CHINA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Science and Technology(MOST), P.R.China

No.20
October 30 2016

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National Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week

Li KeqiangPresent at National Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week

On October 12-13, 2016 Premier Li Keqiang, also a member of the Politburo Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China, inspected Shenzhen and Dongguan in the company of Hu Chunhua, Politburo Member of the Communist Party of China and Party Secretary of Guangdong Province, and Zhu Xiaodan, Governor of Guangdong Province. Li Keqiang also appeared at the 2016 National Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation Week.

Shenzhen Bay Venture Plaza was the main venue of the week-long event, displaying a number of innovations, including new technologies, new models and new industrial trends. Premier Li visited exhibitions of light monorail carriages, Internet concept vehicles, precision molds and metamaterial technology, and holographic technology, and asked about the characteristics of these technologies and their application. At the Maker Workshop, Premier Li encouraged primary and secondary

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school students, who were experiencing innovations there, to develop a creative mind. He also asked platform operators of innovation and entrepreneurship to lead in service innovation. Premier Li said the achievements of mass innovation and entrepreneurship reflected the wisdom and power of innovation, hoping that more novel ideas out of wild imagination could be materialized.

Premier Li chaired the Global Entrepreneurial Leaders Forum. More than 80 business leaders attended the forum, exchanging innovative ideas and trends as well as implementation of the "mass innovation and entrepreneurship" initiative. The participants reckoned that the initiative would offer opportunities for creative people to make their dreams come true and create many jobs.

Premier Li said the "mass innovation and entrepreneurship" initiative is important for pursuing innovation-driven development, promoting supply-side reform and exploring new driving forces. The synergy between entrepreneurship and innovation will give a greater boost to economic development. In the age of "Internet Plus", mass innovation can pool the wisdom of individuals to innovate so as to better meet various demands, where China's huge development potential lies. "Mass innovation and entrepreneurship" involves enterprises, regardless of size, in the primary, secondary and tertiary industries. Large enterprises that seek transformation and upgrading can keep up with the trend of individualized design and customized production via innovation. The business sector, which has established many market-oriented platforms of innovation and entrepreneurship, plays a leading role in pushing ahead with the "mass innovation and entrepreneurship" initiative; the government should create a favorable environment for innovation and entrepreneurship by streamlining administration and improving public services.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily, October 13, 2016)

National Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week Kicks Off

Themed on "Develop New Economy, Explore New Driving Forces", the National Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week kicked off at Shenzhen Bay Venture Plaza on October 12, 2016.

Guest speakers at the opening ceremony included Wan Gang, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, President of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), and Minister of Science and Technology; Xu Shaoshi, Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission; and Zhu Xiaodan, Governor of Guangdong Province. Ma Xingrui, Deputy Secretary of Guangdong Province and Communist Party Secretary of Shenzhen, presided over the ceremony.

Wan Gang pointed out that the S&T sector has rigorously pushed for mass innovation and entrepreneurship, with S&T innovation playing an important role in the supply-side reform at the call of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council.Scientists and engineers, under the leadership of the CAST, have been dedicated to mass innovation and entrepreneurship and the commercialization of related achievements through S&T innovation. The initiative of mass innovation and entrepreneurship, which has invigorated the market and increased employment, has five characteristics: S&T innovation and entrepreneurship has been a leading driving force of the initiative; professional maker spaces have provided strong support for S&T innovation and entrepreneurship; an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship that covers the whole lifecycle of enterprises has taken shape; many application models derived from mass innovation have boosted the sharing economy; and cross-regional communicationabout and international cooperation on entrepreneurship have given

fresh impetus to the innovation-driven development.

In October 2015, the first National Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week was held in Beijing and eight other cities. The second one was hosted by Shenzhen with some other cities and provinces, including Beijing, as co-host venues. A string of activities, including theme exhibition, Global Entrepreneurial Leaders Forum, Global Makers Marathon, and Maker Workshop, were launched in Shenzhen. The exhibition zone spanned 16,000 square meters, allowing 165 projects to display new technologies, new products, new business models and their important roles in facilitating the shift from old to new driving forces. China Venture Capital Forum, China Entrepreneurial Role Models Selection and Award Ceremony, and a maker-themed micro video display were held in Beijing.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily, October 13, 2016)

National Week of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Heilongjiang Province

Lu Hao, Governor of the Heilongjiang Province, attended the opening ceremony of the 2016 National Week of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Heilongjiang) on October 12th, 2016.

The governor said the province should promote innovation with a focus on changing growth models and industrial structures; establish a modern industrial system based on innovation, and boost innovation to bolster development. The province won't not be able to spur economic growth unless its major resources and industries are connected with innovation. Innovation-driven development is a synergy among new ideas, new technologies, new industrial trends and new business models.

During the Week, Heilongjiang organized a series of activities, including the exhibition of innovation and start-up achievements, teleconferences on promoting farmer entrepreneurship, and a fair for university students seeking business sponsorship.

Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC)

The opening ceremony of the National Week of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (XPCC) was held in front of the XPCC office building on October 12th, 2016. The ceremony was attended by Sun Jinlong, Deputy Party Secretary of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and Secretary of the XPCC Communist Party Committee.

Micro- and small-sized enterprises in the XPCC have developed rapidly since the launch of the "mass innovation and entrepreneurship" initiative. Since 2016, 3,624 such business have been set up. From October 12th to 18th of 2016, the XPCC joined the National Week of Innovation and Entrepreneurship featuring the theme of "new economy and new momentum". During the week-long event, the XPCC promoted its innovation policies, showcased relevant achievements, hosted academic forums and experience sharing meetings, selected role models and held cultural activities.

At present, there are 15 maker spaces, 6 tech SME incubators, 57 innovative enterprises, 48 national-level high-tech enterprises, 52 provincial-level or above technological centers, and 16 engineering research centers (labs) jointly established by central and local governments in the XPCC.

Tianjin Municipality

The opening ceremony of the National Week of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Tianjin) began from October 12th, 2016. It kicked off with the exhibition of achievements from the national innovation demonstration zone based in the Tianjin high-tech area. He Shushan, Vice Mayor of Tianjin, attended the exhibition and announced the launch of the activity together with winners of the Tianjin Regional Competition of Innovation and Entrepreneurship of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The opening ceremony was attended by over 300 people including makers, entrepreneurs as well as representatives of venture capital companies, businesses, higher education institutions, and research institutes.

Participants watched videos to learn about makerspaces in the Tianjin high-tech area and progress of the "Chuangtongpiao" (meaninga through ticket to provide services tostart-ups) as well as the CAS Competition of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Tianjin). After the opening ceremony, Tianjin also staged an exhibition of the "China Chuangyi (wings of innovation)" Competition, a roadshow of projects by university students, the Tianjin Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition, and open classes of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Yunnan Province

Yunnan Province held 62 activities themed as "new highs of innovation and a future created by all". Such activities feature an opening ceremony, an exhibition of achievements, meetings and forums, project roadshows, skill competitions, and professional service provision. The province's demonstrated its achievements via online and offline channels.

Governments and industries across the province were all mobilized to play an active role. Major event were staged in Kunming, Dali, Wenshan, Honghe and Chuxiong. Organizers included the Yunnan Provincial Science and Technology Department, the Provincial Education Department, the Provincial Human Resources and Social Security Department, and Yunnan Association of Science and Technology.

Prior to the 2016 National Week of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Yunnan provincial government launched a string of activities, including an exhibition of employees' innovations, the "Innovative Youth" Competition, an academic annual conference on innovation, the "Internet Plus" Competition of University Students, the preliminaries in Yunnan of the second "China Chuangyi (wings of innovation)" Competition, and a week of science popularization.

Beijing Municipality

The second National Week of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Beijing opened on the morning of October 12th, 2016. As of 2015, Zhongguancun had been home to more than 40 unicorn enterprises, each with a valuation of over US$1 billion, unique technologies and rapid business expansion, accounting for more than 50% of the national total of unicorn enterprises.

With the theme of "new economy and new momentum", the exhibition was divided into five sectors: a new ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship, new driving forces of the new economy, coordinated innovation of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, entrepreneurial culture and activities of mass innovation and entrepreneurship, and an outdoor exhibition of entrepreneurial service providers. A total of 195 projects were on display, among which 70% were established within the past five years and 185, or 95%, participated in the exhibition for the first time.

The "Zhongguancun Index 2016" was released at the exhibition. Zhao Hong, Vice President of the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences, Chief Expert of the Beijing Fangdi Institute of Economy, and President of the Center for Innovation and Development of Zhongguancun, said the 2016 comprehensive index stood at 375.9, up by 90.1 year on year.

Qinghai

On October 12, the opening ceremony of the 2016 National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week (Qinghai) was held in Xining.

According to the agenda of the 2016 National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week, Qinghai Province held the opening ceremony of the activity themed on "developing new economy, exploring new driving forces", in a bid to further vitalize the market, enhance social creativity, and promote reform and development.

Zhang Chaoyuan, Deputy Director Generalof Qinghai Science & Technology Department, said the province has so far established 42 incubators and incubation bases fortech-basedenterprisesand four national makers' spaces, facilitating the setting-up of more than 1,000 enterprises, which provides strong support for developing new economy and exploring new driving forces. The week-long activity was a government platform for multilateral cooperation to improve the public awareness of mass innovation and entrepreneurship, guide social resources and professional institutions to participate in the initiative, unleash the potential of the public to innovate and start new businesses, and stimulate creativity by launching various publicity campaigns, so as to create a favorable environment for developing new economy and exploring

new driving forces.

Shanghai

On October 12, the opening ceremony of the National Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week (Shanghai) was held in the Yangpu National Innovation DemonstrationDistrict. Meanwhile, the National Fund for TransformationofScientificandTechnologicalAchievements and the Shanghai Fund for Innovation and Business Incubation were inaugurated.

During the week-long event, the Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality, Shanghai Municipal Education Commission, district governments, state-owned enterprises and higher education institutions organized about 170 activities, such as entrepreneurship and innovation competition, investment matching sessions, and application of innovation achievements at makers' spaces, business incubators and entrepreneurship bases. Outstanding projects of the 2016 Inparklink Cup Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition were on display, the "Innovative Youth" special subway train of Line 7 was launched. Projects and achievements of innovation and entrepreneurship, including the city's makers' spaces and Zhangjiang Innopark, highlighted new characteristics and new driving forces of innovation and entrepreneurshipinShanghai.

In order to support entrepreneurs, Yangpu District will establish a RMB 2 billion investment fund dedicated to mass innovation and entrepreneurship, roll out a series of policies to support 48 projects, and create an ecosystem of entrepreneurship, investment, and incubation linked with park resources. A batch of national or regional innovation institutions, such as Shanghai Brain-like Artificial Intelligence Research Institute, National Beidou Technological Innovation Center, and International Human Phenotype Research Project will set a foothold in the district.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily, October 12, 2016)

Activities of Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship to be Expanded and Deepened

On August 30, 2016, the Science and Technology Daily published a commentary which reviewed activities of mass innovation and entrepreneurship, saying that the "mass innovation and entrepreneurship" initiative helped unleash the enormous innovation potential of the Chinese economy.

The article cited data as saying that in 2015, the national investment in entrepreneurship increased by24.6% to RMB 129.334 billion; from January to May 2016, the number of new market entities reached 6.166 million, and the number of newly-listed enterprises on the NationalEquitiesExchangeandQuotations was 2,559, which was 2.4 times and 5.7 times that oflast year and the year before last year respectively; from May 2015 to May 2016, business startups in 248 cities recruited 2.3478 million people in total, contributing nearly 20% to job growth.

The article pointed out that the activities of innovation and entrepreneurship made great progress in two aspects. The reasons for this were two-fold: the activities advanced structural adjustment by facilitating the transformation and upgrading of traditional enterprises as well as the development of new technologies, such as cloud computing, big data, industrial Internet, and 3D printing, to promote the evolution of "made in China" to "made with Chinese wisdom"; the surge in demand for administrative services prompted the government to seek reform.

The article also pointed out that future activities of innovation and entrepreneurship should pay attention to two problems.

First, innovation and business startups areconcentrated in the consumption or entertainment sector. In 2015, 84.7% of entrepreneurial financing cases involved

O2O and service sector, such as e-commerce, local life, corporate services, and finance. Fundraising for industrial entities accounted for only 12.5%. More than 70% of young entrepreneurs' projects engaged in entertainment, consumption or business model innovation that promise quick returns, and there were rarely difficult technological innovations which generally require long-term investment.

Second, innovation and entrepreneurship arestill concentrated in big cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, which boast richer resources and better environment. Many factors restrained local mass innovation and entrepreneurship, including financing difficulties, low quality of business incubation and lack of high-end talents.

The article said whether "mass innovation and entrepreneurship" can be expanded to constantly promote social development depends on local governments. As leaders, they should be far-sighted to keep pace with ever-changing S&T development and learn new ways of thinking, new methods and new models to push ahead with entrepreneurship and innovation.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily,
August 30, 2016)