

# Outstanding research, advances headline big data expo in Guiyang

Extravaganza closes on a high as over \$5 billion in transactions and deals sealed

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China International Big Data Industry Expo 2018, closed on Tuesday in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province, attracted 120,000 visitors as well as 388 exhibiting companies — record-high numbers compared with previous sessions.

More than 35 billion yuan (\$5.5 billion) worth of transactions and deals were sealed at the four-day event. And more than 1,000 new products and solution packages were launched, organizers said on Tuesday.

Upholding the principle of “data connecting and driving the innovation of everything”, the expo highlighted leading research and technological achievements in the field of big data.

Those achievements cover solutions for poverty alleviation, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, fifth-generation communications technologies and their applications, which affect people's everyday lives.

A total of 536 foreign delegates from 28 countries and regions came to the expo, sharing their expertise during eight high-profile dialogues and 56 forums.

“The integration of data with the real world is the most prominent achievement of big data in the new era, which can provide countless possibilities for new ideas to take shape and develop,” said Sun Zhigang, Party secretary of Guizhou province.

“It will open up new opportunities for people to understand the world and change the world, and it will have profound influence on the model of industrialization, our way of life and the model of social governance.”

## Futuristic tech

A list of 11 outstanding examples of “futuristic technologies” developed in recent years was released during the expo.

Selected from 526 scientific achievements under the topic of big data around the world, these items covered a wide range of internationally cutting-edge technologies, new products and business models.

Among those on the list was the Xiaoi Robot, developed by Xiaoi Corp, a unit of tech giant Xiaomi.

By integrating the technologies of semantic analysis, knowledge engineering, big data and AI, the Xiaoi robot is capable of recognizing and executing vocal orders issued by users.

A virtual assistant based on AI technology, it can be applied to many electronic devices including mobile phones, televisions and AI sound boxes.

At the expo, Xiaoi's technology



Renowned network and information companies in China sign agreements with Guizhou's impoverished counties for poverty alleviation during the China International Big Data Expo 2018. YANG CHANGDING / FOR CHINA DAILY



A swirl of activities at this year's big data expo attract more than 120,000 visitors from Guizhou and the rest of the world. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A robot that sings and dances becomes a star attraction for a great number of visitors, especially children, at the expo. YANG JUN / CHINA DAILY



An advisors' committee for Guizhou's big data industry is founded during the expo. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

was showcased on the display screens standing in front of the conference halls. By “talking” with visitors and providing requested information, Xiaoi caught people's attention.

“The development of AI is closely related to big data. Deep learning technology, regarded as the hottest topic in the field of AI, is developed based on big data technology,” said Zhu Pinpin, founder and CEO of Xiaoi.

To bolster its booming big data technology, the province of Guizhou launched a series of sup-

porting policies for local enterprises during the expo, aiming to support them in both finance and human resources.

## Special funds

Guiyang High-tech Industrial Development Zone announced it would establish a fund worth 50 million yuan to back AI projects.

In addition, the zone will set up another 100-million-yuan fund, for the overall development of the AI-based industry.

This will focus on fields including intelligent robots, intel-

ligent hardware and software, smart sensors, virtual reality and smart cars.

The first national big data talent promotion association was also launched during the expo. A not-for-profit organization, its members comprise experts and academics from companies, universities and research institutes engaged in big data.

Hangzhou-based Yingna Group, a company specializing in technology and finance, joined forces with local Guizhou company Manbang Group, the

truck-hailing outfit, to exploit big data. They plan to mine and analyze useful data generated from truck drivers, and then provide customized financial services for those drivers.

“The new generation of information technology represented by big data and AI could generate great value through their application in the financial field, which could in turn provide more efficient and accurate services for those people engaged in traditional industries,” according to Ye Jinwu, founder of Yingna Group.

## What they say

During the China International Big Data Industry Expo 2018, which closed on Tuesday in Guiyang, Guizhou province, experts and industry insiders from China and abroad shared their opinions on Guizhou's big data industry and other development issues at the various forums and conferences.

I see Guizhou and Guiyang actively developing cutting-edge technology and the big data industry. Their actions can help protect lush mountains and rivers and can provide hope to impoverished areas. I believe Guizhou and Guiyang will be one of the richest places in China in the future, because they know the truth of future. They are willing to challenge what others do not dare to. This is the most hopeful part in poverty alleviation. Poverty alleviation is to give hope, not just money.

Jack Ma, chairman of Alibaba Group



In the past four years, there have been many changes in Guiyang. The most prominent part is that the city is becoming more energetic. According to the analysis of statistics acquired by WeChat and QQ during Spring Festival, the proportion of young users aged between 16 and 35 were very high among the whole population of Guiyang. We also observed that after Spring Festival, there were still a lot of young users coming to Guiyang from other cities. It shows that Guiyang has become a young and attractive city.

Ma Huateng, CEO of Tencent



As part of a national strategy, the big data industry receives great priority from the central government. President Xi Jinping has addressed the significance of developing big data on many occasions. The value and potential of big data has become recognized by society, and a large number of enterprises, funds and venture capital firms have poured investment into the big data field. At present, big data is in a healthy development period.

Mei Hong, academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences



The 2018 China International Big Data Expo is fantastic from a global perspective. It shows that China has taken a leading position in that field. I think the rest of the world is watching closely what is happening here as well as what is going to be happening in several years in the light of applications of big data. I am personally very excited about it and I think this is such a great opportunity to transform many things we do.

Troy Hanies, vice-president of SAS Institute Inc based in the United States



Earlier this year, our prime minister visited China to further enhance this golden era of the relations between the two countries. The collaboration between the United Kingdom and Guizhou is particularly strong and active. We have been actively engaged in the Big Data Expo in Guizhou since the very first event in 2015. The UK remains steadfast in our support for Guizhou and continues to develop a big data strategy in China and overseas.

Cecile El Beledi, British consul-general in Chongqing



# Dynamic provincial capital blazes the way in developing blockchain

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The city of Guiyang believes that opening and sharing of big data, big data security and blockchain technology are three key areas in the big data industry.

That view was aired by Wang Yuxiang, deputy mayor of Guiyang, at the 2018 China International Big Data Expo, which concluded on Tuesday in Guiyang.

The second session of a blockchain finance international summit forum — and several high-level dialogues and forums on blockchain technology — took place during the expo from Saturday to Tuesday.

Many leading experts and academics, representatives from leading companies and overseas specialists swapped ideas and opinions on the evolu-

tion and prospects for blockchain technology — and some of the great achievements and progress that Guiyang has made in this field were also highlighted during the expo.

Blockchain is a digital ledger system that uses sophisticated cryptographic techniques to create a permanent, unchangeable and transparent record of exchanges to trace each transaction.

A book titled *Guiyang's Big Data and Blockchain Industries*, edited by the Guiyang government about the city's practices and achievements in blockchain technology since 2014, was officially released at the blockchain summit forum.

“This is the first book focusing on a city's practices and experience in blockchain technology, and some experts believe that this book provides



Industry insiders attend a blockchain forum during the 2018 China International Big Data Industry Expo. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

good examples for other cities to develop big data and technology finance,” Wang said.

Guiyang has become something of a role model in the field of blockchain technology.

Starting in 2015, the city worked with Shenzhen Rural Commercial Bank to apply blockchain technology to the transaction of bills, enhancing the security of the trad-

ing process, reducing transaction costs and improving supervision and risk controls, according to Wang.

The mayor added that Guiyang also published a white

paper in December 2016 to explain how the government could use blockchain technology to optimize governance, especially in targeting poverty alleviation and managing State-owned assets.

Xiaomi-backed XW Bank, based in Chengdu, signed a cooperation agreement with the finance office of the Guiyang government at the summit forum.

“This is an important move to promote economic development in Guiyang and improve financial services,” said Liu Wenxian, president of the Guiyang Crowdfunding Finance Exchange.

The Guiyang Blockchain Lab, located in Guiyang Hi-tech Industrial Development Area, made an important move in blockchain recently.

Focused on blockchain technology and applications,

and jointly built by the Guiyang government and the Institute of Software of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the research center on May 28 launched a cloud service platform named Reactive Permission Chain — or RepChain.

The RepChain platform offers secure channels for various trading operations and aims to provide a safe, reliable and flexible technical solution for companies.

“We believed that blockchain will become an indispensable part of finance and the internet in the future,” said Yang Dong, an economics professor at Beijing-based Renmin University.

“And it can help the government to improve efficiency and reduce costs, boost economic growth and improve people's livelihoods in the coming years.”