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Guizhou banks on AI strength

Province to build six pillar industries, integrate big data into development

By **LIU BOQIAN** and **YANG JUN** in Guiyang

Digital and intelligent industries will remain a key focus for Southwest China's Guizhou province over the next five years, cementing its status as a major computing hub, Governor Li Bingjun said at a news conference on Monday.

"Industries including intelligent computing have driven much of Guizhou's growth in recent years. During the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), we will focus our efforts on nurturing and building six pillar industries, including digital and intelligent industries," Li said at the briefing where the province's priorities were outlined.

Although Guizhou is a mountainous province, its big data industry, which began to take shape in 2013, has helped place it at the forefront of China's digital economy.

Major data centers have been established in the province, including facilities operated by tech giants Huawei, Tencent and Apple, as well as the three national telecom carriers.

By January this year, Guizhou had 50 data centers under construction or in operation, with total computing power exceeding 160 EFLOPS.

The scale of Guizhou's digital and intelligent industries rose 9.8 percent year-on-year in 2025, while employment in the sector surpassed 163,000 people.

According to the province's outline for the 15th Five-Year Plan, released earlier this year, the digital economy is the first sector listed in its modern industrial system.

The plan covers intelligent computing, industry-specific large language models, the digital transformation of the economy and society, and sets a target of 500 billion yuan ($73.71 billion) in output value for digital and intelligent industry clusters by 2030.

At the briefing, Cai Chaolin, vice-governor of Guizhou, said artificial intelligence will build on the province's data industry foundation and be integrated more deeply into economic and social development.

For industrial development, Cai said the province is nurturing AI applications in precise mineral exploration, refined mining, coal mine disaster monitoring and early warning, and the upgrading of baijiu brewing techniques. In public services, it is developing AI-assisted medical checkups and diagnosis, education and training, and elderly care monitoring.

Cai cited the tourism AI agent Huangxiaoxi as one example.

Through the agent's interface, users can customize routes and book tickets and hotels with a single sentence. The agent also draws on Guizhou's tourism database and updates in real time, tracking visitor flows, dining discounts and other dynamic information to provide route planning and crowd alerts.

The plan also calls for industry-specific large models to be deployed in sectors including *baijiu* production, coal mining, urban management, education and forest fire warnings.

Cai said Guizhou will also leverage its strengths in power resources and computing capacity to provide efficient computing services nationwide.

"The goal is to allow market players to use Guizhou's computing power as easily as using water and electricity," he said.

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Major weather systems trigger record rainfall

By **ZHAO YIMENG**
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Above: Rescue workers conduct search operations at a disaster-hit site in Yongchuan district of Chongqing on Monday after torrential rain triggered flash floods and landslides. HE PENGLEI / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Left: Residents navigate rain-soaked streets in Fuyang, Anhui province, on Monday. LU QIJIAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

The recent wave of torrential rainfall and severe flooding has been driven by an unusual combination of atmospheric circulation patterns, including an intensifying subtropical high-pressure system, against a backdrop of global warming, meteorologists said.

Heavy rainfall continued to batter large parts of the country during the early flood season. Since the start of the season on April 1, average national precipitation reached 110.1 millimeters by Friday, about 18.6 percent above the seasonal norm, according to the National Climate Center.

Sun Mingyang, an engineer at the center, said extreme rainfall events have been widespread across both northern and southern China. A total of 76 national-level meteorological stations recorded daily precipitation that broke historical springtime records.

Among them, Enping in Guangdong province recorded 597.7 mm of rainfall in a single day, while Jingzhou in Hubei province, Shangyou in Jiangxi province and Guigang in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region also exceeded historical daily rainfall records.

Southern China has faced repeated rainstorms, flash flooding and severe convective weather, including thunderstorms and strong winds, Sun said.

Meteorologists said the recent rainfall was largely caused by the combined influence of several major atmospheric systems.

Gao Hui, chief forecaster at the center, said the western Pacific subtropical high, a major weather system influencing East Asia, has remained unusually strong and positioned farther west and north than normal over the past week.

"The system's western flank has continuously transported warm and moist air from tropical oceans into inland China, helping fuel heavy rainfall," Gao said.

Since mid-May, the northern boundary of the subtropical high has extended to around or north of 27 degrees latitude, roughly corresponding to its typical position in June rather than May, he said.

The moisture transport associated with the system has already reached Hunan and Hubei provinces. At the same time, active cold air masses moving southward from midlatitude regions have collided with warm and humid air, triggering intense precipitation, he added.

Forecasters also said the South China Sea summer monsoon is approaching its onset stage and is expected to set in soon.

Normally, within two weeks of the monsoon's onset, stronger southwesterly airflows carry abundant moisture from the tropical Indian Ocean and the South China Sea into East Asia, significantly increasing convective rainstorms south of the Yangtze River.

Sheng Jie, chief forecaster at the National Meteorological Center, said southwesterly warm and humid airflows have strengthened since mid-May, supplying eastern and central China with abundant moisture needed for extreme rainfall.

Meanwhile, long-term warming trends and the development of El Nino have created background conditions more conducive to extreme rainfall.

Chen Lijuan, chief forecaster at the National Climate Center, said sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific have continued to rise, with warming conditions associated with El Nino emerging in May.

"The tropical atmosphere has responded rapidly to the ocean warming, which favors strengthening of the western Pacific subtropical high and creates favorable moisture conditions for increased rainfall in southern China," Chen said.

Science sparks curiosity

Students interact with a robotic dog during a campus science and technology festival at a school in Qingdao, Shandong province, on Monday. The event followed a call for an eight-day nationwide activity after the 10th National Science and Technology Workers Day on Sunday. WANG HAIBIN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Shenzhen showcases its tech prowess at intl expo

By **ATLAS SHAO** in Hong Kong
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The five-day 22nd China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair concluded on Monday, having drawn more than 6,300 exhibitors and millions of visitors from home and abroad — a testament to its position as a window for global cultural exchanges and local cultural promotion.

As China's largest cultural expo, this year's event — which spanned about 160,000 square meters — offered a rich array of performances, lectures and interactive activities. A dedicated exhibition area was set up for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation economies, serving as a cultural preview of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, to be held in Shenzhen in November.

More than 120,000 cultural exhibits were displayed at the Shenzhen World Exhibition and Convention Center from Thursday to Monday, with 260 events featuring the launch of new products.

Guangdong province's exhibition group organized 69 activities this year, including 10 product debut events, 30 trade promotion and negotiation sessions, and 16 consumption-boosting activities. The group secured deals expected to attract more than 10 billion yuan ($1.47 billion) in direct investment.

As the host city, Shenzhen fully leveraged the event to showcase its prowess in artificial intelligence. At an AI-themed exhibition area, 52 exhibitors unveiled more than 60 new products.

Flagship products from Shenzhen included AI applications developed by Tencent, an intelligent cockpit system from carmaker BYD, and intelligent robots from technology company Ubtech.

Exhibitor Liu Bin from Tianjin, who has attended the fair several times, said this year's event featured more AI elements and increased investment in the cultural and creative sectors.

Liu, who runs a cultural and creative company in Shenzhen, said the city's mature industrial chain and convenient logistics network have enabled the company to produce better products at lower costs.

"The fair offered good opportunities to communicate with others and learn more about the market," he said.

> "We hope to use intellectual properties to introduce people to Lingjiatan culture, thereby boosting cultural tourism."
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> **Xu Jianzhong,** an exhibitor at the 22nd China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair

Zhang Xiaoshan, an intellectual property manager at the Bangkok-based Ignite World Public Company, worked at the Thailand booth in the APEC exhibition area. She said the company hopes to build more business-to-business connections through the event and promote its intellectual properties to the vast Chinese mainland market.

The fair also served as a window for regional culture.

"We hope to use intellectual properties to introduce people to Lingjiatan culture, thereby boosting cultural tourism," said exhibitor Xu Jianzhong.

At an exhibition area themed "Creative China", Xu displayed his company's latest intellectual property products, hoping to use the appealing images to help more people learn about the artistic inspiration behind them — the Lingjiatan culture in Anhui province, an ancient cultural heritage site dating back more than 5,000 years.

"The enthusiasm at the exhibition exceeded our expectations," he said.

Xu's team had 400 prepared brochures on the fair's opening day, and only two remained by the end of the day. A blind-box toy series launched by his company sold more than 500 units on the first day.

Visitor Sissi Zhang praised the fair's upgrades, noting that this year's event had incorporated more elements catering to younger generations and aligned more closely with international aesthetics.

"I was networking throughout the day and couldn't manage to see the entire fair," she said.

Xizang's power grid lights up youth's career and life

By **WANG JINGYAO**
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When Xu Tao first arrived in Chamdo, Xizang autonomous region, in 2016, he did not expect that the plateau city would become the place where he would build his career, start a family and raise a child.

Xu, from Shangluo, Shaanxi province, graduated from Weinan Normal University. After graduation, he worked in the Ningxia Hui autonomous region for a period of time.

Later, after hearing that some of his classmates and seniors had found suitable platforms for personal development in Xizang, he also became curious about the distant region. That year he came to Chamdo through open recruitment and joined the State Grid Chamdo Power Supply Co.

Xu's decision marked a turning point in his own life. It also placed him within a much broader story.

Data shows that by 2024, over the past 30 years of paired-up assistance to Xizang, 10 batches of nearly 12,000 officials and professionals had been selected and sent to work on the plateau. At the same time young people like Xu have also come to Xizang through open recruitment, talent introduction programs or enterprise hiring mechanisms, taking root in sectors such as electricity, education, healthcare and transportation, and integrating their personal choices into Xizang's development.

After arriving in Chamdo, Xu worked on rotation at substations, power plants and the power dispatching and control center. At that time, Chamdo's power grid was developing rapidly.

Xu recalled that between 2017 and 2019, what impressed him most was that "a substation seemed to be put into operation every few days". In his view, the priority at that stage was to solve the question of whether power supply was available at all.

Xu Tao

As more substations were put into operation, Chamdo's power grid entered a new stage.

Since the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), the focus has gradually shifted from "whether it exists" to "how good it is". Construction standards have been aligned with State Grid standards, while technological upgrades, infrastructure operation and maintenance, and distribution network automation have been advanced to improve power supply reliability.

For Xu, this means that power work is no longer just about delivering electricity to more places, but making the grid more stable, reliable and capable of supporting local production and daily life.

Over the past decade, Xu has grown from a front-line duty officer to a professional manager and now to a management position at the dispatching and control center.

He said the power industry is closely related to people's livelihoods and local economic development — and what matters most is perseverance. Looking back, Xu said his own growth has taken place in step with the development of Chamdo and Xizang's power grid.

Work is not the only thing that has changed Xu's life over the past decade.

His wife, also from Shaanxi, graduated from his alma mater. In 2016, Xu came to Chamdo first to "test the waters".

A year later his wife also arrived through Chamdo's education talent introduction program and became a primary school mathematics teacher at a village school in Karub district.

One works at the dispatching center, safeguarding the city's power grid; the other stands on a village school platform, accompanying children as they grow. The couple came from Shaanxi to Chamdo, where they have worked and had a child, who is not yet two years old.

Xu said they plan to continue working in Chamdo for the long term and hope their child can study by their side in the future. For them, Xizang is no longer just a workplace, but a home where they are putting down roots.

Looking back on the past decade, Xu said he has "no regrets". At first he also felt uncertain about the distance, the remoteness, and the high altitude.

However, over time, he found his place and integrated his personal development into the broader development of the company, the locality and the country. Behind such development are countless ordinary people like Xu who have stayed at their posts: some build roads, some teach, some treat patients, and some safeguard the power grid.

Xu compares himself to an "ordinary screw" on a vehicle. What matters most, he said, is to "settle down, bend down, and persevere in ordinary work". It is precisely such quiet perseverance, firmly rooted in ordinary posts across the plateau, that helps support a brighter, more stable and warmer life in today's Xizang.

Zhong Yutong contributed to this story.

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