

# **Digital Economy in China and Insights on CAREC Digital Strategy 2030**

Thank you, Chair.

Dear Colleagues,

Good afternoon. I'm Zhu Gang, deputy director general of Center for International Economic and Technological Cooperation(CIETC), MIIT. It's my great honor to be here to share with you the progress of digital economy in China and our insights on CAREC Digital Strategy 2030.

Nowadays, there's a global consensus that digital economy has been an important driver for economic recovery and inclusive growth. With the rapid development of digital technologies such as AIGC, IoT, Cloud Computing and blockchain, digitalization has transformed commerce, communication, entertainment, and other facets of human life.

China attaches great importance to digital economy, new industrialization and new quality productive forces. China's Government Work Report 2024 stresses innovation and urges the combination of R&D and application in digital industries such as big data and AI. According to CIACT statistics, the scale of China's digital economy ranks second in the world, about 56.1 trillion RMB in 2023, accounting for about 44% of total GDP.

Regarding **digital infrastructure**, the world's largest fiber-optic network and mobile broadband network have been built in China and we now have the world's second-largest computing power. By the end of 2023, MIIT has cultivated 421 national intelligent digital demonstration factories. As for **digital transformation of industries**, MIIT recently issued policies to promote digital transformation of SMEs and raw materials, promote digital literacy and skills.

Besides, one of the big change in China is the establishment of National Data Administration of China. This reform reflects China's determination to promote the construction of data infrastructure systems, accelerate the utilization of data resources, coordinate the construction of digital China, digital economy, and digital society, and enhance the modernization of the national governance system and governance capabilities.

China is willing to have in-depth communication and cooperation with CAREC partners. During China-Central Asia Summit last year, China and Central Asian countries reached broad consensus on science and technology, e-commerce and industry cooperation. Through "Silk Road E-commerce" cooperation, hundreds of Central Asian enterprises have been stationed on Chinese platforms.

To further cooperate with CAREC partners, I'd like to give several proposals :

Firstly, promote digital infrastructure construction among CAREC partners. MIIT has already piloted to remove foreign investment access restrictions for Internet Data Centers(IDC), which will benefit more international operators in China and we welcome the participation of global partners.

Secondly, promote city level digital cooperation. We are now cooperating with Beijing to build digital partnerships with major cities globally and we welcome interested cities in Central Asia to join us. Many digital companies, parks and universities in Beijing are now ready for international cooperation.

Last but not least, China hopes to work together with CAREC partners to implement CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 and build a more inclusive, interconnected, and competitive regional digital ecosystem.

Thank you!