

**IRON WOMAN**  
RAILWAY WORKER  
BUILDS FUTURE, P17



**LIFE SAVER**  
INTO BATTLE  
AGAINST AIDS, P24



# CHINADAILY

中國日報

**AFRICA  
WEEKLY**

JUNE 19-25, 2015

VOL 4 • NO 127 ISSN 2306-109X

www.chinadailyafrica.com

KSH50 • \$1 • R10 • BIRR10

## CLASH OF THE TITANS

ITS HIGH-SPEED TRAINS AND BUILT-IN-AN-INSTANT SKYSCRAPERS HAVE STUNNED THE WORLD.  
NOW, ROBOTS BORN IN CHINA THREATEN TO STEAL A MARCH ON THEIR RIVALS

By **JOSEPH CATANZARO,**  
**CHEN YINGQUN** and **TAN YINGZI**

**O**n a factory floor in western China, where 2,000 workers hammer and drill at a line of half-built cars that stretches away like a traffic jam without end, a lone robot tirelessly applies sealant to windcreens.

It is the first robotic worker in this part of

Changan Automotive's Chongqing production base, a sprawling complex in the municipality that churns out almost 1.5 million of the 2.6 million cars the Chinese company sells worldwide annually.

Able to do roughly the work of 10 people in a single eight-hour shift, the robotic arm heralds the transformation of traditional factories such as this one across China. It also presages an almighty battle — not between humans and their

soulless replacements, but between the world's robot manufacturers as they wrestle for lucrative market share.

China is the perfect battleground for this tussle, given that it is already the world's largest market for industrial robots.

Since 2009, robot makers from Europe, Japan and the US have been reaping the rewards of a boom in Chinese demand that has been increasing at an average of nearly 60 percent a year.

Now the country that has adopted robots like no one else wants to be the one that gives birth to more robots than anyone else, too.

In case anyone doubts the seriousness of these ambitions, Chinese officials threw down the gauntlet recently at the annual meeting of the China Robot Industry Alliance in Yongchuan, Chongqing, declaring that by 2030 their country would be one of the biggest robot manufacturers.

>> **ROBOTS, PAGE 6**

