



Blockchain heralds 'new era' of finance, management

Visitors to the 2017 China International Big Data Expo experience an online VR war game in a simulated tank. YANG JUN / CHINA DAILY

Administrative and financial services benefit from new web-based system, **Chen Meiling** reports.

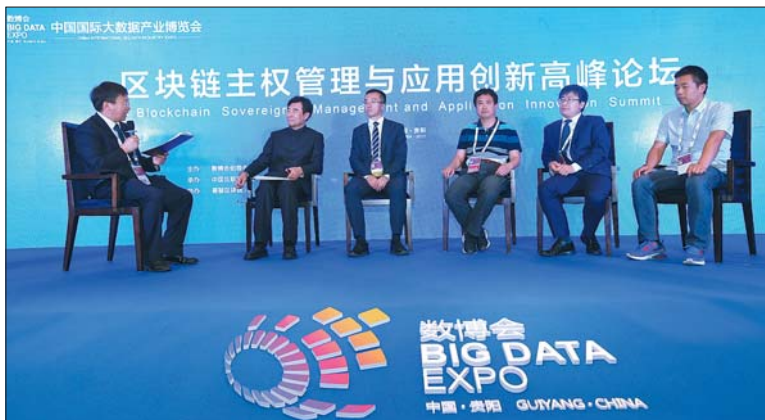
Southwest China's Guizhou province is perhaps best known for its soy-flavored Moutai white liquor. But in the future, people might also associate it with a technical term — blockchain.

"Three years ago, we realized big data is not just a technology, but a resource and an industry for a new era," said Chen Gang, Guiyang's former chief of the Communist Party of China and former member of the Guizhou CPC standing committee. He was speaking at a high-level dialogue on blockchain technology during the 2017 China International Big Data Expo held in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou, from May 25-28.

"Today, we see the blockchain as an integrated technology that could lead to digital reform and reconstruction of the order (of the industry). It could be a major turning point."

Guiyang published a white paper in December 2016 to explain how the government could use blockchain technology to optimize governance, boost economic growth and enhance people's livelihood in the coming years.

The technology allows participants to track items or transactions on a shared digital



Experts meet at the Blockchain Sovereign Management and Application Innovation Summit during the expo. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

ledger, where any new transaction will be added at the end of the chain and all records are error-free and impossible to be tampered with, according to the paper.

As stated in the white paper released by the Guiyang government, the application of blockchain technology can include sharing government data, supervision of power, targeted poverty alleviation and intelligent transportation, as well as supply chain finance and credit authentication for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Guiyang cooperated with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China in May concerning the management of a poverty alleviation fund through the emergence of the new blockchain technology.

Guiyang allocated 1.57 million yuan (\$229,000), the first of many poverty relief funds, through the blockchain man-

agement platform on May 17.

Wang Jingdong, vice-president of ICBC, said at the big data expo in Guiyang that the key to fund management lies in transparency and effective targeting.

"Guizhou, for example, set aside an overall fund of up to 300 billion yuan to target 4.93 million poor residents with more than 300 departments involved," he said.

"The blockchain, which allows traceable and unchangeable trading records, can make the whole process transparent and avoid corruption."

Moreover, the bank's financial services and the government's administrative examination and approval process can be linked through the shared ledger by contracts constructed in the blockchain, he added.

The technology can also improve efficiency due to the digitization of approval and

financial services. The government can observe real-time demand, payment and usage of funds through the platform.

Guo Rui, leader of Tencent's financial data and blockchain business, said: "The most important part between individuals is trust. The blockchain can reconstruct this kind of trust, thus realizing the flow of value," Guo said.

Tencent released its blockchain application white paper in April. It developed a blockchain product, TrustSQL, to provide trading, supervision, data analysis and risk control services for enterprises, which will be released on June 30.

Liu Duo, president of the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, said the blockchain would become an indispensable part of the internet in the future.

"The technology will be improved with broader application and closer links to the

“Today, we see the blockchain as an integrated technology that could lead to digital reform ...”

Chen Gang, Guiyang's former Party chief

cloud. The security and reliability of data in the blockchain should be enhanced. It will gradually become an important tool for regulation technology," said Liu.

Guiyang, at very early stage, has put forward 12 applicable circumstances for blockchain technology, including targeted poverty-alleviation, data trading, assets circulation and data supervision, said Chen Gang.

"Now the city has a very good industrial system and has attracted more than 100 enterprises to engage in entrepreneurship and innovation here," he said.

In the next step, they will accelerate the combination of the technology and real-world application, provide services for blockchain enterprises and institutions and establish more technological and applicable platforms.

The government has set aside an innovation fund of up to 651 million yuan to invest in blockchain companies, according to Chen.

Report: local big data industry to transform trade

By **JIANG XINGGUANG**
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17
enterprises

in the big data industry in Guizhou had an output value surpassing 1 billion yuan in 2016

Guizhou province released a white paper on big data development at a news conference at the 2017 China International Big Data Expo from May 25-28 in Guiyang, capital of the Southwest China province.

The paper — Big Data Development of Guizhou in 2016 — was co-written by the Development Research Center of Guizhou and the province's big data development administration, highlighting 10 achievements in the area's big data industry.

In 2016, a total of 15 billion yuan (\$2.2 billion) was invested in information infrastructure, according to the white paper.

It said that the "Guizhou on the Cloud" system convened 534 application systems with the highest recorded clicks of 1 billion per day.

Big data technology has been applied to the agricultural, industrial and service sectors and has thus enhanced public service and benefited the people. Among the 10 achievements is the establishment of regulations and important standards for the big data industry.

Ten predictions for the big data sector were released by the International Data Corporation (IDC). It predicted that in 2017, data-based earnings among one third of the top 500 enterprises around the world will be twice that of other products and services.

Seventy-five percent of enterprises and independent software vendors will embed at least one artificial intelligence or machine-learning function in their products by 2018 and the proportion will be higher in the area of business analytical tools.

Huang Bo, director of the Beijing Great Wall Enterprise Institute, made public the report of China's big data unicorn companies and made detailed interpretations at the news conference.

Four enterprises — Alibaba's financial affiliate Ant Financial, on-demand mobility giant Didi Chuxing, China's leading group-buying provid-

ers Meituan and Dianping, and online news aggregator Toutiao — are categorized as "super unicorn" companies with a valuation of more than \$10 billion each.

Most of the unicorn enterprises are in the finance, big data and logistics sectors, accounting for 65.52 percent of the national total, said the report.

The big data industry in Guizhou grew rapidly in 2016 with a year-on-year increase of 46 percent. The number of enterprises with an output value surpassing 1 billion yuan added up to 17.

China has become the world's largest e-commerce market. The sector has contributed to the transformation of traditional industries and cross-border online retailers have become the new hope of foreign trade growth, according to the report.

At the same time, a series of problems, including unbalanced regional development, unfair competition between new and old market players, and differences between online and offline market orders, need to be addressed with joint efforts from the government, enterprises and society, said the Guiyang Consensus released at the expo.

"Guizhou should make full use of the policy advantages in the comprehensive experimental zone and improve its market environment," said Zhong Zhenzhan, vice-president of IDC China.

He said that mechanisms to attract and foster trained professionals should be improved, and Guizhou needs to increase publicity and raise its profile in the global market.

"Exchanges and cooperation at home and abroad must be strengthened," said Zhong. "Guizhou's digital economy can achieve breakthroughs with its unique development path."



A group of children watch as a Xiaoi robot dances at the big data expo in Guiyang. YANG JUN / CHINA DAILY

Expo provides opportunities for global technological cooperation

By **JIANG XINGGUANG**

Foreign experts and officials discussed the future of big data development in China and expressed their wish to cooperate at the 2017 China International Big Data Expo, held from May 25-28 in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province.

Representatives from more than 20 United Kingdom big data companies and research institutes conducted an in-depth discussion with their Chinese counterparts at the "UK Day: UK-China Big Data Collaboration 2017" on May 27. Chinese companies attending included the Sichuan branch of China Mobile and ZTE.

"It's my second time here and I'm happy to see so many great UK enterprises in Guiyang," said Andrew Cockburn, head of the trade and technology

team at the UK's Department of International Trade.

Big data companies in the UK have achieved good results in several sectors, including smart cities, healthcare and finance. The UK is willing to boost cooperation with China in the big data sector to add value and reap benefits together, according to Cockburn.

For Jaya Skandamoorthy, president of BRE China, the collaboration opportunity lies in the green building sector.

"I think big data brings a huge opportunity to support green building, sustainable development and the urbanization of China," he said.

BRE China, a research-based organization offering expertise in many aspects of green building, was set up following the January 2011 visit by Premier Li Keqiang to BRE's head-



Foreign visitors learn about AliCloud through an interpreter at the big data expo in Guiyang. YANG JUN / CHINA DAILY

quarters in London, when he toured BRE's Innovation Park and invited the company to get involved in China's sustainable urbanization plan.

Jaya claimed that the green building sector is maturing in

China and that part of taking the next step forward would be to use data in a different way.

At the expo, Dell Technologies announced its plan to deepen cooperation with Guiyang and said that it will bring

22
countries

represented at the big data expo this year

research achievements in the artificial intelligence sector to the city.

Raymond Greene, United States consul general in Chengdu, Sichuan province, said Guiyang would become a center of cloud computing in China, adding that many famous US enterprises have opened branches in Guiyang.

In early 2016, Qualcomm invested 1.85 billion yuan (\$269.85 million) to set up a joint venture with Guizhou province to conduct research

and development of high-end server chips.

HP also opened centers focusing on modern agricultural big data trading and global business service in the Guiyang Comprehensive Free Trade Zone.

At the Sino-Israeli Big Data Innovation Cooperation Forum, Or Perelman, CEO and co-founder of ChromaWay, also expressed his wish to expand cooperation with big data companies in Guiyang and elsewhere in China.

"I think big data is all about the future because we are online 24/7. We are actively looking for partnerships in China and partners in Guiyang," said Perelman.

"Guiyang has been doing well with big data in finance and we want to see how we can cooperate in the future."

Corporate representatives from Israel's leading venture capital fund Pitango and Israeli technology transfer organization Ramot at Tel Aviv University also attended the conference.

Big data cooperation between enterprises in China and Israel is deepening as bilateral economic and trade exchanges get closer.

Both countries are exploring complementary cooperation in big data, internet innovation and blockchain technologies. An international coordinated development platform is expected to be built for enterprises and clients in China and Israel.

This year, the big data expo in Guiyang has been upgraded to a world-class big data-themed event, and has attracted dozens of companies from 22 countries, including the US, UK, Russia and India.