

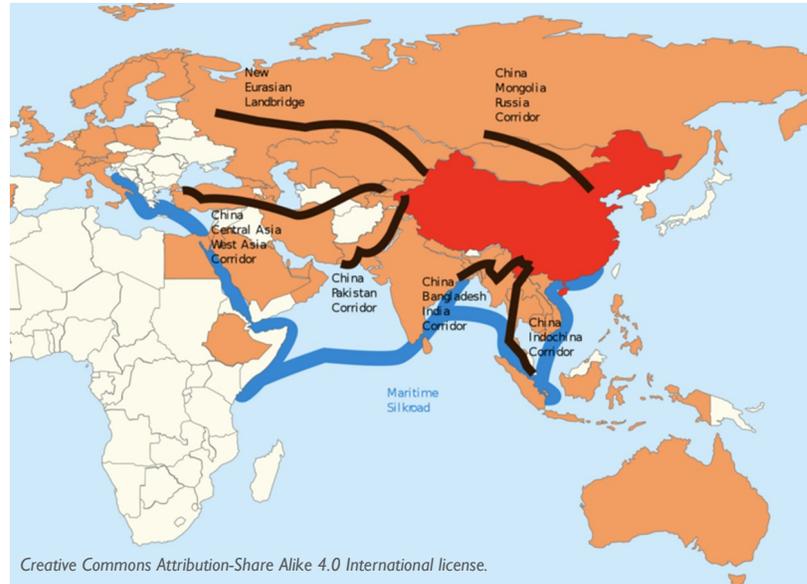
Technology Is Central To Global Development

The Next-Generation AI Development Plan serves as a crucial catalyst for the “Made in China 2025” Initiative. The Digital Silk Road represents an essential element of the “Belt and Road Initiative.” India is positioning Artificial Intelligence as a fundamental aspect of its future development strategy, fostering economic growth and social transformation. The U.S. is employing a multifaceted strategy to promote AI to maintain its global competitive edge.

The world is engaging in a technological development race.

I am personally investigating in several of these topics. I am pleased that the editorial team has provided me with the chance to present some findings in this October edition of the *China Call Report*.

Anita Tang, Managing Director



Silk Road Conference Held In The U.S. Midwest

The 17th Annual Silk Road Conference, organized by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center (CAPRC), was held on October 3, 2025, at the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Outreach Conference Center, Naperville, Illinois.

Prof. Anthony Prescott, Senior Assistant Dean, College of Business, NIU, opened the Conference.

The Conference addressed nations including China, the five Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan — Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan.

Speakers participated both in person and online via Zoom. Topics discussed encompassed Understanding Trade Business, The Gray Market, and more. A Panel addressing the Logistics Challenges of an Exporter, including exporting livestock, was warmly

welcomed by Conference participants.

Mr. Wang Baodong, Consul General, Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago, shared China’s involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Mr. Muhammad Haikal Samsudin, Deputy Director, Malaysian Development Authority, discussed ways in which Malaysia engages in business with Central Asian nations.

Ms. Anita Tang, Managing Director, Royal Roots Global Inc., elaborated on China’s BRI and Connectivity and Economic Development along the Silk Road. Mr. Curtis Louie, Director, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, New York, shared information on BRI and Hong Kong.

Prof. Harry Lepinske, Chairperson, CAPRC, concluded the Conference.

The United States Has Developed An Extensive AI Strategy

The United States is diligently enhancing its AI capabilities through various strategic initiatives and measures, demonstrating the country's dedication to leveraging AI for national security, economic competitiveness, and innovation.

Data, Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Adoption Strategy: In November 2023, the U.S. Defense Department revealed its intentions to expedite the integration of advanced artificial intelligence technologies, aiming to guarantee that U.S. warfighters retain decision-making superiority on the battlefield for the foreseeable future.

“As we focused on integrating AI into our operations responsibly and at speed, our main reason for doing so has been straight forward: because it improves our decision advantage,” Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks said while unveiling the strategy at the Pentagon.

Space Force: The U.S. Space Force released the Data and Artificial Intelligence FY 2025 Strategic Action Plan on its website. This Plan outlines a definitive and practical approach to transforming into a more data-centric and AI-empowered force, which is essential for fulfilling the Defense Department's objective of deterring conflict and, when required, effectively overcoming adversaries.

“Data and AI are critical for a warfighting service that is purpose-built for space superiority. This plan charts a course to foster data literacy, equip our Guardians with cutting-edge technologies, and drive innovation,” said Col. Nathan L. Iven, Acting Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Cyber and Data.

Aerospace's AI Integration: The Aerospace Corporation is utilizing artificial intelligence to improve satellite operations, predictive technologies, and decision-making within the space sector.

As noted on its website, it continues to lead from the front, developing and implementing novel solutions to support more efficient missions and position the U.S. for strategic advantage in space.

America's AI Action Plan: On July 23, 2025, the White House released “Winning the AI Race: America's AI Action Plan.” As noted on the White House website, “Winning the AI race will usher in a new golden age of human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security for the American people.”

The Plan identifies over 90 Federal policy actions across three pillars – Accelerating Innovation, Building American AI Infrastructure, and Leading in International Diplomacy and Security.

Global Summit In India, Productivity In The Age Of AI



Inaugural Session Ceremonial Lamp Lighting featuring Minister Nitin Jairam Gadkari (second from right). Photo: Courtesy of GSPA I 2025

A Global Summit, Productivity in the Age of AI, was held in New Delhi, India, August 20-21, 2025. This two-day event was hosted by World Confederation of Productivity Science India, in association with World Academy of Productivity Science.

This Global Summit centered on the theme “AI-Enabled Productivity: The Building Blocks of Viksit Bharat.” It convened thought leaders, policymakers, and industry experts to deliberate on the future of AI and its pivotal role in fostering innovation and economic advancement.

The Summit was inaugurated by the Honorable Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, who urged Summit participants to develop a comprehensive project report utilizing AI for infrastructure enhancement.

The Plenary Session focused on “Aligning Vision and Strategy: Defining the AI Pathway.” Industry specialists provided their perspectives in other sessions related to AI, encompassing its impact on the energy sector, mining, manufacturing, infrastructure, logistics, education, fintech, healthcare, and beyond.

The Valedictory Session included a speech by Smt. Neerja Sekhar, IAS, Director General of the National Productivity Council, along with the Summit Declaration presented by WCPSI-WAPS. The Director General emphasized the importance of the organizer adhering to the Summit Declaration to promote the development and application of AI for the advancement of humanity.

AI holds great potential to serve as a significant catalyst for India's progress, given its young workforce, diverse economy, and ambitious growth goals.

Tibet Will Be Home To The World's Largest Dam

In July of this year, Premier Li Qiang unveiled a new mega-dam initiative on the Yarlung Zangbo River located in southeast Tibet. This project, valued at US\$168 billion, is expected to produce an annual electricity output of 300 billion kilowatt-hours, approximately three times the capacity of China's current Three Gorges Dam. It will feature five cascade hydropower stations. The elevation drop in the region is roughly 2,000 meters over a 50-kilometre gorge, presenting significant potential for power generation, reported by the *South China Morning Post*.



The Yarlung Zangbo River originates on the Tibetan Plateau and becomes the Brahmaputra River as it flows into India's northeastern states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam before continuing into Bangladesh.

The BBC has reported that this initiative is raising apprehensions about the displacement of communities in Tibet, as well as the environmental repercussions downstream in India and Bangladesh. "Owing to the transboundary nature of the river," reported *Interesting Engineering*, "China's move has raised concerns in both India and Bangladesh regarding the

downstream effects of the project. Particularly in terms of water availability, agricultural impact, and environmental disruption."

Authorities in Beijing emphasize that environmental safeguards have been integrated and assert that the dam poses no major risks either to downstream water supplies or local ecosystems.

The Stewardship Report indicated that Chinese officials assert this project transcends mere engineering achievement; it serves as a crucial catalyst for economic and social advancement in Tibet, fostering job creation and contributing substantial clean energy to the national grid. On the world stage, it cements China's commitment to meet its 2060 carbon neutrality goals, positioning the country as a leader in sustainable

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Dimension	Opportunities for China	Risks / Challenges
Energy and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Massive renewable power generation Supports carbon neutrality by 2060 Reduces coal reliance & air pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydropower depends on climate stability; melting glaciers & shifting rainfall may reduce long-term output Overreliance on mega-dams may create vulnerabilities
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs, infrastructure, and growth in Tibet Integrates the remote region into the national economy Boosts local living standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High construction & maintenance costs Risk of local displacement, cultural tensions, and social unrest in Tibet
Geopolitical Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage over India and Bangladesh via river flows Strengthens China's role in water diplomacy Adds bargaining power in broader South Asia relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heightens India-China tensions Risk of accusations of "water weaponization" Could trigger regional disputes or an arms race in water infrastructure
Technology and Prestige	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showcases China's engineering leadership Enhances reputation as renewable energy leader High-altitude construction advances global expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical challenges in seismic, high-altitude zone Catastrophic failure risk would damage China's credibility and cause a cross-border disaster
Domestic Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforces central authority in Tibet Shows CCP's ability to bring "development" to frontier regions Strengthens national integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local resistance over cultural/environmental issues Adds to international criticism of policies in Tibet



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