

Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation

【Basic Information】

Moderator:

Tian Wei

China International Television(CGTN)

Speech Segment:

Xu Bin

General Manager of the Xinhuanet APP

Dr. Felipe Paullier

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs

Keynote Speeches:

George Laryea-Adjei

Director of UNICEF Programme Group

Yang Jun

Vice President of School of Electronic, Electrical and Communication Engineering, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences

Fang Xueyu

Vice President of Hisense Group

Special speeches:

Zhao Lina

Former Chinese national women's football player

Roundtable Forum One:

Laila Omar Gad

UNICEF Representative to the African Union and UNECA

Gu Yu

Deputy Director of the Internet and New Economy Special Committee of China Economic System Reform Research Association

Liu Yangsheng

Founding Director of Center for China and the World of Macau City University; Chairman of StarCharge International (SCIC)

Ameer Ibrahim

Chief Sustainable Investment Officer at Hamerslag Private

Ravi Kiran Tagire

Founder&CEO, Alien Innovations Private Limited

Roundtable Forum Two:

Zhang Li

Professor at the School of Big Data, Fudan University

Liang Yan

Professor of Economics, Willamette University

Miao Zhenwei

Staff Algorithm Expert for Autonomous Driving, Cainiao (Alibaba);
Staff Algorithm Expert for Autonomous Driving, Alibaba DAMO
Academy

WU Huijing

Chief Strategy Officer of HRC Group

Jia Anya

AI Copilot Product Head of SenseTime

[Brief IntroductionBrief Introduction]

As one of the parallel sessions of the 8th Hongqiao International Economic Forum, the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation was held on the morning of November 6, 2025, at Conference Room A002, 3rd Floor, Building A, Office Building, National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai). The event was hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and organized by Xinhuanet APP. The forum comprised five segments: speech segment, keynote speeches, special speeches, roundtable forum, and interactive Q&A.

This parallel session focused on the role and mission of young people amid the global wave of scientific and technological innovation, discussing their social responsibilities in this field. It provided support for young people to clarify their direction in science and technology. The parallel session brought together government leaders, representatives from UNICEF, scholars, industry experts, and leading corporate representatives. All parties engaged in in-depth exchanges by combining resources and experience, exploring ways to unleash the innovative potential of youth, injecting youthful energy into global technological progress, and empowering young people to take on the responsibility of driving scientific and technological advancements.



[Speech Segment]

During the speech segment, invited guests included Dr. Felipe Paullier, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs (via video), and Xu Bin, General Manager of the Xinhuanet APP. The guests exchanged views on the innovative mission and developmental support for young people in an era of change. Against the backdrop of rapid technological development and evolving global dynamics, young people are the core force for positive change. It is essential to ensure equal access for all young people to technological resources, educational training, and skills enhancement opportunities, ensuring that youth in rural areas, disadvantaged groups, women, and young people with disabilities are not left behind. Young people should participate in policy-making for technological development, making innovation more sustainable and aligned with future needs, using innovation to bridge divides and create opportunities. China adheres to a path of high-level innovation, shifting from "following and catching up" to "original innovation and leadership," achieving technological breakthroughs in multiple fields. As a vital new force in technological innovation, young people demonstrate their responsibility in basic research, breakthroughs in core technologies, and integration with the digital economy. International organizations, through global cooperation projects, promote digital education and skills training for youth, narrowing the digital opportunity gap. They call for coordinated efforts from governments, enterprises, and society to ensure technological inclusiveness through financial transformation and innovation.



Xu Bin, General Manager of the Xinhuanet APP, attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and delivered a speech



Dr. Felipe Paullier, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and delivered a speech via video

[Keynote Speeches]

During the keynote speeches session, invited guests included George Laryea-Adjei, Director of the UNICEF Programme Group; Yang Jun, Vice President of the School of Electronic, Electrical and Communication Engineering at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences; and Fang Xueyu, Vice President of Hisense Group. The guests exchanged views on breakthrough directions for youth innovation, corporate support, and social value. Youth innovation needs to move beyond "following-style innovation" and bravely explore technological "uncharted territories," using insight, imagination, and critical thinking to discover new growth points. It is essential to build an ecological environment that "encourages innovation and tolerates failure," providing young people with space for autonomous exploration and long-term support from educational, research, and policy levels. Interdisciplinary cooperation is key to breaking through the unknown, solving complex technological problems through the integration of knowledge from different fields and the collision of ideas. Youth innovation should be closely aligned with social needs, focusing on challenges such as climate change, population aging, and public health security, making technological innovation a driving force for social progress. In the context of globalization, young people need to build open and collaborative international networks, pooling global wisdom to promote innovation. Enterprises should provide inclusive soil for innovation and fault-tolerant mechanisms, helping young people break conventions and achieve growth through practical platforms and resource support. At the same time, they should advocate for innovation with a human touch, integrating social value and humanistic care into technological development. In public welfare actions, technology empowers youth. Through internet dissemination, fundraising, and resource integration, the power of public welfare can transcend boundaries, aiding the growth of young people in remote areas.



George Laryea-Adjei, Director of UNICEF Programme Group, attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and delivered a keynote speech



Yang Jun, Vice President of School of Electronic, Electrical and Communication Engineering, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and delivered a keynote speech



Fang Xueyu, Vice President of Hisense Group, attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and delivered a keynote speech

[Special Speeches]

During the special speeches session, the invited guest was Zhao Lina, former Chinese national women's football goalkeeper and initiator of the "Planet Project" football public welfare initiative. Sharing from the dual perspectives of a sports professional and a public welfare advocate, the guest discussed technological innovation and youth responsibility. When professional expertise is connected with social responsibility, what is written is the responsibility of the times. Football is about "a team winning together," and technology is infinitely amplifying this spirit of "shared success."



Zhao Lina, Former Chinese national women's football player,
attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action:
Driving Technological Innovation and delivered a special speech

[Roundtable Forum One]

During Roundtable Forum One, invited guests included Laila Omar Gad, UNICEF Representative to the African Union and UNECA; Gu Yu, Deputy Director of the Internet and New Economy Special Committee of the China Economic System Reform Research Association; Liu Yangsheng, Founding Director of the Center for China and the World of Macau City University and Chairman of StarCharge International (SCIC); Ameer Ibrahim, Chief Sustainable Investment Officer at Hamerslag Private; and Ravi Kiran Tagire, Founder and CEO of Alien Innovations Private Limited. The guests discussed topics such as ecosystem building, resource support, and cross-domain cooperation. Technology should be a tool for equal opportunity. By improving infrastructure and promoting global school internet access, digital transformation can benefit everyone. The focus should be on creating more meaningful job opportunities through digital transformation, helping young people master digital technologies and improve livelihoods through skills training, certification programs, internships, and practical projects. Capital and enterprises need to work hand-in-hand with governments to involve young people in strategy formulation and management, supporting their growth through mentorship programs and knowledge transfer to adapt to future employment structure changes brought by technological development. Universities, enterprises, and social organizations should build diverse platforms, providing young people with internship, showcase, and exchange opportunities. They should encourage cross-national and cross-regional collaboration in supply chains and R&D chains, building a youth innovation cooperation network with China at its core. Innovation should stem from local community needs, focusing on technological inclusivity to allow more people to enjoy technological products and services, while balancing commercial value and social contribution.



Laila Omar Gad, UNICEF Representative to the African Union and UNECA, attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and participated in the Panel Discussion



Gu Yu, Deputy Director of the Internet and New Economy Special Committee of China Economic System Reform Research Association, attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and participated in the Panel Discussion



Liu Yangsheng, Founding Director of Center for China and the World of Macau City University; Chairman of StarCharge International (SCIC), attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and participated in the Panel Discussion



Ameer Ibrahim, Chief Sustainable Investment Officer at Hamerslag Private, attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and participated in the Panel Discussion



Ravi Kiran Tagire, Founder & CEO, Alien Innovations Private Limited, attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and participated in the Panel Discussion

[Roundtable Forum Two]

During Roundtable Forum Two, invited guests included Zhang Li, Professor at the School of Big Data, Fudan University; Liang Yan, Professor of Economics at Willamette University; Miao Zhenwei, Staff Algorithm Expert for Autonomous Driving at Cainiao (Alibaba) and Alibaba DAMO Academy; Wu Huijing, Chief Strategy Officer of HRC Group; and Jia Anya, AI Copilot Product Head of SenseTime. The guests exchanged views on technological development directions and youth action strategies. In the next 5-10 years, artificial intelligence will achieve qualitative improvement, moving from the virtual world to the real physical world. World models and embodied intelligence are becoming important development directions, promoting the deep integration of AI into industrial scenarios. General AI is evolving from "knowing how to talk" to "knowing how to do," penetrating the entire enterprise value chain. Infrastructure upgrades such as 6G communications, low-altitude economy, and new energy are creating new opportunities. Life sciences and core key technologies are advancing in parallel, creating an urgent demand for a large number of interdisciplinary talents. Corporate innovation should be combined with sustainable development, balancing economic and environmental value. Through collaboration with universities, research institutes, and clients, technology can move from prototypes to commercial applications. AI provides inclusive tools for small and medium-sized enterprises and individuals, lowering the threshold for digital transformation and helping different groups achieve efficiency improvements and business expansion. Young innovators should uphold a global perspective, emphasize the decisive role of cooperation, bridge the digital divide, and promote industry progress by disseminating knowledge, participating in technical standards setting, and practicing technology for good. Young people need to solidify their foundation in hard-core capabilities such as basic knowledge in mathematics, physics, and chemistry, and programming skills. They should cultivate systems thinking and engineering norms, and enhance interdisciplinary collaboration, continuous learning, and product-oriented thinking abilities. They should find alignment points among personal vision, social value, and national strategy, deeply cultivate their areas of passion, and maintain curiosity and a proactive learning attitude to adapt to the changes of the times.



Zhang Li, Professor at the School of Big Data, Fudan University, attended the Parallel Session on Youth in Action: Driving Technological Innovation and participated in the Panel Discussion



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Tian Wei, China International Television (CGTN), moderated the Parallel Session on Youth in Action:
Driving Technological Innovation