

CHINA

Intl service trade fair to open in September

By DU JUAN
dujuan@chinadaily.com.cn

The 2025 China International Fair for Trade in Services will open on Sept 10 at Beijing's Shougang Park, where about 200 achievements are expected to be showcased, a senior official said on Thursday.

Starting this year, the fair will be held annually on the second Wednesday of September at the park in Beijing's Shijingshan district, said Zhao Qizhou, director of the Beijing International Trade in Services Center, at a news conference.

"Companies such as Alibaba, Schneider, KPMG and GE Healthcare have already applied to present their digital, green and smart products and achievements at this year's fair," Zhao said.

Over 30 countries and regions, including Norway and Japan, as well as international organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, have expressed interest in participating, he added. The event, which was first held in 2012, will run for five days this year and will feature both themed and special exhibitions.

The themed section will host guest countries, guest provinces, international organizations and key nations, with Australia set to serve as the guest country. Australia is assembling the largest delegation in the fair's history.

"Australia is working with its partners to bring nearly 60 companies and institutions as part of its exhibition delegation. They will set up a 360-square-meter booth, the largest among all previous guest countries in both size and number of participants," Zhao said.

Australia also plans to present a "Chimney Light Show" and immersive cultural experiences at Shougang Park, along with business receptions and interactive events to promote integration across culture, commerce, tourism and sports.

Anhui province, as the guest province, will highlight its latest developments in technological innovation and the service industry.

The special exhibitions will focus on integrated development in services trade, featuring nine themed areas including telecommunications, computing and information services, financial

services, cultural tourism and education. New technologies such as digital tools and artificial intelligence will be showcased for their role in advancing the sector.

Organizers will also enhance the fair's digital platform and ticketing services this year, introducing a smart assistant powered by the DeepSeek model to offer bilingual Q&A and personalized services.

Previously held at both the China National Convention Center and Shougang Park, the event will now be held solely at Shougang Park starting this year.

A 3-square-kilometer area in the park, which used to be a major steel plant, is being transformed into an industrial-themed exhibition town. Organizers said the venue will offer a garden-style exhibition space this year, combining modern pavilions with preserved industrial relics.

Yu Jie, deputy mayor of Shijingshan district, said the district has launched studies and planning for the park's northern zone, aiming to build permanent venues and support facilities to establish Shougang Park as a multifunctional "exhibition town" with integrated spaces for exhibitions, leisure, shopping and accommodation.

"We welcome top domestic and international exhibition organizers and professional service agencies to join in planning, promoting and designing the 'exhibition town' project," Yu said.

This year's conference space will total about 18,100 square meters to meet the needs of forums and other events, said Jiang Nan, deputy general manager of Shougang Group Co.

"We will construct a garden-style exhibition space this year," Jiang said, highlighting the combination of industrial heritage and natural landscapes.

The exhibition space will include themed venues, public service areas, green zones and flexible open spaces designed to foster a modern yet historically grounded environment.

As a leading global event for the services trade, CIFTIS offers companies around the world a platform to showcase their capabilities and explore collaboration opportunities.

Back in its nest

While on patrol, a worker returns a red-crowned crane chick that had fallen into the water nearby to its nest at the Zhalong National Nature Reserve in Heilongjiang province on Wednesday. During this breeding season, the reserve has recorded 15 pairs of free-range red-crowned cranes nesting, laying eggs and hatching 24 chicks. So far, 14 chicks of the chicks have survived.

GUO JUNFENG / FOR CHINA DAILY



Guideline to regulate use of artificial intelligence in schools

Educators, parents urged to ensure age-appropriate utilization of new tools

By ZOU SHUO
zoushuo@chinadaily.com.cn

Primary school students in China are prohibited from independently using artificial intelligence tools that generate open-ended content, while educators must ensure that AI can complement but not replace human-led teaching, according to a new guideline issued on Monday by the Ministry of Education.

The 2025 edition of the guideline, released by the ministry's committee on basic education teaching guidance, sets standards for the use of generative AI in primary and secondary schools. It emphasizes age-appropriate use, risk prevention and ethical considerations as AI tools such as ChatGPT and DeepSeek are gaining momentum in classrooms.

The guideline aims to standardize the ethical and appropriate use of generative AI while addressing concerns such as privacy risks, academic integrity and overreliance on technology.

Under the guideline, primary school students are not allowed to independently use open-ended AI content generators, which could allow them to use AI to do their assignments for them. Middle school students may explore the logical structure of AI-generated content, while high school students are permitted to engage in inquiry-based learning that involves understanding AI's technical principles.

A senior official with the committee said the restrictions are meant to ensure age-appropriate use of AI and prevent younger students from becoming overly dependent on the technology.

Students are also banned from submitting AI-generated content as original work, using AI to cheat or relying too heavily on the technology for creative tasks without applying critical thinking abilities.

The guideline tasks educational authorities with formulating localized AI management policies, establishing data protection rules, launching ethical review mecha-

nisms and creating dynamic "whitelists" of approved AI tools. The document underscores the importance of balancing technological innovation with students' cognitive development and maintaining human-centered pedagogy.

Teachers are required to ensure that AI plays only a supplementary role in education. Direct use of AI for evaluating students, answering exam questions or processing sensitive data — such as personal information — are strictly prohibited.

Schools are urged to adopt differentiated AI strategies, avoid a one-size-fits-all approach and strengthen data security measures. The guideline also advises parents to supervise their children's AI use, protect their personal information and prioritize emotional engagement over reliance on technology.

The document outlines plans to establish a tiered AI education system covering all levels of primary and secondary education. Students will progress from basic cognitive understanding in primary school to deeper analysis in middle school and applied innovation in high school.

"AI is a strategic technology driving a new wave of technological and industrial transformation," a senior ministry official said. "It has already reshaped everyday life and set education on a new course of reform and development."

The official said developing AI education in elementary and secondary schools is essential to align with global technological trends, support national development and cultivate future innovation talent.

At the primary level, the focus will be on fostering interest and offering hands-on AI experiences. In middle school, students will delve into AI logic and problem-solving, gaining theoretical and practical understanding. At the high school level, students will apply what they've learned to design and optimize AI models while developing interdisciplinary and systems-level thinking.

The guideline also offers examples of how generative AI can enhance education. For students, AI can enable personalized learning, interactive inquiry and deeper reading comprehension. It can also provide mental health support and help students with special needs overcome learning barriers.

For teachers, AI can assist in lesson planning, classroom instruction, tutoring and research, helping improve efficiency and resource use through data analysis and content generation. School administrators can use AI for document drafting, data processing and decision-making to improve governance and operations.

The ministry said it will increase investment in AI education infrastructure and gradually establish AI education bases in primary and secondary schools. It also plans to offer more training programs for teachers to improve their understanding and use of AI tools.

Support for rural schools will be strengthened, the official said, with greater teacher exchanges and resource sharing aimed at bridging the AI education gap between urban and rural areas.

Yu Dongdong, the mother of a sixth-grade student in Beijing, said she began restricting her son's use of Doubao, ByteDance's large language model, after noticing how advanced his AI-assisted essays had become.

"The essays were based on his real experiences, but they had such clear themes, beautiful language and perfect structure that frightened me a little," she said. "They didn't sound like something a child of his age could write."

Yu said her son cannot use AI-generated content during school tests, and she feared the tool might make him lazy. She now encourages him to write his own essays first, then compare them with AI-generated versions and learn from the differences.

"This way, he keeps the human side — his flaws, his innocence," she added.

18-year-old honored for saving classmate's life

By ZHAO RUIXUE in Jinan
zhaoruixue@chinadaily.com.cn

Jiang Zhaopeng, an 18-year-old medical student, faced a life-or-death test on Saturday — not in an exam hall, but in the backseat of a car, where he performed life-saving CPR on a classmate who went into cardiac arrest.

Jiang and his classmate were heading to take the spring college entrance exam when the emergency unfolded unexpectedly. Both attend Shandong City Service Technician College in Yantai, a coastal city in Shandong province.

At about 8:10 am, the two boarded a ride-hailing car bound for the testing site. Just a minute later, Jiang's classmate collapsed onto his lap, showing signs of a heart attack, seizure and cardiac arrest.

"I thought he was just tired at first," Jiang said. But then the classmate began gasping and convulsing, violently kicking the front seat before suddenly going limp. He soon stopped breathing.

Drawing on first aid skills learned in school, Jiang quickly sprang into action. He laid his classmate flat and began performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, alternating with rescue breathing.

"Go to the hospital," Jiang told the driver, Wang Tao.

Wang alerted the local traffic police and sped to the hospital, running six red lights and arriving in just seven minutes — half the usual time.

Only after ensuring his classmate was under professional care

did Jiang notify school officials about the emergency situation. He then rushed to the exam site, but arrived too late to take the 9 am Chinese language test.

Doctors later confirmed that Jiang's classmate would recover without brain damage.

"The first four minutes of CPR in the car were absolutely vital," said Yang Haiyan, head of the emergency department at the East Hospital of Yantai Hospital.

"The patient received 29 minutes of resuscitation in the hospital and eight defibrillations before his heartbeat stabilized at 8:50 am," Yang said.

Though he missed the exam, Jiang said he has no regrets about his decision.

"Exams can be retaken, but a life cannot," he said.

The story quickly went viral after it was shared online, drawing widespread praise from netizens.

"Without Jiang and the driver Wang, our child wouldn't have survived the 40-minute cardiac arrest," the survivor's parents wrote in the comment section of the video.

Four days after the incident, education authorities arranged a make-up exam with a backup test paper for Jiang.

"I'm so grateful for this make-up exam," he said.

The spring college entrance exam is a crucial opportunity for vocational school students like Jiang to pursue higher education.

Both Jiang and Wang have received official commendations from Yantai's local authorities and were honored as model individuals for their actions. They have also been recommended as candidates for the "China Good Person List" for the second quarter of 2025.



Students use AI tools to modify their essays at a primary school in Nantong, Jiangsu province, on April 28. ZHAI HUIYONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Experts stress role of critical thinking in education

By ZHAO YIMENG and LIU KUN in Wuhan

As artificial intelligence rapidly transforms education and the workplace, college students must master new skills to thrive in a world increasingly driven by intelligent machines, experts said on Thursday during the ongoing 2025 World Digital Education Conference in Wuhan, Hubei province.

Jacques Fremont, president and vice-chancellor of the University of Ottawa, called AI a "double-edged sword" that challenges educators to ensure students retain the ability to think independently.

"If people stop thinking for themselves and always rely on machine-generated knowledge, they will not learn how to think," he said.

Fremont emphasized the importance of critical thinking and valuing information integrity.

"They need to assess the quality and veracity of the information generated by AI tools," he said, adding that students' autonomous judgment will be key to the future of education and science.

John Hopcroft, a Turing Award laureate and professor emeritus at Cornell University, said education systems must adapt to a future in which automation may replace many jobs.

"We are entering an information age where only a small fraction of the population may be needed to produce goods and services," he said.

Hopcroft said education must focus on producing quality talent capable of transitioning into the era of intelligence. He cited "educability" — the uniquely human capacity to learn and evolve — as a core advantage over other species.

"Helping students discover what

they enjoy and encouraging them to pursue it will be critical," he said.

Zhang Pingwen, an academician with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and president of Wuhan University, stressed the importance of building digital capabilities.

"With powerful new tools, what matters most is how well students can use them," Zhang said. "Data is only valuable in the hands of those with the skills to apply it. Otherwise, it becomes a burden."

He said universities must go beyond traditional knowledge transmission to prioritize the cultivation of values, problem-solving abilities and digital literacy.

"How students formulate questions when using AI tools is itself a deep skill," Zhang said. "Education must keep pace with new technologies."

China's Education Minister Huai

Jinpeng, in a keynote speech at the conference, said it is essential to guide students in the responsible use of AI.

"We need to promote the integration of AI courses across primary, secondary and higher education, and accelerate the development of core AI textbooks and learning resources," Huai said.

He also called for strengthening the regulatory framework around AI tools to ensure data security and personal privacy, while effectively preventing misinformation, algorithmic bias and AI hallucinations.

Contact the writers at
zhaoyimeng@chinadaily.com.cn



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