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### **DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY FOR CHINA'S COOPERATION WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES IN THE POST-PANDEMIC PERIOD**

China's digital economy is expected to grow 10.3 percent to 50.2 trillion Yuan (about \$7.25 trillion) in 2022, ranking second in the world in terms of volume. The share of the digital economy in the country's GDP last year was 41.5 percent.

The first round of consultations within the framework of negotiations on the creation of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area /FTA/ version 3.0 has started very recently, the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China reported. Relevant departments of China and ASEAN countries, as well as officials of the ASEAN Secretariat, attended the meeting. The two sides held in-depth discussions on the regulations, organizational procedures and negotiation plan, and developed a schedule and road map for further negotiations.

In November 2022, China and ASEAN jointly announced the official start of negotiations on the establishment of China-ASEAN FTA version 3.0. As agreed by both sides, the talks will cover areas such as trade in goods, investment, digital and green economy, and aim to create a more inclusive, modern, comprehensive and mutually beneficial China-ASEAN FTA.

The President of the People's Republic of China said: "The digital economy is related to the overall situation of national development," and it is necessary to "constantly strengthen and optimize our country's digital economy."

Since the 18th Party Congress, the rapid development, the wide range of coverage, and the degree of influence of China's digital economy are unprecedented, which has caused profound changes in production and lifestyle. In terms of today's "Deciphering the Decade," China has unleashed a wave of digitalization.



**Fig. 1. Development of digitalization in China [1]**

There are more than 1.9 million 5G base stations across the vast territory of China. In addition to hundreds of millions of mobile phones, this extensive, world's largest communication network also has a huge group of users - industrial enterprises.

In Beijing's Yizhuang Economic and Technological Development Zone, at night this smart factory has flashing light strips indicating that production is in full swing. More than 200 high-definition cameras and more than 8,000 sensors collect real-time production data. The equipment, by analyzing the data, can automatically sense, transmit and diagnose problems to realize fully automated production.

In this decade, the wave of digitalization has also changed the social division of labor. In the past ten years, China has revised the National Occupational Classification Code, promulgated in 1999, twice. During the recently announced occupation classification ceremony, digital occupation identifiers appeared for the first time, bringing their number to 90. "Robot Development Technician," "Additive Manufacturing Engineering Technician," "Business Data Analyst," "Agriculture Digitalization Technician." These new occupational titles show that digital practitioners are now distributed across all aspects of social production, circulation, distribution and consumption, spanning primary, secondary and tertiary industries.

Over the past ten years, the scale of China's digital economy has grown from 11 trillion Yuan to 45.5 trillion Yuan, and its share in GDP has increased from 21.6% to 39.8%. Today, from cities to rural areas, from society to individuals, from online to offline, the wave of digitalization in China is providing a powerful impetus to high-quality economic development.

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## **EU-US-CHINA COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW EU INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY**

The European Commission presents a new strategy to help European industry lead the twin transitions to climate neutrality and digital leadership. The strategy is aimed at increasing the competitiveness of Europe and its strategic autonomy in the period of shifting geopolitical plates and strengthening global competition.

The package of initiatives defines a new approach to European industrial policy, which includes a series of measures to support all players in European industry, including large and small companies, innovative start-ups, research centers, service providers, suppliers and social partners.

The new industrial strategy will help implement three key priorities:

1. Maintaining the global competitiveness of European industry and a level playing field, both domestically and at the global level
2. Ensuring Europe's climate neutrality by 2050
3. Shaping the digital future of Europe.

The strategy identifies the key drivers of Europe's industrial transformation and proposes a comprehensive set of future actions.

In particular, it is about an action plan in the field of intellectual property, aimed at supporting technological sovereignty, promoting the creation of equal conditions at the global level, more effective fight against theft of intellectual property and adaptation of the legal framework to green and digital transitions.

Comprehensive measures for modernization and decarbonization of energy-intensive industries, support of sustainable and intelligent mobility industries, and improvement of energy efficiency are also foreseen.