

CHINA

Platforms face stringent new privacy rules

Draft threatens heavy penalties for repeated or massive data incidents

By ZHAO YIMENG
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China aims to enhance the protection of personal information, ensuring the legal rights of individuals and promoting the healthy development of the platform economy, according to new draft regulations released on Saturday.

The draft "regulations on personal information protection for large online platforms" were released by the Cyberspace Administration of China and the Ministry of Public Security to solicit public comments.

According to the draft regulations, personal information collected and generated in China should be stored domestically. If there is a need to transfer the information abroad, platforms should comply with national data export security regulations.

Platforms are required to strengthen technical and managerial measures to prevent and address risks associated with illegal overseas data transfers.

The draft also stipulates that personal information must be stored in data centers that are located in China and meet national security standards.

Moreover, online platform service providers must offer convenient methods and channels for individuals to access, correct, supplement, and delete their personal information, as well as to delete their accounts.

When an individual requests the transfer of their personal information to a designated personal information processor, the service provider should complete the transfer within 30 working days of receiving the request, the draft said.

In cases where platforms show serious deficiencies in personal information protection, such as repeated violations or significant data breaches affecting large numbers of users, authorities may mandate compliance audits and risk assessments by third-party professional organizations.

Infractions include a personal information security incident resulting in the leakage, alteration, loss, or destruction of the personal information of over 1 million individuals or sensitive personal information of over 100,000 individuals, the draft said.

Platforms that are found incapable of ensuring data security may be required to store data in third-party data centers that comply with regulations, it added.

The draft encourages the use of national network identity authentication services, data labeling technologies, and personal information protection certifications to enhance data protection levels.

The public is invited to submit feedback through various channels, and complaints about violations can be reported to authorities, who are required to respond within 15 working days.

The CAC and Ministry of Public Security emphasize the importance of confidentiality for all parties involved, including government departments and third-party organizations, regarding personal privacy, business secrets, and other sensitive information encountered during their duties.

Public consultation on the draft regulations is open until Dec 22, according to the statement CAC released on its official WeChat account.

Shanghai team builds 7-min dementia detector

By ZHOU WENTING in Shanghai
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A team from Shanghai Jiao Tong University announced on Friday the successful development of China's first intelligent rapid screening system for language disorders in the elderly, which can help detect early signs of neurological and cognitive diseases, and thus promote early screening and diagnosis.

These diseases include dementia, stroke, and Parkinson's disease.

By answering questions based on audio content and describing pictures, an individual usually completes a test from the system in about seven minutes, and can obtain the result instantly.

The team said the system, which offers the tests at a cost of 0.01 yuan each time, is intended for routine checks in hospitals and community centers for the elderly, as well as for daily use in nursing homes and family settings via smart phones, tablets, and computers.

Unlike some developed countries, including the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, where such systems for assessing elderly language health are advanced and comprehensive, China has not previously explored this area, said experts. One of the core challenges is developing a scientific and appropriate set of test questions.

Led by Chang Hui, the team from the National Center for Language and Well-being at Shanghai Jiao Tong University leveraged its expertise in pathological linguistics and language testing to create a system that includes constructs, test items, and scoring standards.

They developed this screening system by also drawing on the university's experience of organizing the national College English Test.

To establish scientific evaluation standards, the team collected data from over 1,000 elderly individuals aged 50 to 79 across various regions in the country, considering factors such as age, education level, cognitive ability, gender, occupation, and dialect. Using this data, they applied regression norm-setting methods to build a hierarchical regression model and adhered to norm-referenced testing procedures for standard setting.

In order to develop an intelligent scoring and feedback system, the team collaborated with the School of Medical Devices at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology.

The system they developed uses a language evaluation framework and large-scale pre-trained language models to address the inefficiencies and inconsistencies of traditional manual evaluations, enabling automated, multi-dimensional, and highly stable intelligent scoring of language expression abilities.

"To address the inherent volatility of large models in generative scoring, we developed a composite intelligent scoring method that combines 'multi-expert parallel scoring' with 'iterative self-calibration,'" said Zhang Tianyi, a lecturer at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology.

"This approach allows the system to learn from both correct and incorrect samples, enhancing scoring quality," she said.

Chang said, "The system is currently being piloted in several hospitals across China, including in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region as well as Gansu and Hainan provinces. The next step is to expand the question bank, so that an individual can take multiple tests in the system."

Larger than life



Residents and tourists enjoy a day out among giant scarecrow sculptures at an art festival in Bozhou, Anhui province, on Saturday. The exhibition showcases the creativity of straw art through more than 40 large-scale installations. LIU QINLI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Guizhou's new rail line to aid tourism

By YANG JUN and LIU BOQIAN
in Guiyang

A new high-speed rail line in Southwest China's Guizhou province, scheduled to open at the end of November, will connect all city-level administrative regions in the province to the national high-speed rail network and is expected to boost local tourism.

Construction on the 99-kilometer line linking Panzhou and Xingyi began in 2018. Designed for 250 km per hour operations, the line will form a T-shaped junction with the existing Shanghai-Kunming high-speed railway and put Xingyi — capital of the Qianxinan Bouyei and Miao autonomous prefecture — on the high-speed map.

Guizhou's unique natural scenery and ethnic cultures have long made it a popular tourist destination. But mountain roads have limited range, and visitors often have to transfer through the provincial capital, Guiyang.

"The opening of the rail marks Xingyi's full integration into the national high-speed network and injects powerful momentum into the development of Xingyi's tourism industry," said Zhou Ying,

deputy mayor of Xingyi.

The new route will cut travel time between Xingyi and Guiyang to about two hours, creating new opportunities for growth for the local tourism sector.

Ma Yucan, general manager of Xingyi Wanfenglin Tourism Industry Operation Co, said tourists previously relied on long, uncomfortable bus trips to reach the popular Wanfenglin Scenic Area.

"High-speed rail will greatly improve the visitor experience and give people more travel choices. Transport will no longer be a barrier," Ma said. "If visitors save time on commuting, they can spend more time exploring other attractions instead of rushing back after a single stop."

Local innkeeper Wang Xiyun, who runs two guesthouses in the Wanfenglin area, said businesses are already preparing for increased visitor flows.

"The opening of the high-speed rail has been eagerly anticipated. Both residents and business owners feel their quality of life is rising. Scenic area statistics suggest daily visitor numbers could increase by about 30,000," Wang said.

Wang added that Guiyang's role

as the province's tourism hub gives it national reach. Listed among the Chinese cities offering 240-hour visa-free transit, the provincial capital also serves as an international transfer point.

"This is a chance to show people that beyond the big cities, the mountains of Guizhou offer destinations worth staying for," she said.

According to Guizhou Railway Investment Group, the project investor, the line will create a one-to-two-hour high-speed travel circle that connects Guiyang with eight other prefectural centers in the province. The route is expected to improve the regional rail network, promote local economic development and strengthen inter-regional connectivity.

"Once this railway is completed, it will not only make local travel easier but also support Qianxinan's integration into Guizhou's broader socio-economic framework. It will help ecological protection, tourism and economic development," said Liu Weidong, deputy Party secretary of Guizhou Railway Investment Group.

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Ancient chic

Models showcase the latest han-fu designs at a new collection debut event in Caoxian, Shandong province, on Saturday. Known as one of the leading han-fu production and sales hubs, Caoxian boasts a complete industry chain — from original design and manufacturing to performance displays and online marketing. GUO XULEI / XINHUA

State firms build greener supply chains

By HOU LIQIANG in Belem, Brazil
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China's centrally-administered State-owned enterprises have demonstrated notable progress in developing green supply chains, as evidenced by the widespread adoption of measures to enhance green and low-carbon design and procurement, according to a report.

Unveiled at this year's United Nations climate change conference, or COP30, on Wednesday in Belem, Brazil, the report noted increasingly improved green supply chain management systems among central SOEs.

Roughly 57 percent of them have established leadership bodies for green supply chain management, said the report, which was compiled by the CSR Cloud Research Institute, under the guidance of Bureau of Social Responsibility of State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council.

The report reveals that a large number of these companies have either already established, or are in the process of developing green supply chain regulations. Specifically, about 65 percent have implemented their own internal regulations, while nearly 18 percent are in the process of drafting them, it said.

It further noted that 75 percent

of these companies have incorporated green and low-carbon supply chains into their overall development strategies.

Remarkable advancements have also been observed in the transformation of their entire supply chain, especially in green design, procurement, production and logistics.

The report said about 99 percent of central SOEs are strengthening green and low-carbon design. These SOEs have optimized green procurement management, with almost 95 percent prioritizing green products. In addition, nearly 93 percent of these companies are improving green and low-carbon management in production processes, the report said, citing China Mobile, a major mobile operator in China, as an example. China Mobile has introduced green electricity in its production process, it added.

The report also highlighted a series of challenges central SOEs face in promoting the transformation of their supply chains.

Among them are the lack of unified standards in China to evaluate green supply chain construction, the absence of major preferential policies, and immature green technologies with high application costs.

Roughly 95 percent of China's central SOEs, for example, look forward to seeing policy or economic incentives to facilitate their endeavor.

The report also listed a series of suggestions for these companies to further enhance their green supply chains. Among its recommendations, for example, is the creation of dedicated green supply chain teams, coupled with enhanced training to build necessary skills.

The report also urged central SOEs to integrate core sustainability metrics, including supply chain emissions and green procurement ratios, into their performance evaluation systems and tie them to compensation.

Li Jun, head of SASAC's social responsibility bureau, pledged consistent efforts from central SOEs to promote global climate efforts.

Upholding principles advocated by the Chinese government, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, China's central SOEs will take practical actions to support and advance global climate efforts, and fulfill their due responsibilities in emission reduction and social responsibility.

"We are ready to work with enterprises around the world — under the shared commitment to green development — to effectively allocate resources for scientific and technological development and innovation and strengthen cooperation in green infrastructure, green energy, green transportation and green finance," Li said.

Macao eyes five-year plan for growth

By WU KUNLING and
WILLIAM XU in Hong Kong

All sectors of the Macao Special Administrative Region have been urged to grasp the essence of the fourth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in implementing the nation's latest strategic plans concerning Macao and aligning the city's development with the national agenda.

The plenary session, held from Oct 20 to 23, adopted the recommendations of the CPC Central Committee for formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) for national economic and social development.

A publicity delegation sent by the central government organized two seminars in Macao on Saturday to discuss the spirit of the fourth plenary. The seminars — one held in the morning and another in the afternoon — drew more than 1,200 participants, including government officials, lawmakers, judicial officers and community leaders.

Addressing the morning session, Zheng Xincong, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, urged participants to use the event to unite and lead all sectors of society in learning and promoting the spirit of the plenary session.

He also encouraged the public to gain a deeper understanding of the major tasks and significant opportunities presented by the 15th Five-Year Plan, and to further integrate into the national development framework.

Macao Chief Executive Sam Hou-fai said the nation will continue to "write new chapters" in economic development and social stability during the 15th Five-Year Plan period, providing broad space and greater opportunities for Macao, particularly in its moderately diversified economic development, people's livelihoods and public administrative reforms.

He said Macao will seize the opportunities presented by the 15th Five-Year Plan while advancing the formulation of its own Third Five-Year Plan for Social and Economic Development (2026-2030) to promote growth.

Members of the publicity delegation included Hou Jianguo, president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Zhu Weidong, deputy director of both the Office of the Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission and the Office of the Central Rural Work Leading Group.

Hou outlined the strategic tasks and major measures for the 15th Five-Year Plan period, particularly the national goal of building the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area into an international science and innovation hub.

He said Macao can integrate its strengths in traditional Chinese medicine, integrated circuits, space science, as well as life and health sciences with Guangdong's advantages in infrastructure and application scenarios to promote high-quality development.

Hou also suggested that Macao train more talent through cross-border collaborations and make use of its ties with Portuguese-speaking economies to attract global professionals.

Zhu said Macao should ensure that the objectives of its Third Five-Year Plan align with the recommendations of the nation's 15th Five-Year Plan, and continue to highlight its roles as "one center, one platform and one base," while promoting moderate economic diversification.

Members of the delegation visited the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin on Sunday to learn about the region's development.

The team will host seminars in Hong Kong on Tuesday on the essence of the fourth plenary session.

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