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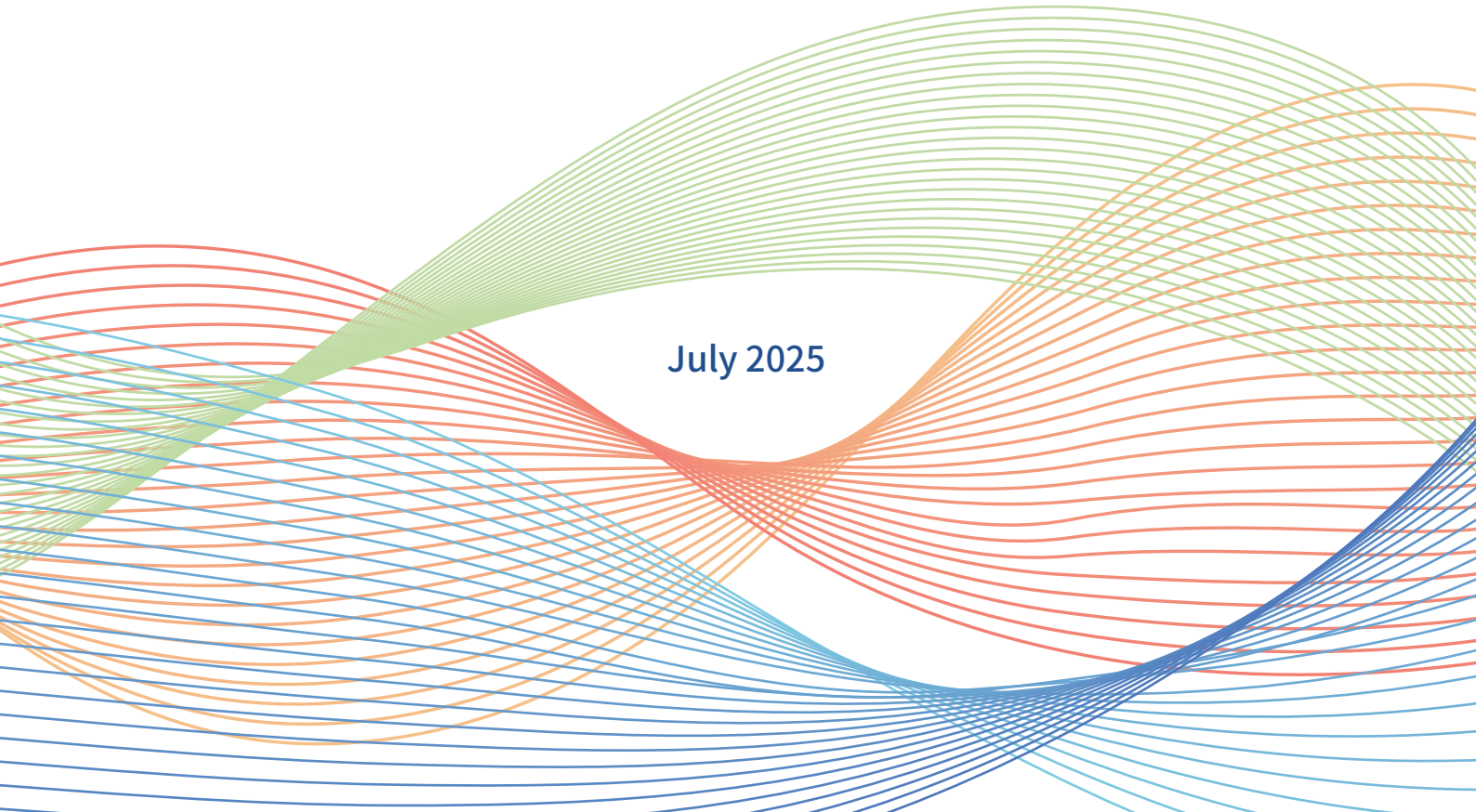
Intelligent Silk Road Toward a Digital Future
-- AI-Driven Digital Silk Road Enters a New Era of Development

China Mobile Research Institute (CMTT)



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Foreword

In 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed at the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation to build the Belt and Road into a road of innovation, emphasizing that cooperation should be intensified in frontier areas such as digital economy and artificial intelligence (AI) so as to turn them into a digital silk road of the 21st century.

As the core engine of the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, AI is taking the Digital Silk Road to a new era of development: promoting the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, facilitating the development of emerging industries, and contributing to the upgrading of livelihood services. In order to fully unlock the value of AI in empowering economic and social transformation, Belt and Road countries are advancing the development of four basic AI capabilities, such as computing infrastructure, network infrastructure, model technologies and datasets. However, Belt and Road countries are mostly developing countries with poor economic conditions, significant cultural differences, and weak technological and talent foundations. Developing AI in these countries faces challenges such as high technological requirements and heavy capital investment. Nevertheless, this also presents opportunities for closer cooperation among Belt and Road countries.

Written by the China Mobile Research Institute (CMTT), this report aims to delve into the value of AI in empowering the Digital Silk Road, summarize the practices of Belt and Road countries in the development of computing infrastructure, network infrastructure, model technology and dataset capabilities, analyze the current challenges, and explore a future-oriented coordinated development path.

Contents

I. The Mechanism by Which AI Empowers the Digital Silk Road

AI creates value in three aspects by empowering the Digital Silk Road. First, on the application side, the deep integration of AI into traditional industries will reshape traditional business forms in agriculture, industry and the service sector, and promote the transformation and upgrading of these industries. Second, on the supply side, AI has spawned associated industries such as AI hardware, autonomous driving, low-altitude economy and AI digital human, and created new drivers of economic growth. Third, socially, AI can improve the efficiency of resource allocation in education and healthcare, and promote livelihood services that benefit everyone.

The value of AI cannot be maximized without the development of four basic capabilities, including computing infrastructure, network infrastructure, model technologies and datasets. The essence of AI's value lies in the extensive and in-depth application of data. Computing infrastructure store and compute data, network infrastructure collect and transmit data, model technologies analyze the inherent law of data, while datasets are collections and carriers of high-quality data. Belt and Road countries need to lay a solid foundation in terms of computing power, network, model and data in order to effectively promote the extensive application of AI.

The development of these four basic capabilities is subjected to the economic power, cultural background, technology and talent foundations and other conditions of a country. Developing AI requires heavy investment in technology R&D, data governance and computing power development, raising high requirements for the economic strength of a country; the cultural background of a nation affects model ethics and the scale of high-quality data in the native language of the country; while the ICT foundation and the number of talents directly determine the R&D capabilities for modeling and intelligent computing technologies. Belt and Road countries are mostly developing countries, which are culturally diverse, economically distant from developed countries, and weak in terms of technology and talent reserve. Hence, most of them find it difficult to efficiently promote the development of AI alone, and need to cooperate with AI-leading countries or countries in the region to introduce or jointly develop AI models and computing power technologies, shared datasets, and digital infrastructure.

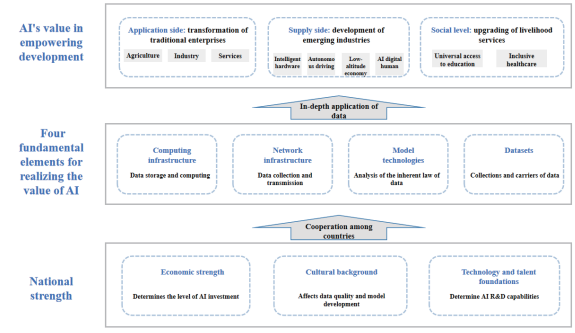

Figure 1: Mechanism by which AI empowers the development of the Digital Silk Road

II. The Important Value of AI Development along the Belt and Road

(I) Reshaping traditional industries to open up a path to transformation and upgrading through digital and intelligent technologies

The deep integration of AI into traditional industries will reshape traditional business forms in agriculture, industry and the service sector, and help Belt and Road countries achieve industrial transformation and upgrading and build a more resilient and sustainable economic system.

AI technologies can help Belt and Road countries improve the quality of agricultural products and automate agricultural production. Agriculture is an important foundation for national economic development in Belt and Road countries. Food production in South America, fruit planting in Southeast Asia, and animal husbandry in Central Asia have all become important sources of income in these regions. In Uzbekistan, for example, agricultural output accounts for 25%-30% of the country's GDP and foreign exchange earnings from agricultural exports make up 60%[1]. However, farming in Belt and Road countries is still labor-intensive, with low output of agricultural products and heavily underutilized resources. Information technologies including AI can provide precise, dynamic and scientific agricultural information services to enable automated and fine farming and livestock feeding. This will lead to an improvement in the yield and quality of agricultural products, and a reduction in agricultural production costs. For example, intelligent irrigation equipment and systems in Uzbekistan have increased local cotton production by 50%, saved 50% of water and reduced investment by 40% compared with the traditional farming method of flood irrigation [2].

AI facilitates industrial productivity improvement and value recreation in Belt and Road countries. Industry is the core engine of national economic growth. Belt and Road countries are mostly developing countries, which have a relatively weak industrial foundation, in spite of huge potential for industrial development, and face challenges such as low productivity and intensifying environmental pollution. The application of AI technologies has injected new vitality into industry, driving efficiency improvement and value recreation in the industrial sector through optimized production processes, automated operation and maintenance, and reduced manpower and energy consumption. For example, by deploying AI-driven automated equipment, Foxconn Industrial Internet's (Fii) lighthouse factory in Vietnam improved labor productivity by 190%, increased its on-time delivery rate to 99.5% and cut manufacturing costs by 45% [3].

AI enables the service sector in Belt and Road countries to be more specialized and move up the value chain at a faster pace. The service sector is the fastest-growing industry in the national economy. In Belt and Road countries, which are mostly low- and middle-income countries, both the share of the value added of the service sector in GDP and the proportion of jobs created by the service sector are much lower than the levels in high-income countries. The application of AI in the service sector can not only increase service efficiency, reduce service costs, but also give rise to numerous new service models, creating significant economic and social value for Belt and Road countries. For example, InnoMatch, a global technology supply and demand matching platform in China, provides various technology transaction and intellectual property services for global cross-border technology trade in a more efficient and accurate manner by intelligently matching solutions worldwide through AI algorithms. Up to now, the platform has completed 653 intelligent supply-demand matching projects, with intended agreements worth over 3.7 billion yuan [4].

[1] Market Analysis of Uzbekistan —— Agriculture Chapter H.uahe International Business Consulting Agency. March 28th, 2025. http://www.huahechina.com/admin.php?s=/Article/Content/index/content_id/1850.html

[2] Building a Belt of Grain Harvests and a Path to Shared Prosperity: The 10-Year Journey of Belt and Road Agricultural Cooperation. Xinhuanet. December 29, 2023. https://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/20231229/b1b5119eb79a4c16ad6e3bc0c54daa07/c.html

[3] WEF Announces New "Lighthouse Factories"; Industrial Fubon's Shenzhen and Vietnam Plants Make the List. Sina Finance. October 8, 2024. https://finance.sina.com.cn/tech/roll/2024-10-08/doc-incrwchr0580113.shtml

[4] The new paradigm has injected new impetus, and the revenue of Shanghai's technology service industry has achieved a "three-level jump" in growth rate. Shanghai Observer News. March 24, 2025. https://www.jfdaily.com/wx/detail.do?id=880865

（II）Spawning emerging industries to create digital and intelligent drivers of economic development

AI technologies have given rise to new industries and new business forms, injecting new impetus into economic development in Belt and Road countries. They will also help these countries optimize their economic structures and rise in the global value chain.

AI hardware creates new development momentum. In China, for example, 152,600 intelligent robot-related enterprises were registered in 2024, bringing the market size of intelligent robots in China to 193 billion yuan, up 22.5% year-on-year[5].

Autonomous driving and low-altitude economy have become strategic emerging industries. For example, the low-altitude economy, as a new comprehensive economic form in the low-altitude airspace, can drive the integrated development of commercial activities or public services. In China, for example, the low-altitude economy industry is developing rapidly, with an expected market size of over 1 trillion yuan in 2026[6].

AI technologies have contributed to a boom in new business forms such as digital human. For example, in China, there are nearly 140 million livestreaming accounts engaged in video performance and other services, including more than 50 million virtual "digital human" accounts, accounting for about 40%[7]. China's virtual human market is expected to reach 48.06 billion yuan in 2025[8].

(III) Bridging the digital divide to deliver the benefits of digital and intelligent development to all

AI technologies can help break down traditional barriers to resource allocation, promote universal access to and sharing of education, healthcare and other resources through multidimensional empowerment, and gradually narrow the gaps between countries or between urban and rural areas.

AI contributes to universal access to education. Some Belt and Road countries are facing shortages of education infrastructure, course resources and teacher resources[9]. According to the UNICEF, in South Asia, about 93 million children and adolescents are out of school; nearly 33.3% have not received any form of education or training[10]. AI technologies can optimize the allocation of education resources, lower the barriers to education, and assist countries or regions in short of educational resources in ensuring universal access to education and training. For example, students at Nepal's LRI School can access classrooms in other parts of the world through smart classrooms to receive personalized education[11].

[5] China's intelligent robots account for nearly 70% of the global market. As of May 2025, the number of domestic enterprises has exceeded 880,000. Guanyan Report Network. June 4, 2025.7.https://www.chinabaogao.com/detail/753741.html

[6] China's Low-altitude Economy: From a Trillion-yuan Blue Ocean to a Global High Ground - A Panoramic Analysis of Current Situation, Challenges and Future Strategies. Future Industry Seminar. June 23, 2025. https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?__biz=MzU0MDUzO-Dc2MQ==&mid=2247488576&idx=1&sn=e659fff921de76a12839d62bcb472a78&chksm=fa3daa4bd0bd74e0435c516b6fb71abac1884dd526cf18c0c9c0a8cd5209d9e57d15e4da9e12#rd

[7] The "digital human" has gone viral, and the market prospects are promising. However, these risks need to be taken seriously! Global Times. November 18, 2023. https://world.huanqiu.com/article/4FOquzVu3Uw

[8] White Paper on the Development of China's Virtual Digital Human Industry in 2024 Iimedia Research. April 19, 2024. https://www.iimedia.cn/c400/99947.html

[9] Science Education in the Countries along the Belt and Road: Current Situation, Challenges and Suggestions China Education Informatization Network. May 13, 2024. https://www.ictdedu.cn/sknews/sjjyxx/neirong/n20240513_84409.shtml

[10] South Asia: Can skills Training improve youth Employment? Youth Reference. September 2, 2024 https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/1FEncKnh_Pnui7a5JcCFPg

[11] The friendship Spanning the Himalayas - The cooperation between Chongqing and Nepal has achieved initial success. Chongqing Daily. December 2, 2024. https://epaper.cqrb.cn/paper/cqrb/att/202412/02/9cea5dca-20e8-4a28-be2a-f3a64b67543b.pdf

AI boosts universal access to and sharing of medical resources. Underdeveloped regions along the Belt and Road, such as Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America, witness shortages of medical personnel, poor medical conditions and services, and a great disparity between urban and rural areas in the allocation of medical resources. As estimated by a Lancet study, the minimum threshold for doctor density is 20.7 doctors per 10,000 people, but in eastern Sub-Saharan Africa, the figure is 2.5 doctors per 10,000 people. Through intelligent diagnosis and telemedicine, AI technologies can optimize the allocation of medical resources across regions, reduce the cost of disease diagnosis, and allow more people to enjoy quality medical resources. For example, due to the lack of early warning systems, only Stage III or IV cervical cancer, at which point there is almost no cure, can be diagnosed among Pakistan women, resulting in about 64% of patients missing treatment opportunities. Through the AI Medical Diagnosis Laboratory platform, Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital, Islamabad, Pakistan can upload patients' early detection sample data for remote diagnosis by experienced Chinese doctors, with valid and reliable diagnosis results generated within 5 minutes to provide timely early cancer warning.[12]

III. Initial Successes in the Development of Basic AI Capabilities along the Belt and Road

As the value of applying AI, especially large models, gradually becomes discernible, Belt and Road countries have accelerated the development of computing infrastructure, network infrastructure, model technologies and datasets in recent years to fully leverage the value of AI in empowering economic and social development.

(I) Strengthening the overall planning for the distribution of computing power resources

Belt and Road countries are accelerating the construction of data centers and intelligent computing infrastructure, where West Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia have made significant progress. For example, Saudi Arabia plans to invest US$5 billion in 2025 to build an AI data center in Neom (New Future City), a megacity along the Red Sea coast.[13] Singapore attaches great importance to the construction of AI infrastructure, with a combined data center capacity of over 1.4 GW, including more than 70 cloud computing, enterprise and shared data centers. By 2028, the country's rental data center capacity is expected to reach 825 MW.[14] China, in partnership with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, is making preparations for the establishment of a "China-Central Asia computing community", an intelligent computing platform that will integrate 2000P of computing power resources within the region to support the joint project of digital simulation of ecological restoration of the Aral Sea.[15]

[12] The China-Pakistan Artificial Intelligence Medical Diagnosis Laboratory has been put into operation. Associated Press of Pakistan. March 10, 2023. https://chinese.app.com.pk/2023/03/10/11067/

[13] Saudi Arabia's New Future City signed a $5 billion AI data center agreement. Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. February 11, 2025. https://bh.mofcom.gov.cn/jmxw/art/2025/art_ce69c0f50073478b944572d3fd535884.html

[14] Lianhe Zaobao: Singapore's data center market has witnessed a major acquisition and investment with a total value exceeding 1.7 billion yuan. Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. November 21, 2024. https://sg.mofcom.gov.cn/jmdt/art/2024/art_a8410ced1c7e4518a0c2e92ed3430c39.html

[15] The International Integrated Computing Power Center in Changji Prefecture, Xinjiang, has been put into operation to build a new hub for the "Digital Silk Road". Xinhua News Agency. May 20, 2025 http://www.xj.news.cn/20250520/c9cc43f0a731442896b7a6fa4f6c6ae5/c.html

（II）Continuing to enhance network transmission capacity

High-performance communication networks are the cornerstone of data transmission. In recent years, Belt and Road countries have continued to intensify the construction of communication networks. First, transnational communication cables have been laid to enhance data connectivity. For example, eight telecom operators from countries including China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia and Egypt have jointly built the 2Africa submarine cable project. Encircling the entire African continent and connecting data traffic hubs in the Middle East, Asia and Europe, the cable is the world's largest transoceanic project to date. The opening of 2Africa will provide more efficient and convenient international connections for the 33 countries along the route, and significantly enhance the accessibility of connections[16]. **Second, mobile network speeds have been constantly improved to enhance data transmission capacity.** Belt and Road countries have basically achieved full 4G coverage, and are now stepping up 5G development. For example, Kazakhstan is accelerating 5G development, planning to provide 5G coverage in at least 75% of its cities and 60% of its regional centers by the end of 2025[17].

(III) Building the underlying capabilities of model technologies

Belt and Road countries are actively enhancing their AI model technology capabilities in various ways, with some countries in Southeast Asia, West Asia and South Asia having achieved initial successes. First, these countries have made use of open source models to improve their own AI strength. It is costly and technically difficult for a country to develop basic large AI models on its own. Belt and Road countries have developed their own AI technology capabilities fast and at low costs based on high-performance open source large models. For example, Malaysia has recently launched the introduction of DeepSeek large language models (LLMs) and Huawei Ascend chips to accelerate the building of a national-level independent and full-stack AI ecosystem[18]. Kyrgyzstan is developing AI systems in its native language using LLMs open-sourced by Chinese enterprises, and improving its national education system and data governance capability through AI[19]. **Second, they have conducted joint R&D to master key AI technologies.** Belt and Road countries have strengthened technological cooperation in the field of AI to master key technologies associated with models and computing power by introducing technologies or leveraging each other's strengths. For example, Pakistan and China established the "China-Pakistan Intelligent Systems Lab" in 2022. Researchers from both sides conducted joint research on smart city technologies such as efficient traffic management systems and infrastructure monitoring systems, and piloted them, greatly improving the efficiency of urban management[20]. Singapore cooperated with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia on cutting-edge technologies in the field of AI brain-computer interface devices, promoting non-invasive brain-computer interface solutions in elderly care services, community hospitals and other scenarios[21].

[16] Review of 2024's Outstanding Cases: Network Infrastructure, Connecting the World! Guangming Daily. November 29, 2024. https://digital.gmw.cn/2024-11/29/content_37710529.htm

[17] Kazakhstan has become a 5G pioneer in the Eurasian Economic Union. Everyday Economy. January 15, 2024. https://cn.dailyeconomic.com/2024/01/15/90603.html

[18] Malaysia has launched its sovereign AI ecosystem, with Huawei chips and DeepSeek models being deployed overseas for the first time. Sina Technology. May 20, 2025. http://k.sina.com.cn/article_7295052889_1b2d1ac59040016noe.html

[19] China's "wisdom" makes SCO cooperation more "intelligent". People's Daily Online. June 11, 2025. http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2025/0611/c1002-40498251.html

[20] Newsletter: China's Technology Going Global Contributes to Pakistan's Smart City Construction. Xinhua News Agency. February 8, 2024. https://www.xinhuanet.com/silkroad/20240209/b0dd37b28b284a818f10be08c68c8d10/c.html

[21] Joining Hands to Build a Belt and Road Science and Technology Innovation Community - Observations from the Second Belt and Road Science and Technology Exchange Conference. China Belt and Road Network. June 12, 2025. https://www.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/p/0116EO9B.html

(IV) Building a multicultural data foundation

Belt and Road countries are actively building multilingual corpora to provide high-quality data support for the training of multilingual large AI models. For example, WanJuan Silu, a multilingual pre-training corpus in five languages, including Thai, Russian, Arabic, Korean, and Vietnamese, was released in January this year, with a total data size of over 1.2TB (over 150GB for each language version) and 300 billion tokens. The corpus covers data in seven major categories such as life, encyclopedias, cultures, and news from countries/regions using these languages.[22] The corpus was updated in March with three more languages, namely Serbian, Hungarian and Czech, covering 11.5 million entries across four modalities. In addition, it has been refined to industrial-grade data quality to enable "ready-to-use" applications.[23]

IV. Challenges Facing the Improvement of AI Capabilities along the Belt and Road

Although Belt and Road countries are actively promoting the building of basic AI capabilities, due to the fact that they are still in the initial stage of AI development and affected by their national strength, many of them are lagging behind AI-leading countries.

(I) Inadequate intelligent computing resources

Currently, high-end GPUs and 10,000-card intelligent computing clusters are highly concentrated in developed countries, and enterprises like Microsoft and META have been building computing clusters comprised of tens of thousands of GPUs in the United States since 2020.[24] By contrast, the vast majority of Belt and Road countries have neither mastered cutting-edge computing technologies, nor started systematic development of intelligent computing resources on a large scale. Among these countries, only China has built 10,000-card intelligent computing clusters, and few other countries even have a 1,000-card intelligent computing cluster.

(II) Network coverage yet to be expanded

Some Belt and Road countries still need to strengthen the development of network infrastructure. First, most countries witness low fixed broadband penetration rates and the underdevelopment of fiber networks. For example, in 2023, the fixed broadband penetration rates in Africa and Central and South Asia were 1.7% and 10.2% respectively, both below 20%.[25] **Second, the 5G user penetration rate needs to be further improved.** Most of the Belt and Road countries have not yet realized full 5G coverage, with only a small number of 5G users. For example, by the third quarter of 2024, the number of 5G connections in Latin America was 67 million, while that of 4G connections reached 592 million.[26]

[22] The multilingual corpus "Ten Thousand Volumes • Silk Road" was released, empowering the joint construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative" with AI. The Paper. January 10, 2025. https://www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail_forward_29891113

[23] The multilingual corpus Wanjuan • Silk Road 2.0 is open source, with a comprehensive upgrade in data modality, building an AI bridge for cultural exchange and mutual learning. Sina Finance. March 23, 2025. https://t.cj.sina.com.cn/articles/view/1686546714/6486a91a02002p5ka

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[26] Data shows that the number of global 5G connections reached 2 billion in the third quarter. Toutiao. December 29, 2024.https://www.toutiao.com/article/7449944118836429363/

(III) Model technologies with a weak foundation

Compared with AI-leading nations, most Belt and Road countries exhibit lagging foundational model technologies and relatively weak innovation capabilities in technology R&D. **Firstly, R&D investment is insufficient:** represented by the United States, developed countries continuously inject annual R&D funding at the hundred-billion-dollar level, deploying comprehensively across core domains such as fundamental algorithms and high-end chips. Whereas Belt and Road countries, predominantly developing economies, face constraints due to limited economic strength and technological foundations, making it difficult to establish systematic R&D support. For instance, in some Belt and Road nations across Central and Southeast Asia, R&D intensity remains below 0.2%[27] of GDP—drastically lower than the OECD average of 2.7%.[28] **Secondly, there exists a severe shortage of talent resources:** globally, the most influential AI scholars and experts are predominantly concentrated in the United States, China, and the United Kingdom. The United States accounts for the largest number of AI 2000 awardees and nominees, representing over half of the total.[29] By contrast, many Belt and Road countries grapple with technical talent gaps, hindering the cultivation of localized innovation capacity. As highlighted by the One ASEAN Startup Whitepaper and the Southeast Asia Digital Economy Report 2024, 61% of youth aged 10–24 in Southeast Asia have yet to receive formal digital education.[30]

(IV) High-quality datasets yet to be built

Although some Belt and Road countries have established their own large-scale model training datasets, the data scale still lags significantly behind that of AI-developed nations. More importantly, most Belt and Road countries have yet to effectively construct high-quality industry-specific datasets due to deficiencies in data availability and technological capacities, hindering deep AI applications. For example, South Asian countries are still lacking educational resource repositories annotated in local languages (such as Bengali and Tamil), thus constraining the development of AI teaching tools.

V. Initiative on Coordinated AI Development along the Belt and Road

(I) Enhancing AI technology cooperation

Promote technology transfer and sharing. First, focus on key AI technology fields. The countries along the Belt and Road will jointly build AI joint laboratories and regional research and development centers to conduct AI technology research together and promote technological research and development and innovation. Second, China and other leading countries in model technology should support the countries along the Belt and Road Initiative in developing AI models for their regions or countries based on open-source models or licensed technologies, cultivate a technology research and development ecosystem, and enhance AI technology capabilities.

[27] 【Belt and Road • Observation】An Overview of Green Development in Countries along the Belt and Road. Yabuli Entrepreneurs Forum (CEF), February 7, 2025
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?__biz=MjM5NDA1NzIw-MA==&mid=2650670790&idx=1&sn=c54f4f97f49f542bbdd8e5291a3fa5cc&chksm=bf821cb4d56793e31460d437cd06a230483cd8463b87b03e590b6d4c87035a18c140efbba6cd#rd

[28] The OECD released data on research investment, showing that the gap between China and the United States has further narrowed. People's Daily Online. April 3, 2025
http://io.mohrss.gov.cn/a/2025/04/03/12123.html

[29] The list of the world's most influential scholars in artificial intelligence in 2022 has been released. Sciencenet. January 25, 2022.
https://news.sciencenet.cn/htmlnews/2022/1/473195.shtm

[30] Will Southeast Asia become the next frontier of artificial intelligence? Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. January 2, 2025.
https://cb.mofcom.gov.cn/scdy/art/2025/art_2c233e644665479cb56861db07b6171a.html

Carry out talent cultivation and exchange. First, leading countries in AI technology and academic education cultivate AI-related talents for the Belt and Road countries through university education, vocational skills training and other means. Second, by holding multilateral technical exchange activities and the like, promote talent exchange and technological alignment among the countries along the Belt and Road Initiative, and enhance the reserve and research and development capabilities of AI talents.

(II) Advancing joint construction of AI infrastructure

Jointly invest in the construction of network infrastructure. Accelerate the construction of domestic optical fiber and 5G network infrastructure by supporting qualified enterprises from other "Belt and Road" countries to independently operate networks in their own countries or take stakes in local operators, etc., and introduce external technologies and capital.

Promote the joint construction of intelligent computing centers and cloud computing platforms. The countries along the Belt and Road Initiative build local intelligent computing centers and cloud computing platforms through technological cooperation, investment and co-construction, etc., and construct low-latency regional computing power networks to provide local computing power support for model training and inference services.

Collaborate on the construction of high-quality datasets. Each country takes the lead in data collection and dataset construction within its own country. Technologically advanced countries along the Belt and Road Initiative provide technical support for data processing and dataset construction in other countries, and jointly build high-quality general and industry datasets locally to support cross-language technology development and industry applications of large models.

(III) Stepping up harmonization of AI policies and standards

Strengthen AI policy coordination. Through multilateral and bilateral dialogue mechanisms on AI policies, the Belt and Road countries share their national AI industrial policies and regulatory experiences, resolve policy differences, and promote effective coordination of policies on technology transfer, security governance, etc.

Promote cross-border data flow in a coordinated manner. Through multilateral rule alignment and bilateral cooperation, facilitate mutual recognition of adequacy reviews, data protection and privacy standards. Establish a dispute resolution mechanism for cross-border data flow to address conflicts in policy frameworks and standard differences related to cross-border data flow.

Promote the mutual recognition of industry application standards. Countries along the Belt and Road Initiative may explore the establishment of a joint working group on AI application standards. Focusing on the application of artificial intelligence in areas such as smart agriculture, smart cities, smart healthcare, and smart education, they should study and establish unified industry application standards or promote mutual recognition of application standards to reduce the cost of AI application implementation.

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[11] A Comparative Study of Global Cross-border Data Flow Policies. World Internet Conference Data Working Group. 2025

Introduction to China Mobile Research Institute (CMTT)

China Mobile Research Institute (CMRI), the core R&D institution within China Mobile's technological innovation system, positions itself as "a world-class innovation engine in information service technologies" while fulfilling its dual role as a national strategic technology powerhouse and corporate innovation leader.

CMRI has actively undertaken over 200 state-funded national key S&T projects, including major national innovation platforms such as the "Next Generation Mobile ICT National Engineering Research Center" and the "National New Generation AI Open Innovation Platform for Intelligent Networks". CMRI has played a pivotal role in China's mobile communication evolution through "1G initiation, 2G catch-up, 3G breakthroughs, 4G parallel development, and 5G leadership". Its pioneering computing-power network concept has gained national strategic recognition, while leading advancements in optical communication technologies. It has established the Jiutian AI Innovation Zone, launching foundational and industry-specific large AI models, positioning itself as the national AI leader among central SOEs. Its digital-intelligent capabilities have been widely deployed across network operations, marketing systems, and management architectures. CMRI has received 7 Special Prizes for National Scientific and Technological Progress Award and 213 provincial/ministerial awards.

In March 2023, China Mobile established the CMRI with its Research Institute as the core entity, aiming to provide policy decision-making support in digital economy for national and governmental entities, facilitate industrial digital transformation, and support corporate high-quality development. Rooted in the information industry, CMRI leverages China Mobile's technological, market, industrial, and data advantages to consolidate cross-sector research capabilities in the digital economy. Committed to professional research methodologies, specialized analytical perspectives, and evidence-based policy recommendations, it systematically enhances the academic rigor and authoritative stature of policy-oriented studies. Furthermore, it amplifies research impact through strengthened credibility, public trust, and dissemination efficacy, providing intellectual empowerment for high-quality development of the digital economy.


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