



2021 International Forum on South-South Cooperation and Trade in Services

——Digital Economy for South-South Cooperation

Summary Report

**Beijing • China
2021**

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Event Summary

On September 4, the 2021 International Forum on South-South Cooperation and Trade in Services, with the theme of “Digital Economy for South-South Cooperation”, was held at China National Convention Center. It was the first of its kind during China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) centering on South-South cooperation. The Forum was co-organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE), and co-supported by United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in China, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Food Programme Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation of MOFCOM, China Agricultural University, Nankai University, School of Economics and Management of Tsinghua University, China-Africa Business Council, China South-South Cooperation Network, and Global South-South Development Center Project.

The Forum invited partners from the Global South to share their insights on impacts and changes brought by the vigorous development of digital economy on South-South cooperation, and explore potential new paths for bridging the digital divide and the development imbalances through South-South cooperation.



Event Statistics

- ✓ A total of 130 participants, from UN agencies, the Chinese government, foreign governments and diplomats, academia and research institutes, joined the offline Forum;
- ✓ Over 1,200 participants viewed the Forum online;
- ✓ The LivePhoto received over 40,000 visits;
- ✓ The leading media and news agencies, including Xinhua News, China.org.cn, People's Daily, Phoenix TV, reported the event.



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the Forum recording



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南南合作与服务贸易国际论坛：倡导数字经济助力南南合作

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新华网北京9月4日 2021南南合作与服务贸易国际论坛在京开幕

举行的服贸会上召开
次以南南合作为主题
会副主任侯君舒、联
和国驻华大使马马杜

本次论坛由联合
国开发计划署、联合
贸易经济合作研究
会、中国南南合作

来自上述机构的
当今复杂多变国际

论坛提出，广大
各方力量，形成弥
合发展中国一道，
力实现2030可持续

9月4日，以“数字经济发展助力南南合作新格局”为主题的2021南南合作与服务贸易国际论坛（供图）



南南合作与服务贸易国际论坛：倡导数字经济助力南南合作



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原标题：南南合作与服务贸易国际论坛：倡导数字经济助力南南合作

新华网北京9月4日电（记者倪元锦）2021南南合作与服务贸易国际论坛在京开幕，论坛主题是“数字经济发展助力南南合作”。商务部副部长钱克明、联合国南南合作办公室副主任侯君舒、联合国南南合作办公室代理主任阿德尔·阿卜杜勒·拉蒂夫和塞内加尔共和国驻华大使马马杜·恩迪亚耶出席论坛并致辞。

本次论坛由联合国南南合作办公室和中国国际经济合作发展计划署、联合国工业发展组织、世界粮食计划署、贸易经济合作研究院、中国农业大学、南开大学、清

南南合作活动首次亮相服贸会——2021 南南合作与服务贸易国际论坛隆重举行

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9月4日，以“数字经济发展助力南南合作新格局”为主题的2021 南南合作与服务贸易国际论坛在国家会议中心举行。这是中国国际服务贸易交易会首次以南南合作为主题举办的活动。商务部副部长钱克明、北京市人民代表大会常务委员会副主任侯君舒、联合国南南合作办公室代理主任阿德尔·阿卜杜勒·拉蒂夫和塞内加尔共和国驻华大使马马杜·恩迪亚耶出席论坛并分别致辞。

与会嘉宾认为，南南合作作为发展中国家联合自强的伟大壮举，在当今复杂多变国际局势下，仍将是构建新型国际关系、实现全球可持续发展的重要途径。会议提出，广大发展中国家应充分利用数字化经济发展契机，积极应对挑战，动员各方力量，形成弥合数字鸿沟的发展合力。中国作为南南合作的重要力量，愿继续与广大发展中国家一道提升数字经济能力，加强数字经济领域的南南合作，为助力实现2030可持续发展议程中“不让一个人掉队”的承诺。

Opening



The Opening session was moderated by Mr. Zhang Yi, Deputy Director General of CICETE. He stressed that only by adhering to innovative development, constantly and actively exploring new paths and dynamics of South-South cooperation, and promoting enhanced collaboration and complementary advantages in the fields of digital trade, digital economy and digital services among countries at different stages of development, can we bridge the global digital divide, strengthen South-South cooperation and achieve common development in the era of digital economy.

Vice Minister of MOFCOM, H.E. Mr. Qian Keming, pointed out that digital economy brought both challenges and opportunities. In the face of new technologies, such as big data, cloud computing, 5G and artificial intelligence, the digital divide has deepened between developing and developed countries. South-South cooperation can offer innovative and diversified paths to help the global economy become more inclusive and balanced. He noted that China will continue to leverage its strengths in digital economy and create more



opportunities for South-South cooperation to share digital dividends and make new contributions to realizing the commitment of “leave no one behind” in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Mr. Hou Junshu, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal People’s Congress, expressed that the Municipal Government of Beijing is open to more South-South cooperation opportunities in digital economy with intergovernmental organizations and developing countries. Beijing has forged Sister-City Partnership with 56 cities in the world and deepened its exchange and relationship with Southern countries. Enterprises based in Beijing have also contributed to key development projects in the South, such as Mombasa–Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya.



Mr. Adel Abdellatif, Director a.i. of UNOSSC, highlighted in his video message that as the world is experiencing complex economic and social effects of COVID-19 pandemic, countries, and people from both the South and North need to work together towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Digital technologies have offered many gains and opportunities, for instance, such adaptation allows many Southern countries to increase the delivery of high-quality health care, education, and other public services at different stages of their development trajectory. He added that at the same time, existing digital divides have been increasing during the pandemic, with many



people left behind. A holistic approach is needed to promote a shared vision on digital cooperation and lay foundations for more inclusive and resilient economies.

H.E. Mamadou Ndiaye, Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal, highlighted in his video message the new opportunities brought by digital economy. It is expected that digital economy will contribute to 25 per cent of Senegal's GDP in 2025. With the forthcoming Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit in Dakar, he looks forward to more cooperation and progress in areas of poverty relief, digital economy, health care and green development among Southern countries.



Keynote Session



The Keynote session was moderated by Mr. Devanand Ramiah, UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in China. He emphasized, digital revolution will impact every aspect of our lives. Digital is a pervasive force, shaping our world and it's just not a tool. Similarly, it will have a profound impact on the way we approach sustainable development. Equipped with technologies like block chain, A.I, the

internet of things and more, achieving a sustainable future, free from poverty, inequality and climate disaster can be made even more possible.

During the Keynote session, Dr. LUO Yuze, Deputy Director and Researcher, Department of Foreign Economic Cooperation, Development Research Center of the State Council, H.E. Rahamtalla Mohamed Osman Elnor, Ambassador of African Union in China, Dr. CHEN Yubo, Senior Associate Dean and Director of Center for Internet Development and Governance, School of Economics and Management, Tsinghua University, and Dr. ZHA Xiaogang, Director and Senior Expert of the International Policy Center of Tencent Research Institute, delivered speeches theming as China's New Development Model of Dual Circulation and South-South Cooperation, Actual Needs of Developing Countries in Developing Digital Economy, China's Digital Economy and South-South Cooperation, and Tencent's Digital Toolbox and Its Practices in Poverty Alleviation and Rural Revitalization respectively.



Dr. LUO Yuze, Deputy Director and Researcher, Department of Foreign Economic Cooperation, Development Research Center of the State Council,

pointed out that, the digital divide has accelerated the urgency of facing up to the global imbalance in development, and that global solidarity is needed to narrow the digital and development divide as soon as possible. China plays a unique role in this regard, as it has developed complementary advantages in technology, capital, market and management experience with developed economies through reform and opening up over the past 40 years, and has formed very close cooperation with developing countries through the “Belt and Road” cooperation and South-South cooperation.

Looking into the future to promote South-South cooperation in the digital field, he made four suggestions: focus on improving ICT facilities connectivity; pay attention to the comparative advantages of each; create a friendly and cooperative international environment; and join hands in international digital governance.

H.E. Rahamtalla Mohamed Osman Elnor, Ambassador of African Union in China, highlighted in his video message that, the Forum comes at a very crucial time when trade in the digital era is revolutionizing. Africa is still far to be the needs of the continent in terms of utilization. The International Telecommunication Union estimates that approximately 25% to 28% of Africa’s population is connected to the internet, which is below the developing countries average of 47%, and far off from that the developed nation average of 86%. Too few citizens have digital IDs or transaction accounts, locking them out of the access to critical services and e-commerce. Digital startups struggling to attract

funding and traditional Businesses are only slowly adopting digital technologies and platforms to boost productivity and sales. It was in the cognition of the importance of digitalization as the African Union has launched the digital transformation strategy for Africa 2020~2030. The initiative strives, for a collaborative digital, single market building on the recent trade initiative, the Africa Continent Free Trade Area with the purpose to facilitate the movement of digitalized services are propelled, the expansion of internet access across the continent. This was not only integrated Africa into the digital era, but create new opportunities for the startup businesses.



Dr. CHEN Yubo, Senior Associate Dean and Director of Center for Internet Development and Governance, School of Economics and Management, Tsinghua University, revolving his sharing around digital economy, the current development status, the development of digital economy in China and South-South cooperation.

Referring to the lessons of China's digital economy development for other developing countries, he mentioned that China ushered in informatization and digitization without completing industrialization, urbanization and agricultural

modernization, which is a common premise assumption faced by all Southern countries in developing digital economy. It is of great significance that when developing digital economy, it is necessary to solve the problems that have not been solved by the previous “three modernizations”, that is, the infrastructure problem and the information imbalance problem in the market economy; to transform the resources in the traditional economic advantages into data resources, and to transform the market advantages and demographic dividend into data dividend; to have entrepreneurs to explore the new business model suitable for the local conditions; to attach great importance to the digital talents who know the industry and have digital literacy through South-South cooperation.



Dr. ZHA Xiaogang, Director and Senior Expert of the International Policy Center of Tencent Research Institute, as the representative from private sector, delivered the speech on Tencent’s Digital Toolbox and Its Practices in Poverty Alleviation and Rural Revitalization.

Based on Tencent’s years of practice, he made the following suggestions: identify

the problems and key points; identify whether they are market problems or public goods; identify effective, reasonable and sustainable financing solutions; pay more attention to the massive scale effect; and require basic digital infrastructure. Through the nine respects of “precision, localization, grass roots, quality improvement, inclusiveness, creation, efficiency enhancement, connection and simplification”, we can effectively improve the quality of life of people living in less developed areas and truly “leaving no one behind”.



Dialogue Session

The Dialogue session was moderated by Ms. TIAN Wei, Host of China Global Television Network (CGTN) and Special Advisor to UNDP. This session centered on how to bridge the digital divide and promote sustainable development through South-South cooperation, joined by 6 discussants: WANG Luo, Director, Institute of International Development Cooperation, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, MOFCOM, LIN

Zhanxi, Chief Scientist of China National Engineering Research Center of JUNCAO Technology; Hernan Anibal Viola, Agro-Industrial Counsellor, Embassy of the Argentine Republic, WU Yabin, Head, Investment and Technology Promotion Office Beijing of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), XU Xiuli, Dean of the College of International Development and Global Agriculture at China Agricultural University, and LU Kuan, Senior Vice President, Chief Growth Officer, Intelligence System and Innovation Business CEO, BOE Technology Group Co., Ltd.



—Digital Economy for South-South Cooperation

“We have a very solid foundation in traditional international development cooperation, like railways, roads, hospitals, technology demonstration centers, etc. Taking into account the development of the digital economy, my suggestion is to plus more digital value to our traditional development cooperation. For example, China-funded hospitals could plus the digital cooperation in the follow-up sustainable operation of hospitals, such as telemedicine, intelligent remote diagnosis, and treatment. The existing traditional international development cooperation can be revitalized with digital solutions plused.”



“Juncao technology is a unique technology developed in China by “substituting grass for wood” to breed edible and medicinal fungi. It has realized the comprehensive and efficient utilization of the three major agricultural resources of light, heat and water, and attained cycle production of plants, animals and fungus. To keep up with times, more digital tools have been utilized in Juncao industry. We are willing to work with developing countries to contribute China’s wisdom and China’s solutions to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and make Juncao technology a “grass of happiness” that benefits people in developing countries.”



“In December 2014, Argentina’s Congress enacted the Law 27.078 which declares the development of ICT as public interest, aiming to give access to the entire population to information technologies and communication services in an equitable manner, socially and geographically. In the Argentine agricultural sector, it is of great importance to develop connectivity in rural areas and to promote technology to improve productivity in the field. The agricultural sector of Argentina has always been a pioneer in the area of innovation, in order to increase yield, sustainability and protect resources, as was the case with the adoption of no tilling, biotechnology and silo bags systems. Today, technologies are being used that allow the incorporation of “digital agriculture”, such as precision agriculture or by environments. Besides, Argentina plays an active role in South-South cooperation to benefit more developing countries.”



“UNIDO has proposed that we should utilize digitalization to drive a new approach to investment and promotion, which we call Investment Promotion 4.0.

South-South cooperation cannot be separated from the two “T”s: Industry and Innovation. We could promote the localization of industry through innovative technologies to benefit more developing countries.”

In the digital era, the challenges faced by South-South Cooperation are five “C”s:

- Connectivity: overdue digital infrastructure;
- Content: if the contents meet the real needs of Southern countries;
- Capability: lower level of education brings challenges to South-South digital cooperation;
- Competition and Cooperation: digital South-South cooperation also faces a governance crisis. How to deal with digital security in global South-South cooperation, establish a digital governance alliance that can be grasped by Southern countries, and cooperate effectively in the global digital governance competition.



“With the rapid development of the new generation of information technology, digitalization, networking and intelligence have gradually penetrated in manufacturing, finance, industrial parks, transportation, medical care, education and other industries, resulting in new models and new industries such as smart manufacturing, smart energy, unmanned driving and smart classroom, creating new market opportunities. However, while facing huge market potentials, enterprises also face problems such as difficult cross-border integration, little strategic planning, weak innovation and collaboration, and lack of talent culture.”

Promotion and Release Session

The Promotion and Release session was moderated by Ms. TIAN Wei, Host of China Global Television Network (CGTN) and Special Advisor to UNDP. Beijing's "Two Zones" were introduced; the research report of Digital Economy and China of Nankai University, International Guidelines for Industrial Parks of the UNIDO (Chinese Version), and the special issue of South-South in Action—China-Tanzanian Cooperation through Agriculture and Poverty Reduction Partnerships were released.

The “Two Zones”, namely the Integrated National Demonstration Zone for Opening Up the Services Sector and the China (Beijing) Pilot Free Trade Zone, are the main platforms for Beijing to further open up.



国家服务业扩大开放综合示范区
INTEGRATED NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION ZONE FOR OPENING UP THE SERVICES SECTOR
中国(北京)自由贸易试验区
CHINA (BEIJING) PILOT FREE TRADE ZONE

——Mr. ZHAO Weidong, Member of the Party Leadership Group and Deputy Director General of Beijing Municipal Commerce Bureau

“South-South cooperation has strongly promoted technical exchanges and cooperation among developing countries, and has promoted the extension and

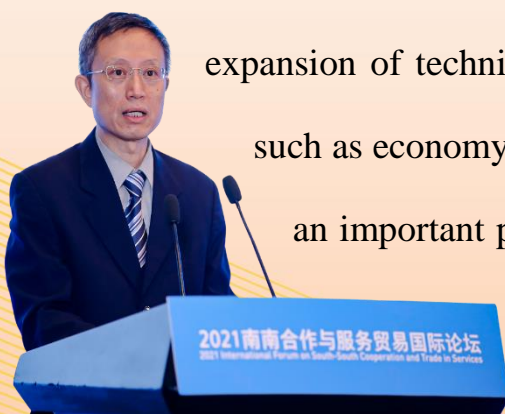
expansion of technical cooperation to cooperation in multiple fields

such as economy and trade. South-South cooperation has provided

an important platform for Beijing to further expand its opening

up and strengthen its international cooperation.

The construction of the “two zones” will



contribute to the deep integration of digital technology and service industry, highlight the characteristics of “technological innovation, opening up of service industry and digital economy”, promote Beijing’s high-quality development and high-level opening, and contribute to the dual circulation.”

***Digital Economy and China*—Dr. SHENG Bin, Professor, School of Economics, Nankai University**

This report presents a comprehensive review of the characteristics and trends of the global digital economy. There are in-depth analysis in the first chapter and in the sub-sectors of each chapter, such as the servitization of manufacturing, the digitization of service industry and the development of global data value chains.



Secondly, this report analyzes digital industrialization, digitalization of industry, digital trade and international investment and China’s achievements and lessons; thirdly, this report pays special attention to the social impact of the digital economy, such as the impact on employment, innovation, security and risk; fourthly, this report discusses the digital governance rules system, including anti-monopoly and anti-unfair competition at the domestic level and the new changes in cross-border data trade at the international level.

***International Guidelines for Industrial Parks of the UNIDO (Chinese Version)*——By Mr. MA Jian, Deputy Representative of UNIDO Regional Office in Beijing**

Inclusive and sustainable industrial parks are a feasible, innovative and integrated intervention, which can be used to support countries, especially developing countries and middle-income economies, in accelerating their inclusive and sustainable industrialization and structural transformation. Industrial parks help overcome business infrastructure constraints and barriers to firm entry into the markets. Industrial parks have the capacity to generate high productivity, stimulate innovation, promote investment and foster social inclusion and environmental protection.



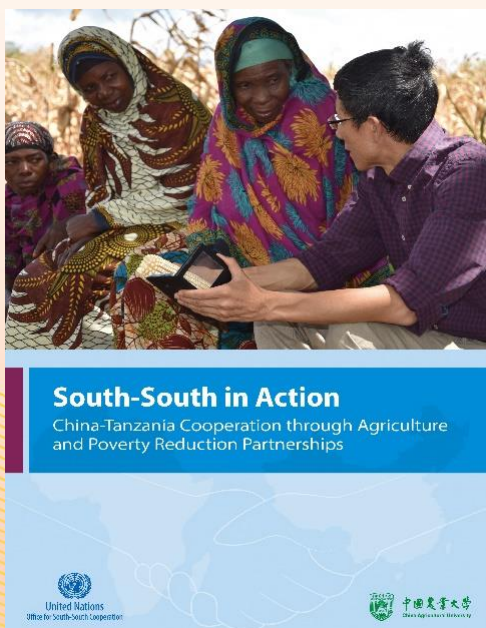
UNIDO consolidates best practices and develops the necessary guidance tools to support Member States and partners on issues related to industrial park development. The “International Guidelines for Industrial Parks”, a comprehensive reference framework to guide the development of competitive, inclusive and sustainable parks was developed at this backdrop. The guidelines were prepared by combining in-house technical expertise with international best practices. We hope that these guidelines will serve as a useful guide and reference tool by the different stakeholders, including industrial park regulators, developers, operators, tenants, partners (such as multilateral development

agencies) and financial institutions. The guidelines are relevant to both existing and new industrial parks in various international contexts, with a focus on the needs and challenges developing countries and middle-income economies face. UNIDO will regularly review and update the guidelines to take account of new developments and evolving trends in the global development and industrial landscape, as well as inputs from our Member States and partners.



South-South in Action—China-Tanzanian Cooperation through Agriculture and Poverty Reduction Partnerships—By Dr. XU Xiuli, Dean of the College of International Development and Global Agriculture at China Agricultural University

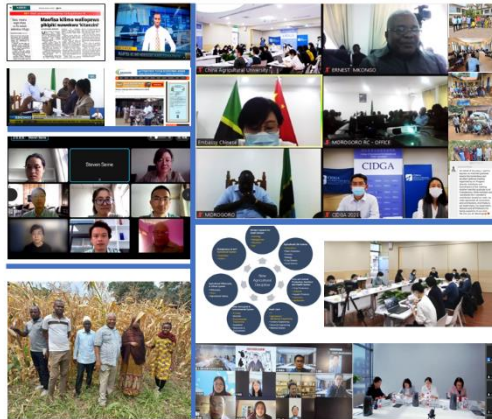
College of International Development and Global Agriculture (CIDGA) of CAU



is a university-level platform for the construction of new agricultural disciplines. Based on decades of research, teaching and practices on South-South Cooperation (SSC), it carried out “Small Technology, Big Harvest (STBH)” Project in Morogoro Region, Tanzania to share China’s “two experiences” in 10 villages toward 1,000 households and

10,000 mu of land. Online-to-offline platforms were created during the COVID-19 pandemic to proceed the “SSC on the cloud”.

疫情期间的“云上南南合作” “SSTrC on the Cloud” Tackling COVID-19 Challenges



项目内形成中坦发展合作共同体 China-Tanzania development community was formed in STBH project.

疫情期间，保证了持续的交流合作 During the pandemic, constant exchanges and cooperation were ensured.

通过共商共建，依托数字化工具创新合作模式和内容 Through consultation and joint construction, cooperation modes and contents were innovated via digital tools.

- 当地政府联合中方组织最佳推广员颁奖典礼，反映了双方的自主性 Local governments and China jointly organized online Awarding Ceremony for the Best Extension Worker Competitions, demonstrating local independence.

- 通过教育合作，培养年轻人，让年轻人去实地了解项目实践创新，推动坦桑当地可持续发展 Under China-Africa “1+1” M.A. program, young talents were encouraged to have field study tour, promoting local sustainability.

- 通过微信、钉钉等平台，完成日常项目执行和监测评估，建立云团队，通过云分享，推动双方持续学习和行动 Team on the cloud was built for experience sharing, learning, monitoring, evaluation, and daily project implementation through Wechat, DingTalk, etc.

China-Africa Good Rafiki
中非友好关系

For a resilient development community
with a shared future of humankind.
迈向具有韧性的人类命运共同体



There are exhibit booths in the conference room, UNOSSC, CICETE, Global South-South Development Center Project, and the “Two Zones” area in Beijing and the three knowledge products were exhibited and displayed.

—Digital Economy for South-South Cooperation



Survey and Assessments Findings



Number of Forum Views

Offline participants	130
Online viewers	1200
Visits to LivePhoto	40,240
News released on CICETE's WeChat official account	442
Total	42,012



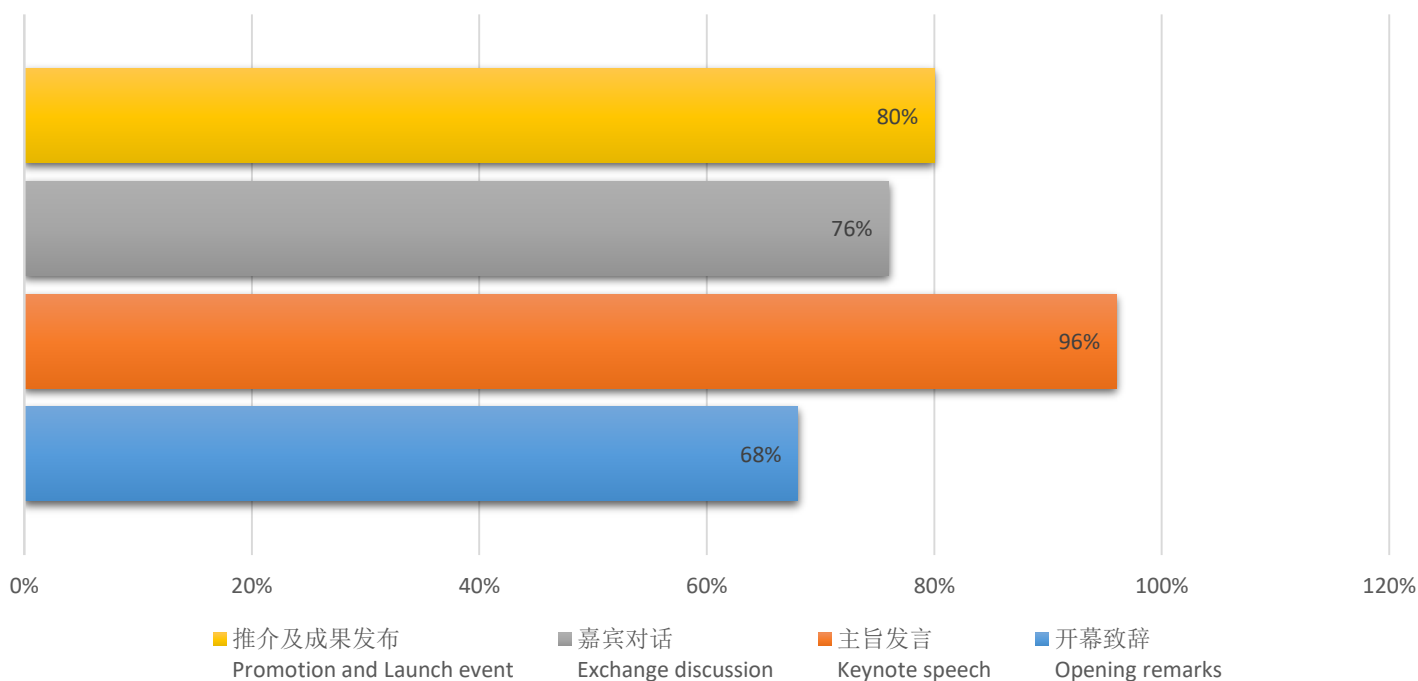
Post Forum Survey and Assessment

The Forum was attended by 130 representatives. According to the survey responses, the overall gender ratio among attendees were almost equal (female 50.76% and male 49.23%). Government and public institutions, academia and think tanks, private sector were the largest groups of organizations where the participants were from.

In all, the satisfaction survey was completed by 39 participants, among which:

- 100% of the survey respondents considered that the Forum delivered the information they expected;
- 92.73% thought the subject matter was presented effectively;
- 96% considered the pace of the Forum was satisfactory;
- 100% thought the speakers were knowledgeable;
- 100% gained new knowledge applicable to future work;
- 100% planned to apply what they learned during the annual meeting;
- 96% interested in participating future webinars/meetings.

Which session has satisfied you the most?



科技 人类 项目 机构 贸易 供应链 联合国 绿色 领域 建设 发展 关系 数字 经济 国际 数字化 医疗 发展中国家 案例 基础设施 命运 合作 中国药

南南合作

Suggestions to the topics/ focus area of the next Forum

Acknowledgements

We owe a major debt of gratitude to the following partners, for their vigorous support: United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in China, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Food Programme Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation of MOFCOM, China Agricultural University, Nankai University, School of Economics and Management of Tsinghua University, China-Africa Business Council, China South-South Cooperation Network, Global South-South Development Center Project!

We are extremely grateful to all the stakeholders, partners and participants. The Forum would not have been possible without your understanding, cooperation and support!

Concluding

The 25th Annual Meeting of China South-South Cooperation Network was held in Chongqing in November 2020. In response to the suggestions proposed during the meeting, to provide a high-level platform to facilitate South-South cooperation and exchanges, the 2021 International Forum on South-South Cooperation and Trade in Services was conceived. It was the first of its kind during China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) centering on South-South cooperation.

The event was supported by Global South-South Development Center Project. Organizing capacity building and awareness sharing seminars/workshops /webinars is an innovative response of the Global SSDC Project to COVID-19, aiming to synergize partners' capacities and capabilities for effective collaboration and enhance knowledge exchange and cooperation via online/in-person brainstorming. The events focused on the common concerns to expand ways of thinking and promote awareness-building and experience-sharing in terms of South-South cooperation and international development cooperation.



全球南南发展中心项目

Global South-South Development Center Project

Moments



