication with the world online and carried out international exchange and cooperation in areas such as jointly fighting the pandemic, resumption of

work and production, innovation and entrepreneurship, volunteerism, and climate change since the outbreak of the pandemic. For example, the All – China Youth Federation has implemented dialogues and exchanges with youth and youth organizations in

various countries on topics such as the SDGs, especially poverty eradication, quality education, employment and entrepreneurship, and climate change through various ways such as video links, webinars, cloud meetings and short videos presentations.

### III.Suggestions

At present, while digital technology brings opportunities for social progress, there are still some severe challenges in supporting youth development and sustainable development.

Firstly, the digital divide is still an important factor limiting youth development in developing countries. In its Digital Economy Report 2019, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development pointed out that the proportion of 5G technology accounting for mobile information technology in North America is expected to reach 47% by 2025, while the proportion of 5G technology in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa are only 8% and 3% respectively, and their mobile information technology is still dominantly 2G and 3G. The huge information technology gap makes it difficult for young people in less-developed regions to enjoy convenient and efficient mobile network services, or to access digital resources quickly and effectively, causing the local digital economy and even the overall economic

development to lag behind.

Secondly, the absence of a global digital governance system poses an obstacle to the balanced and inclusive development of youth digital literacy and skills. The current global governance mechanism seriously lags behind the development of the global digital economy. Countries have difficulty in reaching consensus on the establishment of the core mechanism of global digital governance, and multilateral cooperation and negotiation is



On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, visitors learned about 5G communication technology at the 2022 World Digital Economy Conference and the 12th Smart City and Smart Economy Expo in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province.(Source: Visual China Group)

making few progress. The reform of global digital governance and inclusive development are stagnant. Individual countries have further exacerbated the digital governance deficit by drawing ideological lines and engaging in digital industry decoupling and digital technology blockades at the international level.

Thirdly, the current mixed Internet information interferes with youth, especially with their rational judgment. The massive dissemination of information on the internet is not based on the authenticity and validity of the content, while the number of clicks, online followers and broadcasting hours have gradually become important evaluation factors. The algorithm and big data have aggravated the information cocoons. It has contributed to the irrational thinking of youth on the internet, and weakened their ability to anticipate, evaluate and integrate digital information to a greater extent.

Therefore, we propose the following policy recommendations.

#### 1.Adhere to multilateralism and international cooperation

All countries should firmly uphold the international order based on international law, firmly uphold the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization as its cornerstone, and promote the

establishment of a more equitable, reasonable, extensive and inclusive global governance system. All countries should reach consensus on strengthening solidarity and cooperation, and reduce the digital

governance deficit caused by digital industry decoupling and digital technology blockade. The United Nations and other international organizations should play to their strengths and carry out activities

such as research on the best practices of the digital technologies and capacity building. The developed countries should fulfill their responsibilities to provide funds, technologies and personnel support to the developing countries. Exchange and cooperation among

developing countries should be strengthened through South – South cooperation. Countries should work together to stimulate the vitality of the digital economy, enhance the effectiveness of digital government, optimize the digital social environment, build a strong digital

security system, participate in the Digital Literacy and Skills Improvement Initiative and International Advocacy for Prioritizing Youth Development, and promote digital technology for the benefit of youth development around the world.

## 2.Enrich the supply of high-quality digital resources

The construction of global digital infrastructure should be accelerated to facilitate the transmission and use of high – quality digital resources. The information accessibility should be strengthened, and guide relevant enterprises to develop websites and mobile applications to meet the needs of young users. Governments, universities and research institutions should be encouraged to share digital education and training resources.



The 5<sup>th</sup> Digital China Construction Achievement Exhibition opened in Fuzhou City on July 22nd,2022.The picture shows the staff displaying the AI special chip independently developed by China.  
(Source: Visual China Group)

## 3.Strengthen the education and training of digital talents

The governments should play a leading role in the cultivation and training of digital talents. High – quality teaching materials and curricula for digital literacy could be provided in primary and

secondary schools as well as in colleges and universities, and the training mechanism for digital innovation talents improved. Collaboration between industry, academia and research institutions

should be strengthened, the integration of industry and education should be enhanced, and a joint training mechanism should be established to cultivate top digital talents.

## 4.Improve the awareness and capability of digital security

Lectures and training courses are hold on network and data security to enhance youth’s ability to recognize illegal acts, such as network rumors and telecommunication fraud, and improve their awareness and capacity for digital security. The

popularization of laws and regulations related to personal information and privacy protection should be increased. The main responsibility of industry organizations and corporate institutions should be clarified to protect personal information security,

and keep up the fight against illegal and criminal acts such as infringement of personal information and privacy. Relevant laws and regulations should be improved to effectively protect the digital rights and interests of youth.