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The layout design is created by Kent Design. The chapter page is co-designed by faculty and students from the School of City Design, Central Academy of Fine Arts. Special thanks to Vice Dean Prof. Fan ZHUO, Assoc. Prof. Xinfeng XIONG, and fellow students especially Zhenxuan MOU for their professional support.

This report is printed on eco-friendly paper.
Dr. Gerd MÜLLER
Director General of UNIDO

“My goal is that UNIDO provides concrete and practical solutions to pressing global challenges. Sustainable industrial development can deliver a world without hunger, using sustainable energy for productive activities, and creating jobs, particularly for young people.”
Dear Partners,

The year 2023 marks the halfway point in achieving the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Global polycrisis has widened the gap between reality and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a leading platform for innovation, knowledge and technology transfer, and investment promotion, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) adheres to the motto of “Progress by Innovation,” dedicating itself to providing concrete and viable solutions to urgent global challenges.

- **Agenda Setting and Moving Beyond Boundary**

  Global agendas come with both complexity and diversity. UNIDO ITPO Beijing sets key and priority agendas in the industrial sector through global forums, professional reports, and action plans, facilitating the gathering and integration of insights from policymakers, industry leaders, and scholars across different countries and regions to promote information sharing and foster global consensus.

  The three-year pandemic has severely hampered cross-border cooperation, leading to a significant slowdown in global investment. In the post-pandemic era, our primary task is “going out” and “bringing in”, seizing the new trends in world economic and technological development and heeding the new demands of global markets and partners. UNIDO ITPO Beijing facilitates cross-border visits and leads various institutional partners in exploring cross-sector integration, thereby promoting practical cooperation.

- **Empowering Marginalized and Promoting Inclusive Development**

  The rapidly advancing digital production technologies in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) offer abundant opportunities, yet they also risk widening the digital divide and leading to new inequalities. To achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), particular attention should be paid to underdeveloped countries and regions, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as social groups such as women, children, and youth. UNIDO ITPO Beijing is committed to enhancing the accessibility and affordability of investment projects and technological solutions through capacity building and knowledge sharing, ensuring that ISID benefits the entire society and “leaves no one behind”.

- **Penetrating Industries and Facilitating Matchmaking and Implementation**

  The focus should be on key sectors. By organizing industry visits, conducting seminars and matchmaking activities, UNIDO ITPO Beijing analyzes future trends and opportunities and promotes the formulation and implementation of international industry standards to create more social value.

  UNIDO ITPO Beijing has established a national network of Regional Coordination Centers as well as Fourth Industrial Revolution Accelerator across China. Leveraging investment promotion 4.0 tools and utilizing global technology and talent competitions, international trade fairs, and other innovative showcase platforms, UNIDO ITPO Beijing discovers, identifies, evaluates and implements cutting-edge technologies with both technical and market feasibility. Through strategizing for
future industries, the initiative to "Strengthen Capacity, Accelerate and Lead the Ecosystem for Upward Investment (SCALE-UP)" has been agreed upon to assist and propel impactful project implementation.

**Promoting Digital and Green Transformation**

UNIDO ITPO Beijing constantly advocates digital and green transformation. Through initiating Global Call 2023, promoting international cooperation in sustainable energy, and facilitating the involvement of developing countries in carbon trading, UNIDO ITPO Beijing leverages the collective action of the UNIDO’s 4IR Alliance and advanced digital technologies such as AI to assist enterprises in achieving social value and advancing SDGs.

The progress of UNIDO ITPO Beijing is thanks to the substantial support from our partners. We hereby want to extend our special thanks to the UNIDO Headquarters, GLO/ITP, IET/CTP, TCS/DSE/CTI, RFO, IHEC, as well as other UN entities in China such as RCO. Our thanks also go to the Office of Foreign Missions at the MFA of the PRC, the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, the Department of Foreign Investment Administration, and the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges at the MOFCOM, the Department of International Cooperation and the International Cooperation Center of the NDRC, the Department of International Cooperation at the MIIT, the Department of Standards Innovation Regulation at the SAMR, Foreign Affairs Commission of Henan Provincial Committee of the CPC, the Department of Commerce of Zhejiang Province, Sichuan Provincial Bureau of Economic Cooperation, and the People’s Governments of Beijing Xicheng District, Jinan, Xiamen, Chengdu, Zhengzhou, Hangzhou, Lu’an, and other policy and knowledge partners, for their ongoing support. We are also pleased to see an increasing number of industry and business partners proactively assuming more social responsibilities in their journey to embracing the world and actively sharing their experiences in sustainable development.

"One must constantly strive for self-improvement and keep pace with the times."

Looking ahead, we will continue to work in close collaboration with our partners, serving as a fair and trustworthy bridge to foster international cooperation in infrastructure, industrial transformation, technological innovation, sustainable supply chains, zero hunger, and climate action, among others; We invite all relevant stakeholders to join us. Let’s unite to accelerate the achievement of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development!
The value of technical cooperation delivery in 2022 amounted to $180.3 million

$200 million net voluntary contributions in 2022 for project implementation, with a total portfolio of projects in hand of $621.9 million

133 million tons of CO₂ emissions reduced due to gradual phase-out of ozone-depleting substances

Projects implemented in 126 countries in 2022
UNIDO maintains Investment and Technology Promotion Offices in 10 locations (Beijing, Bonn, Berlin, Lagos, Manama, Moscow, Rome, Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo).
UNIDO ITP Network

Since 1976, UNIDO has been establishing the Investment and Technology Promotion Network (UNIDO ITP Network) worldwide.

- The ITP Network, strategically located in both hemispheres, is an umbrella-structured network with Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) established in eight countries including Bahrain, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Nigeria, and Russia.

- The ITP network is committed to promoting investment and technology transfer to mitigate developmental disparities among developed countries, developing countries, and transitional economies.
In line with UNIDO’s mandate, ITPO will become the hub of science, technology, investment, and innovation. Through active participation in global forums, capacity-building programs, investment and technology matchmaking, research consultancy, and partnership cultivation, ITPO Beijing will enhance the international competitiveness of Chinese government entities, investment promotion agencies, and businesses. Its goals include driving technological innovation, fostering trilateral cooperation, facilitating “bringing in” and “going out” of Chinese investments and technologies, and shaping new drivers of regional economic growth. Ultimately, these endeavors will support industrialization in developing and industrializing nations.

By 2023, UNIDO ITPO Beijing has established Regional Coordination Centers (RCCs) in Jinan, Xiamen, Chengdu, and Zhengzhou, and Fourth Industrial Revolution Accelerator in Hangzhou. This organizational structure is designed to strengthen the implementation of major foreign investment projects, help enterprises “going out,” enhance regional coordination and promote industrial gradient transfer in various regions of China, thus stimulating bidirectional capital, technology, and talent flow between local areas and the world.

Established in 1990, UNIDO ITPO Beijing specializes in investment and technology promotion. It has been playing an important role in attracting foreign investment, importing key technologies, and advancing industrial development of China.
"My goal is that UNIDO provides concrete and practical solutions to pressing global challenges."

— Dr. Gerd MÜLLER, Director General of UNIDO

Global agendas come with both complexity and diversity. International organizations are committed to fostering global collaborations and implementing solutions, playing a pivotal role in setting agendas and coordinating efforts, which facilitates a more effective response to and resolution of global challenges by the international community.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing sets key and priority agendas in industries through global forums, professional reports, and action plans, extensively collecting and incorporating professional advice from policymakers, industry leaders, and scholars throughout many countries and regions. Our actions help promote information sharing, build global consensus, and inspire broader participation and more efficient, precise institutional partnerships.
Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a speech via video at the Global Trade in Services Summit of the 2023 CIFTIS in Beijing. Photo by Bin LIU, Xinhua News Agency reporter.
Global Forum on Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Investment

Roundtable 1
IP 4.0 - AI Empowering Sustainable Investment

Roundtable 2
ESG 2.0 - New Variables in Sustainable Investment

Hosts
UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Network (UNIDO ITP Network)
China International Council for the Promotion of Multinational Corporations (CICPMC)

Undertakers
UNIDO ITPO Beijing
CICPMC-Growth Enterprise Committee
Caixin Media

Supporters
The UN Resident Coordinator Office in China
China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)
Xicheng District People’s Government of Beijing Municipality
Beijing ChinaInfo100 Institute of Information Economy
China ESG30 Forum
Honor Device Co., Ltd.
Artificial Intelligence (AI), as one of the core technologies of Advanced Digital Production (ADP) emerging during the new industrial revolution, has become a global investment hotspot and a powerful tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we step into the “Decade of Action,” how to use AI and other digital technologies to promote sustainable investment while achieving sustainable development of AI technology, becomes an urgent issue to be addressed at this stage.

Global experts believe that AI holds great promise in bridging development gaps, eradicating poverty, transitioning energy, and addressing climate change. It’s crucial for mankind to steer AI investment to meet the SDGs by 2030.

Qiuping SHENG, Member of the CPC Leadership Group of the Ministry of Commerce and Vice Minister, proposed three suggestions: to focus on innovation-driven strategies for AI development; to adhere to green and sustainable development for joint governance; and to implement Global Development Initiatives to create new developmental momentum. Ciyong ZOU, Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development at UNIDO, holds that the annual funding gap for sustainable investment in developing countries in the post-pandemic era has reached $4.2 trillion. Accelerating sustainable investment has become an urgent task during the 4IR. Siddharth CHATTERJEE, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in China, emphasized that AI possesses unprecedented potential and should be fully utilized to promote sustainable investment and bridge socio-economic development gaps.

As an emerging technology, AI also faces numerous challenges. It is imperative to formulate an AI development framework to harness it more orderly.

Fulin SHANG, Director of the Economic Committee of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference and Invited Vice President of the China International Council for the Promotion of Multinational Corporations, believed that particular attention should be paid to issues like data privacy, algorithmic fairness and employment transformation to ensure their alignment with ethics and social values. Qiang WANG, co-founder of ZhenFund, stressed the urgency of AI investments for narrowing development gaps. While investing in advanced technologies, their social impact should be heeded. According to Rolf STELTEMEIER, Head of UNIDO ITPO Germany, Germany...
has become an early adopter of AI technology, establishing comprehensive infrastructure and ecosystems, which have been widely integrated in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. Both Germany and the EU emphasize establishing robust and reliable governance structures to ensure widespread access to AI benefits within the EU framework.

China has advanced AI development, maintaining the world’s second position in the Global AI Innovation Index for three consecutive years. The nation’s various applications of AI in the industrial sector have achieved significant results.

Biao WAN, Chairman of Honor Device, stated that the company adheres to a long-term vision with wisdom and courage, consistently embracing openness, innovation, and AI in its products, services, and management. Lin LUO, Vice President of WeRide, and Yueling WU, Chairman of Zhejiang Panshi Information Technology Co., Ltd and Co-founder of Panshi Group, also introduced their concepts and practices of using AI during corporate governance.

During the forum, UNIDO ITPO Beijing, together with its partners, released the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Empowering Sustainable Development and Investment. According to MIT, AI can facilitate 134 of the 169 (nearly 80%) targets of SDGs, but it may also inhibit the remaining ones.

Regarding Global South common development and sustainable investment, Abimbola OLUFORE, Head of UNIDO ITPO Nigeria, noted that Africa longs for digital transformation and automation technologies to boost industrial development. Inclusiveness is Nigeria’s primary concern when formulating national policies on the digital economy and designing governance frameworks for digital technologies. Hashim S. HUSSEIN, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, mentioned that China and the Middle East hold prospects for cooperation in technological innovation, and China’s experience in supporting SMEs financially is worth learning from.

Regarding the new variable in sustainable investment, namely ESG 2.0, Jianxing LIU, Deputy Director of the Institute of Market and Price Research, NDRC, highlighted the potential of accessible AI technologies to address ESG challenges by facilitating effective supervision of ESG indicators. Xu FANG, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at SenseTime, emphasized the necessity to standardize and establish a relatively complete data system to manage ESG issues intelligently. Maengho SHIN, Head of UNIDO ITPO Korea, expressed the concern that while SMEs in developing countries recognize the inevitability of ESG principles, they view compliance with ESG requirements as a financial burden. Governments and international institutions need to strike a balance between ensuring enterprise growth and profitability and complying with ESG standards, respecting its uniform application with consideration of different regions and industries. Juan ZOU, a global partner at Bain & Company, underscored the need for ESG initiatives to be aligned with a company’s values and bring internal and external positive feedback through economic and ESG benefits.
China International Import Expo

The China International Import Expo (CIIE), co-hosted by MOFCOM and the Shanghai Municipal People’s Government, is the world’s first import-focused exhibition at a national level. It represents a major decision in China’s new round of high-level opening-up and a significant move for the nation to actively open its market to the world.

“CIIE has enabled exhibits to become traded goods and exhibitors to spot more investment opportunities. It has facilitated an exchange of new and creative ideas, and better connected China and the wider world. Acting as a major platform for international procurement, investment promotion, people-to-people and cultural exchange and open cooperation, the CIIE is now an international public good for the world to share.”

—— Chinese President Xi Jinping

Since the first CIIE, UNIDO has been a partner, setting up both online and offline booths at each session and participating in or hosting the Hongqiao International Economic Forum. Since 2020, UNIDO ITPO Beijing has co-hosted supporting activities with the China International Import Expo Bureau, providing support for its special committees, and contributing to the CIIE goals of “higher standards, better results and continued success”.

Date
November 5-10, 2023

Location
National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai)

Theme
New Era Shared Future

Exhibitors
3,486

Registered Attendees
Over 410,000 individuals

Premiere Displays
442 representative new products, technologies, and services

Intended Annual Transaction Volume
78.41 billion USD
The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Smart Mobility Forum

**Smart Mobility, Green Future**

**Energy Transformation Accelerates Mobility Transformation**

**Hosts**
- UNIDO ITP Network
- China International Import Expo Bureau
- National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

**Co-host**
- China News Network

**Undertaker**
- UNIDO ITPO Beijing

**Co-organizers**
- The 6th CIIE Exhibitors Alliance - Special Committee for Automobile Innovation and Development
- The 6th CIIE Exhibitors Alliance - Special Committee for Smart Transportation and New Energy

**Supporters**
- The UN Resident Coordinator Office in China
- China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges
- China Pacific Insurance Co., Ltd.
- Caixin Media

The forum won second place in the Media Coverage and Influence Ranking of the Sixth CIIE.
As the world's largest automobile consumer market, China became the largest automobile exporter globally for the first time in 2023, with new energy vehicles being a highlight of the country's exports. Beyond electrification, the development of automobile intelligence is also attracting significant attention.

Qiuping SHENG, Member of the CPC Leadership Group of the Ministry of Commerce and Vice Minister, noted that the acceleration of automobile products towards new energy, lightweight, and intelligent network connectivity, which is transforming cars from mere transportation tools to large mobile intelligent terminals, will be an important trend in the future. Fatou HAIDARA, Deputy to the Director General and the Managing Director of the Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations of UNIDO, emphasized that as the transportation sector plays a pivotal role in the low-carbon industrial transformation, expanding smart transportation could radically change urban lifestyles, offering new possibilities for work, travel, cooperation, and interaction. Siddharth CHATTERJEE, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in China, mentioned that China's progress in adopting renewable energy and technological innovation contributes to the green and low-carbon transformation in the transportation sector. Yue GU, Party Secretary and Chairman of China Pacific Property Insurance Co., Ltd., noted that the "New Four Modernizations" and "intelligentization" of the automobile industry have become irreversible trends, reshaping the future landscape of the insurance industry. Mingxin ZHANG, Editor-in-Chief of China News Service, expressed the hope to build more bridges for dialogue between Chinese and foreign governments, enterprises, think tanks, and others through the "News+" model in the global new economy and new business model.

Currently, a global transformation in the energy and transportation sectors is underway, centering on low-carbon concept and characterized by green and digital transformation, based on renewable
energy, with electricity and hydrogen as the dual drivers, and new energy vehicles as the core carriers. Meanwhile, the energy revolution also poses a series of new challenges and questions for the automobile industry and future mobility.

Junji CAO, Director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, highlighted that energy transition is a crucial way to achieve carbon neutrality. In the future, while vigorously developing wind and solar energy, we should emphasize and focus on enhancing the precise prediction and forecasting of wind and solar power. In the meantime, it is vital to build a multi-energy complementary system and accelerate the application of distributed wind and solar energy in new energy vehicles. Bai GAO, Professor of Sociology at Duke University, observed that China has gained a strong competitive advantage in the electric vehicle industry by enhancing factor endowments, building infrastructure, reducing transaction costs, expanding market size, creating industrial clusters, and encouraging industry competition. He also suggested that future efforts should be made to increase support for hydrogen vehicles. Yan LENG, Executive Vice President of Mercedes-Benz Group China Ltd., believed that energy transition in the automobile industry is crucial to the industry’s overall transformation. Electrification is just one aspect, with green and low-carbon development being the current goals pursued by the automotive industry. Ying LIU, Vice President of Government Affairs, Volvo Car Asia Pacific, expressed the hope to collaborate with industry partners to promote the development of charging infrastructure, create new scenarios for renewable energy, enhance the calculation and analysis of the entire lifecycle carbon footprint, foster supply chain collaboration and innovation, improve the battery ecosystem, promote the circular economy, and collectively advance green development to a new level. Yueling WU, Chairman of Zhejiang Panshi Information Technology Co., Ltd., stated that developing smart mobility also means creating a new ecosystem for transportation, allowing the pulse of the city to resonate with digital technology. The forum also released the Consensus of Members of the 6th CIIE Exhibitors Alliance Special Committee for Automobile Innovation and Development and the CIIE Exhibitors Alliance Special Committee for Smart Transportation and New Energy.
The automobile industry plays a significant role in the progress of industrial revolutions and global economic development. It is not only a crucial driver of economic growth but also a pioneer in leading technological innovation. In China, foreign-funded automobile enterprises are key participants in achieving China's "dual-carbon" goals and "green" development, while also facing challenges such as energy transformation and global supply chain resilience.

To continuously fuel technological innovation and international cooperation in the automobile industry, UNIDO ITPO Beijing, as a supporter of the "CIIE Exhibition Enterprise Alliance Automobile Innovation and Development Special Committee" Seminar on Foreign Auto Enterprises Development in China
Innovation and Development Special Committee, explores frontier topics, hot topics, new trends, and challenging issues in the industry by organizing closed-door seminars and publishing industry research reports. It aims to deepen industry engagement, expand influence, and jointly promote the high-quality and sustainable development of the automobile industry. The MOFCOM, NDRC, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People’s Republic of China, and the State Administration for Market Regulation, as well as renowned foreign-funded automobile enterprises in China like Ford, Michelin, Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar Land Rover, Hyundai, Toyota, General Motors, Honda, Volvo, Volkswagen, Tesla, BMW, Nissan, Daimler Trucks, and STELLANTIS, also joined the efforts.
Since 2014, UNIDO, as one of the co-hosts, has played an indispensable role in its establishment and international development. From 2020 to 2023, UNIDO ITPO Beijing has been deeply involved in CIFIT. Through offline and online UNIDO booths, technical exhibitions, project roadshows, investment matchmaking events, and government and enterprise visits, it has facilitated the launching of investment projects in China and helped Chinese enterprises "going out".

The China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT), hosted by MOFCOM, is dedicated to building three major platforms for bilateral investment promotion, authoritative information release, and investment trend discussion. It has developed into one of the world’s most influential international investment events and the largest investment exhibition certified by the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI).
Global Investment Dialogue: The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Investment Promotion 4.0

4IR, as a paradigm shift, also brings new requirements for investment promotion. The concept of Investment Promotion 4.0, defined as the use of advanced digital technologies to promote investment in achieving SDGs, is emerging. Based on AI and big data technologies, it can precisely recommend investment opportunities based on investor preferences and provide customized investment promotion services. Machine learning can be utilized to interpret economic complexity, offering insights and perspectives to investors for risk assessment and mitigation.

2023 marks the first year of the post-pandemic era and a critical year for global investment recovery. Amidst the wave of 4IR, what are the latest trends, opportunities, and prospects for international investment? How to use advanced digital technologies to explore new methods, ways, and challenges in investment promotion in the digital age? Against the backdrop of the "Invest in China Year," senior officials from UNIDO, leaders and experts from its UNIDO UP Network, along with stakeholders from Chinese foreign investment authorities, local governments, industrial parks, investment promotion agencies, multinational corporations, and leading venture capital firms, gathered in Xiamen to engage in a global investment dialogue.

Fatou HAIDARA, Deputy to the Director General and the Managing Director of the Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations of UNIDO, stated that as a co-host, UNIDO has partnered with CIFIT for over two decades to jointly promote global industrial investment and multilateral dialogue. Through the exhibitions and forums at CIFIT, participating countries have promoted, witnessed, and benefited from global sustainable industrial development while contributing to...
more inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Currently, as the global economic landscape and cooperation models continuously evolve, investment promotion has entered the 4.0 era. It is essential to embrace the changes brought by 4IR to more proactively and effectively achieve SDGs.

Jing DU, Deputy Director of the Foreign Investment Management Department of MOFCOM, stressed the need to stabilize the foreign investment base by innovating work methods and intensifying foreign investment promotion efforts. It is crucial to explore new approaches like industrial chain investment promotion, market-oriented investment, and business-driven investment, and fully leverage the new pathways and opportunities brought by the digital age. Professor Yabin WU, Head of UNIDO ITPO Beijing, noted that a significant feature of 4IR is “mass customization”. Thanks to big data and AI, consumers’ market preferences can be instantaneously relayed to producers. New consumption dictates new manufacturing, fundamentally changing the logic of global investment and trade-shifting investment closer to consumer markets, thus creating immense investment opportunities. Erhai LIU, Founding and Managing Partner of Joy Capital, mentioned the collaboration between Luckin Coffee and Kweichow Moutai to roll out the “sauce-flavored latte,” selling millions of cups in one single day with sales exceeding 100 million yuan, exemplifies the opportunities brought by a mature digital infrastructure comprising mobile internet, mobile payments, logistics, AI+IoT+Cloud, and advanced manufacturing. Digital infrastructure is reshaping industry chains and significantly impacting globalization, heralding the emergence of a new generation of “born-global” enterprises, with the automotive and new energy industries expected to seize historic opportunities.

As for how to boost the resilience of global supply chains, Rolf STELTEMEIER, Head of UNIDO ITPO Germany, emphasized that traditional supply chain models are no longer applicable, necessitating a heightened focus on sustainability. Building sustainable supply chains not only drives economic growth but also addresses contemporary global challenges such as carbon emissions, energy issues, and social inequality. Olaf DEUTSCHBEIN, Head of UNIDO ITPO Germany Berlin, noted China’s success inspired other countries to actively integrate into the global supply chain. He stressed the need to enhance the inclusiveness and sustainability of global supply chains from an environmental protection and social justice perspective while focusing on carbon emissions and SMEs’ growth in underdeveloped regions. Fumio ADACHI, Head of UNIDO ITPO Japan, also underscored the importance of supporting SMEs in less developed areas. She pointed out that
while Japanese companies’ investments in developing countries are rather limited, they focus more on exporting technology, especially in supporting SMEs to collaborate with local businesses in applying technology. Maengho SHIN, Head of UNIDO ITPO Korea, highlighted the need for a balanced and comprehensive approach to global supply chain sustainability. Abimbola OLUFORE, Head of UNIDO ITPO Nigeria, discussed the challenges facing African value chains, emphasizing opportunities for leapfrog development in Africa and South-South cooperation with China. Afif BARHOUMI, an investment promotion expert of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, believed that developing countries need not only technology and funding but also ecosystems like the one in China.

Rongliang ZHUANG, Deputy Mayor and Member of the Leading Party Group of the Xiamen Municipal People’s Government, noted that since the establishment of UNIDO ITPO Beijing Southern China Regional Coordination Center (Xiamen) in 2020, it has supported the construction of the BRICS Innovation Base, actively participated in CIFIT events, and established close and fruitful cooperation with Xiamen, aiding the city and the South China region in emerging strategic industrial layout and investment environment optimization. Other participants also shared their insights on how to leverage international cooperation opportunities provided by the new industrial revolution, exploring cutting-edge investment promotion topics such as digital investment attraction, industrial chain investment, and capital investment. Participants included Zhenfang HU, Deputy Director and Member of the Leading Party Group of the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Commerce, Xiaolin YOU, Deputy Director and Member of the Leading Party Group of the Heilongjiang Provincial Department of Commerce, Li YUAN, Leading Party Group Secretary, Director, and Level II Bureau Rank Official of Beijing Xicheng District Bureau of Commerce, Chuanfu YU, Level II Bureau Rank Official of the Fujian Provincial Department of Commerce, Biru KE, Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Xiamen Committee, Binna ZHANG, Chief Economist of the Xiamen Torch Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone Management Committee, Liang HONG, Deputy Director of the Leading Group Office at the Xiamen BRICS Innovation Base, Jun LIU, Deputy Director of the Jingjiang Economic and Technological Development Zone Management Committee in Jiangsu Province, and Zhiyu XU, Senior Vice President of Honor Device Co., Ltd.
Investment represents a high-level form of economic cooperation, which relies on a long-standing chain of trust. The three-year barrier caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has severely hindered the progress of cross-border investment cooperation, as online video conferences cannot fully replace face-to-face communication. Therefore, global investment has seen a significant slowdown.

In the post-pandemic era, our priority is "going out" and "bringing in," to grasp the new trends in the world economy and technological innovation and respond to the new demands of the global market and various partners. UNIDO ITPO Beijing has spearheaded multinational visits to facilitate cross-border integration, share innovative solutions, and foster practical cooperation among various institutional partners.
In recent years, Western capital has become more cautious about investing in the Chinese market, while Middle Eastern capital has been actively investing in and engaging with the Chinese market. Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) in the Middle East region are directing their investments towards China’s burgeoning sectors, such as the new energy, biotechnology, AI, and new consumption industries. It is estimated that by 2030, investments from SWFs in the Middle East region will reach USD 10 trillion, of which 10-20% will be channeled into Chinese assets. By embracing China’s new energy industry chain and advanced manufacturing, Middle Eastern countries aim to transform their single economic structure from heavy reliance on fossil fuels, thereby fostering green energy and smart manufacturing.
The High-Level Forum on Investment in Industrialization and Smart Manufacturing, themed "Industrialization and the Global Smart Manufacturing Market: Mobilizing Funds to the Industrial Sector" focused on challenges impeding industrialization and large-scale investments in the industrial sector. Professor Yabin WU, Head of UNIDO ITPO Beijing, exchanged his views on the opportunities, challenges, and risks of investment in the industrial sector with other panelists, including Nitan PATHAK, Head of Unit-Institutional Client Relationship Management at the European Investment Fund (EIF), Ayman EI TANBOULY, Co-founder and CIO at Exits MENA, Sonya JANAHI, Founder and CEO of Maya La Chocolaterie & The Living Concepts, and Reem BAGHDADI, Co-founder and CEO at Rimara Pak.

Dubai

Visit to Xuhang LI, Consul General, and Yi WU, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the PRC in Dubai

Visit to the World Free Zones Organization (World FZO)

Visit to the Dubai International Financial Centre
The 8th Annual Global Conference on Energy Efficiency, co-hosted by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the French Ministry of Energy Transition, and Schneider Electric, was held in Paris, France from June 6 to 8, 2023.

The conference reaffirmed the key role of energy efficiency and digitalization in addressing the current global energy crisis. It covers energy efficiency in industry, infrastructure, construction, and domesticity, as well as solutions and commitments involving key factors including financing, technology, workforce, and consumer motivation.

Chenxin ZHAO, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), attended the conference and delivered a speech. The Chinese government delegation proposed that “Energy security is the foundation and guarantee for the progressive improvement of energy efficiency,” a viewpoint that resonated widely at the conference. UNIDO ITPO Beijing, having been invited to the event, aligned with this perspective, as energy efficiency optimization and enhancement is also one of the three tracks of this year’s UNIDO Global Call, a flagship event led by UNIDO ITPO Beijing.
The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) is the second-largest United Nations center after the United Nations Headquarters in New York. In June, UNIDO ITPO Beijing organized a delegation from China to several international organizations headquartered in Geneva.

The delegation met with Xiangchen ZHANG, Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), to discuss challenges and opportunities posed by globalization as well as how to properly understand the "vulnerability" of global supply chains and enhance their resilience. There was a shared view that future international trade and investment would lean more towards sustainability and inclusiveness, with green and digital transformation providing new impetus. Globalization is an inevitable trend and rule-based international cooperation will remain unchanged. Countries are encouraged to strengthen dialogue and cooperation, jointly seeking "small yet beautiful" solutions.

The delegation visited the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and engaged in discussions with Dalila HAMOU, Director of the External Relations Division, Hongbing CHEN, Director of the Madrid Operations Division, Andrew Michael ONG, Director of the Division for Asia and the Pacific, and Peter OKSEN, Manager of Green Technology & Research at the Global Challenges Division. The discussion revolved around the critical role of intellectual property protection in fostering technological innovation and progress, the strides China has made in intellectual property, and the willingness to further explore new cooperation models in green technology and investment.

The delegation had a meeting with Tianyu MAO, Senior Programme Manager of Office for Asia and the Pacific at the International Trade Centre (ITC), and engaged in discussions on South-South cooperation, China-Africa trade, and investment collaboration. They expressed their intention to draw on China’s experience and utilize digital tools to help SMEs in developing countries to be more deeply engaged in international trade and achieve sustainable development.

The delegation also met with Yihong LI, Minister at Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the World Trade Organization, and Hong LIANG, Minister-Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland.
The United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) is the third United Nations Headquarters after New York and Geneva and is also home to several major international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNIDO, and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). In June, UNIDO ITPO Beijing organized a visit for a Chinese delegation to the UNIDO Headquarters and some other international organizations.

At the UNIDO Headquarters, UNIDO ITPO Beijing held the launch ceremony of the Global Call 2023. Dr. Gerd MÜLLER, Director General of UNIDO, delivered a welcoming speech. Attendees also included UNIDO Division of Member States and Funding Relations (MSR), Division of Climate and Technology Partnership (CTP), and Division of Decarbonization and Sustainable Energy (DSE), as well as heads from UNIDO ITPO Germany, UNIDO ITPO Italy, UNIDO ITPO Japan, UNIDO ITPO Korea, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, and UNIDO ITPO Nigeria, representatives from China’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna, policy partners from Xicheng District of Beijing, and Shenzhen of China, business partners from China Water Environment Group Limited (CWEG) and Honor Device Co., Ltd. and knowledge partners.

The delegation also met with Mei Qi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to the Republic of Austria.
Salzburg

Salzburg is home to the headquarters of Porsche Automobil Holding SE. Since 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the Porsche brand, the delegation paid a visit to the company and held discussions on sustainable development and digital transformation with its CEO Hans-Peter SCHÜTZINGER and Executive Director Rainer Scholl.

The delegation also met with Wolfgang EISL, the Special Envoy for China Affairs of the State of Salzburg, Austria, and extended an invitation for him to visit China.

Follow-up

In November, Wolfgang EISL attended the CIIE in China.

In December, the global technology brand Honor established a strategic partnership with Porsche Design and announced the launch of their first co-designed smartphone.
Germany

Berlin

In 2023, UNIDO ITP Network welcomed a new member – UNIDO ITPO Berlin, Germany. UNIDO ITPO Beijing, in collaboration with UNIDO ITPO Germany and its strategic partner Internationalen Wirtschaftssenat e. V. (IWS), co-hosted the 2023 IWS Summer Talk on Sustainable Supply Chains refer to the "Industry Penetration" section.

Smart Agrifood
Food security & safety are crucial for everyone. Currently, as many as 828 million people worldwide are unsure where their next meal is coming from. It remains a daunting task to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 of "Zero Hunger".

China's remarkable experience in eliminating hunger highlights the crucial role of sustainable industrialization, technology and knowledge transfer, and investments in agribusiness. Biotechnologies like genetic engineering, along with ADP technologies brought by the new industrial revolution such as blockchain, satellite remote sensing (SRS), and drones could offer promising opportunities.

China and Germany are important trade and investment partners. Back in September 2020, however, trade between the two countries was disrupted due to an outbreak of African Swine Fever in parts of Europe. UNIDO ITPO Beijing delegation discussed smart agriculture and food safety with several members of the German Bundestag, and had a meeting with experts, including Dr. Dietrich RASSOW, Director of Animal Health and Welfare Bureau at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, to explore new ways to strengthen Sino-German cooperation in agricultural products.

Smart Circular Economy
The smart circular economy is one of the four major tracks of 4IR. Advancing the circular economy is crucial for global green, digital transformation, and sustainable development. In Berlin, the delegation also met with Peter KURTH, President of the Federation of the German Waste, Water and Raw Materials Management Industry (BDE), and paid a visit to Bartscherer, a renewable resource recycling company.
Smart Medicine
The rapid integration of new-generation digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), 5G, big data, cloud computing, and the Internet of Things (IoT) with the pharmaceutical industry promises a broad investment horizon in smart medicine. The delegation visited Bayer AG to learn from its experience in digital transformation.

The delegation also met with Qian ZHAI, Minister of the Economic and Commercial Office of the Chinese Embassy in Germany.

After the pandemic, local governments in China have developed a keen interest in sending delegations overseas for investment promotion. UNIDO ITPO Beijing innovatively established Regional Coordination Centers (RCCs) across China, employing senior experts in key countries and regions to provide investment consultancy services, assisting local areas in "going out" for practical international cooperation.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing Northern China Regional Coordination Center (Zhengzhou), along with the delegation from Zhengzhou Municipal People’s Government, paid a visit to UNIDO ITPO Korea and UNIDO ITPO Japan. With their assistance, UNIDO ITPO Beijing reached out to d-camp, Seoul National University, Mediflower Hospital, Visit Jeju, and the Korea Tourism Organization.
In September 2023, the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 78) held its High-Level Week in New York, marking the midpoint of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. UNIDO was invited to the opening ceremony of the High-Level General Debate, 2023 SDG Summit, Climate Ambition Summit 2023, and other events. A series of high-level activities were also hosted, including the roundtable "Thought for Food Collaborating for Food Supply Chain Innovation to Accelerate the SDGs,” the side event on the "Financing Decarbonization of Heavy-emitting Industries,” and the "Positioning Africa’s Industrial Skills Development, Deployment and Retention: Accelerating Manufacturing Event”. Dr. Gerd MÜLLER, Director General of UNIDO, brought concrete proposals for climate action, eradication of hunger, sustainable supply chains, and industrial decarbonization.

UNIDO Director General Müller delivered a keynote speech at the 11th Annual International Development Conference on Sustainable Development at Columbia University. “We have the technologies, the knowledge, and the global capital for solutions. We do not need more speeches and papers but practical solutions.”
As the world’s largest coffee chain, Starbucks has set a target to reduce carbon emissions, water usage, and waste disposal by 50% compared to a 2019 baseline by 2030. In this context, UNIDO ITPO Beijing visited the Starbucks headquarters to explore cooperation on sustainability.

The industrialization of agriculture affects millions of small farmers and is related to the achievement of multiple SDGs. Therefore, UNIDO ITPO Beijing paid a visit to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Microsoft’s corporate headquarters to discuss trilateral cooperation concerning the agriproduct processing parks in Africa.

In addition, UNIDO ITPO Beijing was invited to a symposium organized by the Asia Society to mark the 10th anniversary of China’s “Belt and Road” initiative.
The UNIDO ITP Heads Meeting is held biannually. The meeting in the second half of 2023, organized by UNIDO ITPO Beijing, marked the first offline event at a UNIDO ITPO since the pandemic.

Three new themes were introduced during the meeting: firstly, collective attendance at the 2023 CIFTIS, the 2023 CIFIT, and the Cooperation and Exchange Conference Between Henan Province and Multinational Corporations for technology exhibitions and project roadshows; secondly, exchanges with China’s foreign investment policymakers like the Department of Foreign Investment Administration of MOFCOM on Foreign Investment in China, the UN Resident Coordinator Office in China, and UNIDO regional offices; thirdly, dialogues with Chinese central and local governments, industrial parks, investment institutions, and other partners, including visits to industry-leading companies like Lenovo, HITHIUM in Xiamen, Xiamen Gulong Canned Food Co., Ltd., and Xiamen ITG Group Corp., Ltd.

UNIDO ITP Heads Meeting on "Investment in China"
First online meeting with Dr. Gerd MÜLLER, Director General of UNIDO

Attendance at the Cooperation and Exchange Conference Between Henan Province and Multinational Corporations and meeting with Shangjin LIU, Vice Governor of Henan Province, Zhifeng MA, Vice Mayor of Zhengzhou, and Jie LIANG, Director of Foreign Affairs Office of Henan Provincial Party Committee.
Impact Stories
Facilitating Sino-African Cooperation in Industrial Development

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with youth constituting 60% of its population. After attending events such as the 2023 CIFITIS and 2023 CIFIT in September, Abimbola OLUFORE, Head of UNIDO ITPO Nigeria, led a delegation of Nigerian government and business representatives on a return visit to China in December.

The UNIDO ITPO Beijing Western China Regional Coordination Center (Chengdu) facilitated the delegation’s visit to China (Chongqing) Public Vocational Training Center. The center was established by Beijing Bohaidi Information Technology Co., Ltd., a tech firm specializing in ICT talent services. During the visit, Western China Regional Coordination Center (Chengdu) hosted the "Seminar on Vocational Education and Industrial Development in China and Africa," which fostered discussions on enhancing industrial development and Sino-African cooperation through vocational education. The delegation also attended an investment promotion event, organized by HITHIUM, a company specializing in the research, development, and manufacturing of energy storage batteries and systems.

Addressing the delegation’s specific interests, UNIDO ITPO Beijing, in its role within the UNIDO 4IR Accelerator (Hangzhou), organized a "Meeting on Supply-Demand Matchmaking for Smart Electricity and Medical Equipment Manufacturing" in Hangzhou.
UNIDO ITPO Beijing facilitated a visit for the delegation to Zhejiang Dahua Technology, a world-leading smart IoT sector service provider.

**Follow-up**

In February 2024, UNIDO ITPO Beijing is set to partner with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in China to organize a delegation of Chinese government and business representatives to Kenya. They will attend the Sixth Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) and the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment under the theme "Integrated Solutions for a Sustainable Future." The journey will also include a return visit to UNIDO ITPO Nigeria in Lagos to co-host investment and technology promotion events.
Empowering Marginalized

The advanced digital production technologies spurred by 4IR present a plethora of new opportunities. However, they may also give rise to a digital divide, leading to new inequalities, particularly impacting underdeveloped countries and regions, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as social groups such as women, children, and youth. To achieve the SDGs, it is necessary to address the needs of socially disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing is committed to enhancing the accessibility and affordability of investment projects and technological solutions through capacity building and knowledge sharing, ensuring that Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) benefits the entire society and "leaves no one behind".
Empowering the **Global South** & Facilitating Inclusive Development

**Building Public-Private Partnerships in Developing Countries**

India, being the most populous country in the world, faces a challenging journey towards sustainable development. With an active startup ecosystem, the country is home to around 100,000 startups and over 100 unicorn companies nationwide.

In March, with the support of UNIDO ITPO Beijing, the UN Resident Coordinator Office in China, and the UN Global Compact, the Indian Association Business Council (IABC) held a thematic exchange meeting in Shanghai. UNIDO ITPO Beijing invited our policy partners such as the China International Import Expo Bureau and business partners like XAG to explore how Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) can be leveraged to accelerate the SDGs in the “Decade of Action”.

**The Sewage Treatment Project in Senegal: Earning Local Acclaim**

Access to safe drinking water, clean environment and personal sanitation is recognized as a fundamental human right and a critical foundation for achieving SDGs, including good health and gender equality. Nevertheless, billions worldwide still struggle to get safe drinking water and basic sanitation services, with over 40% facing severe water scarcity exacerbated by climate change.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing provided early-stage support for the OP Series J-OP V2 processor project in Senegal, commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and assembled and debugged by CRRC Beijing Locomotive Co., Ltd. The project utilizes advanced “biomass + incineration” technology for harmless treatment of waste from sewage treatment plants. It helps to eliminate all pathogens and hazardous substances and transforms the waste into economically valuable renewable resources while effectively controlling greenhouse gas emissions in the process. The equipment is estimated to process waste from over 100,000 people daily, generating 230 kilowatts of net electricity and supplying approximately 86,000 liters of drinking water to address local water scarcity.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was completed and launched successfully. After operating for one and a half years, UNIDO ITPO Beijing sent experts to Senegal for assessment in March 2023. The project has since become a regional benchmark, managed by a local team of 20 members. Trucks queue daily at the plant to deliver sludge where it is then transformed into clean water, energy, and valuable products. The project has been recognized by local stakeholders, and looks forward to future collaboration.
Empowering Women & Unleashing the "She" Power

SDG 5 concerns gender equality, which emphasizes the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, ensuring their full participation in social, political, and economic life to enhance their empowerment. This is not only a moral responsibility but also a key foundation for sustainable development. 4IR has, in some way, intensified the gender gap in the labor market, posing new challenges for women’s employment and entrepreneurship. According to UNIDO’s report, women in the manufacturing industry face a 2.9% higher risk of computerization in their jobs than their male counterparts on average. In China, the rise of the internet economy is leading to a contraction of the traditional service industry, which has historically employed a higher number of females. Reforms in family planning policies have increased the caregiving burden on women, and the impact of the pandemic on export-oriented industries, along with rising remote work-from-home jobs, has increased the time women dedicate to household duties. Fortunately, the digital economy era has brought forth emerging professions, positions, and opportunities. Roles such as AI-assisted trainers, autonomous vehicle safety officers, and community health administrators give play to women’s unique strengths and provide avenues for flexible employment, local employment, online employment, and home-based entrepreneurship—a new paradigm for women in the workplace.

Simultaneously, UNIDO ITPO Beijing focuses on empowering women in the business sector, incorporating gender equality indicators such as female participation and benefits in its organized events. It advocates for promoting women’s leadership in corporate management, driving gender diversity in businesses, and organically integrating business value with social value. "The twenty-first century must be the century of women’s equality. Let us all play our part in making it so."
A just, equitable, and sustainable future for all will simply not be possible without the involvement of the world's 1.2 billion young people.

— UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Young people have become a driving force for societal change and are instrumental in identifying urgently required innovative solutions. The UN system plays a crucial role in ensuring that young people are adequately prepared to participate in all levels of decision-making. In 2023, UNIDO ITPO Beijing initiated and participated in a series of youth empowerment programs and activities.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing and China News Service jointly launched the "Global Youth Sustainable Leadership Development Program" at the 6th CIIE, aiming to cultivate comprehensive leadership, social responsibility, and innovation among global youth. The program will shift the attention of young people to international issues and enhance their global vision through diversified and practical training courses and internships, so as to cultivate young global leaders of a new generation in the midst of inclusive globalization.
UNIDO ITPO Beijing has consistently supported the HONOR Talents and the HONOR Talents Global Design Competition Art Exhibition. These initiatives aim to introduce the concept of sustainability into art and industrial design through a global dialogue between art and technology. They also encourage young talents to showcase the beauty of innovation while supporting, empowering, and incubating more original forces. The event featured 54 outstanding art pieces created by young designers from a dozen countries, including China, Malaysia, France, Germany, the UK, and Italy. Distinguished guests, including Mr. Siddharth CHATTERJEE, the United Nations Coordinator in China, Mr. Sanmugan SUBRAMANIAM, the Malaysian Minister in China, and Ms. Xiaohui WANG, a renowned crossover artist, attended the event.

Finnish education is renowned worldwide, with Finnish high school students consistently scoring higher than most OECD countries. Similarly, Finland’s higher education system garners acclaim, frequently earning recognition as exemplary by the Davos Forum. In September 2023, at the invitation of the UNIDO ITPO Beijing Northern China Regional Coordination Center (Zhengzhou), the city of Salla, Finland, conducted a visit to Henan. During this visit, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Zhengzhou Municipal Education Bureau, cementing a long-term and mutually beneficial partnership in primary and secondary education exchange, academic collaboration, and cultural engagement. The UNIDO ITPO Beijing Northern China Regional Coordination Center (Zhengzhou) pledges to maintain ongoing assessment and provide long-term support for this collaborative endeavor.

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UNIDO ITPO Beijing supported Shandong University in establishing an "International Organization Talent Training and Practice Base".

UNIDO ITPO Beijing engaged in a collaborative effort with the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) to host the university delegation participating in the "Youth Global Competence Training Project".

UNIDO ITPO Beijing supported the organization of the third "Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fair—NexTus SDGs Youth Innovators’ Assembly". The event aimed to transform innovations by fostering collaboration, integrating the digital and real economies, and transforming traditional industries.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing Western China Regional Coordination Center (Chengdu) in collaboration with the Sichuan Association for Promotion of Educational Excellence and Intel Products (Chengdu) Limited, organized the Future City Training the Trainers (TTT) Workshop, aiming to empower project trainers in urban development, green energy, and SDGs.
Empowering Growing Enterprises: To Be Born Global

In the era of globalization, growing enterprises emerge as the most dynamic and innovative entities that are closely linked to the market, and represent an emerging driver of global economic growth. These enterprises play a pivotal role in international investment and collaboration, actively contributing to pursuits such as innovation, reshaping global supply chains, enhancing corporate management capabilities, fostering talents aligned with international standards, and fulfilling corporate social responsibilities.

In March 2023, UNIDO ITPO Beijing and the Growth Enterprise Development Committee of the China International Council for the Promotion of Multinational Corporations (CICPMC) co-organized the “Seminar on Cooperative Development between Multinational Corporations and Growing Enterprises.” Under the theme of “The era of the fourth industrial revolution: Explore inclusive and sustainable development,” the seminar provides a platform to explore and exchange views on topics that concern both Chinese and foreign enterprises. It aims to promote the integrated development of large, medium and small enterprises and contribute to more balanced, coordinated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
Empowering **Local Governments**: Boosting Investment Promotion in Industrial Chains

As 2023 is the "Invest in China Year," to align with the theme "Investing in China: Creating a Bright Future of Openness and Prosperity," UNIDO ITPO Beijing has been designing training topics according to the needs of local governments and current hot topics.

In July 2023, UNIDO ITPO Beijing invited Bai GAO, Professor of Sociology at Duke University, to provide training on "New Trends in Global Investment and Trade Promotion under the Belt and Road Initiative". The training incorporated the historical context of unprecedented changes over the past century and the rise of the Global South, aiming to support the building of an international and professional investment promotion team in the locality. UNIDO ITPO Beijing has supported Xiamen for four consecutive years to create a better future of openness and prosperity, including backing Xiamen’s "Investment Promotion Training Course," which has trained nearly 300 local government officials. The training scope has been further expanded through the online sharing of videos and course materials.

Empowering **University Workstations**: Supporting Rural Revitalization

UNIDO ITPO Beijing, in collaboration with Tsinghua University’s Rural Revitalization Center, jointly launched rural cultural and creative products based on the village conditions of Sishui County and Weishan Island in Jining City, Shandong Province. These products were sold at the opening ceremony of the 14th "Love Knows No Borders" International Charity Sale in January 2023. Ms. Wei QIAN, wife of Yi WANG, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and State Councillor, Zhaoxu MA, Executive Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as representatives from more than 120 foreign embassies, international organizations in China, and charitable businesses, attended this year’s event, which was initiated by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2009. Through the empowerment of university workstations in their endeavor to revitalize the countryside, this initiative has not only facilitated the promotion of specialty products from impoverished rural areas to the international market but has also utilized the proceeds for rural development support, enhancing the self-sustaining capacity of local industries.
Social enterprises represent a next-generation economic model, working alongside technology, business, and policy to drive societal progress.

In November 2023, the ”2023 ESG Ecological Conference,” jointly organized by the CBJ Think Tank and For Good, served as a significant platform for domestic and international businesses to engage in social innovation, explore the topic of business for good, and create sustainable societal value. UNIDO ITPO Beijing has been a consistent supporter of the conference for many years. At the 2023 opening ceremony, themed ”Value Innovation of ESG and Sustainable Development,” UNIDO ITPO Beijing emphasized that ESG has evolved into a pivotal tool for fostering international cooperation and sustainable development, catalyzing profound transformations in business civilization. Embracing ESG and pursuing SDGs have provided Chinese enterprises with a visionary roadmap, a “compass” for discovering new growth points, and a risk mitigation guidebook for long-term development.

Empowering Social Enterprises: Leading High-Quality Development
Impact Stories

Promoting the Development of Vocational and Technical Education Standards in Africa

Africa is a continent brimming with hope, where talent is a critical driver for its impending economic resurgence. The key to escaping poverty and promoting employment and entrepreneurship lies in nurturing talents.

Vocational and technical education stands as a vital contributor to economic and societal development, with established standards serving as the cornerstone of the vocational education system.

Chad, nestled in the heart of Africa with a population of 16 million—43% of whom depend on animal husbandry for their livelihood and over half living below the poverty threshold—is classified by the UN as one of the world’s 45 least developed countries (LDCs) (as of December 2023). The pandemic has exacerbated Chad’s economic downturn, leading to soaring unemployment rates. Coupled with political and economic volatility, the country’s vocational and technical education is notably underdeveloped, highlighting an urgent need for investment in talent development.

In recent years, UNIDO ITPO Beijing has played a pivotal role in facilitating and developing vocational and technical education standards between China and Chad, aiming to bolster Chad’s introduction of vocational education resources from China, thereby modernizing Chad’s vocational education system and fostering its talent development. These initiatives, including curriculum standards development, admission of Chadian students in China, and establishment of overseas campuses by Chinese universities, have made significant progress thus far.

In late 2022, under the guidance of and aided by UNIDO ITPO Beijing, the Ministry of Vocational Training, Jobs and Microfinance in Chad signed a "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Vocational and Technical Education Standards" with the Beijing Foreign Cultural Trade
Association. This agreement seeks to leverage Chinese vocational and technical colleges to help Chad establish its national vocational and technical education standards for related industries across 14 categories, 212 programs, and a total of 563 grades.

With the joint efforts, a total of 58 Chinese vocational and technical institutions applied for 34 programs and 44 grades of vocational standards by the end of 2023. By early 2024, the Chadian side has approved and implemented standards for 19 programs and 21 grades. The second phase of the project is also well underway, with 52 institutions finalizing standards for 65 programs.

During a visit to China in December 2023, Mbairo Tog-Naye Ramadji, Deputy Minister of Vocational Training, Jobs and Microfinance in Chad, conveyed the Chadian government’s gratitude to UNIDO ITPO Beijing through a letter of appreciation.

**Follow-up**

Looking ahead to 2024, UNIDO ITPO Beijing is set to further deepen and expand cooperation between African countries like Chad and Chinese knowledge partners, persistently aiding the accreditation of vocational and technical education standards and facilitating resource alignment in developing countries.
Investment promotion and technology transfer stand as top priorities within the UNIDO ITP Network. "Investment" is leveraged to achieve SDG 9 targeted at the three I's of "Infrastructure," "Industrialization," and "Innovation" in the UN 2030 Agenda.

In a pioneering move, UNIDO ITPO Beijing has established Regional Coordination Centers as well as the 4IR Accelerator across China. UNIDO ITPO Beijing plays a pivotal role in discovering, identifying, evaluating, and implementing disruptive technologies with proven technical and market viability, employing tools like the GPSI, the "Investment Promotion Applet: Xiaozhi (Xiaozhi)," and Industrial Chain Investment Maps—all integral parts of IP4.0, as well as platforms such as global technology and talent competitions, international exhibitions, and project roadshows. This effort aims to "SCALE-UP," thereby facilitating and endorsing the implementation of significant projects.
Cutting-edge technologies like the IoT, blockchain, and AI are reshaping the global industrial landscape. AI, a key driver of innovation, facilitates industrial matchmaking and promotes investment, while IP4.0 utilizes advanced digital technologies to foster investment towards achieving SDGs.

At the 2023 CIFTIS, UNIDO ITPO Beijing, in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences Delta Capital's Digital Center, unveiled the "Xiaozhi," which is powered by AI and big data to amalgamate global projects, technologies, policies, events, and partnership information, with over 100 general knowledge bases and exclusive local policy databases. It gathers, filters, and integrates data on technology transfer, capacity building, and capital operations, establishing a digital platform for instant information exchange and dialogue between supply and demand sides.

Global Partnership of Sustainable Investment (GPSI), launched by UNIDO ITPO Beijing with the support of multiple partners, brings together a worldwide assortment of sustainable investment projects. It showcases and empowers projects and technologies that have been identified and evaluated in the early stage for partnership and implementation facilitation. Harnessing IP4.0 technologies like AI and big data, it delivers targeted services to local Chinese governments and industrial parks. This includes promoting industrial chain investments, accelerating technological advancements, organizing roadshows, facilitating centralized project procurement, and providing fund management advice.
In the era of the New Industrial Revolution (NIR), global value chains and world order are being reshaped by internet-based digital production technologies. The UN emphasizes the necessity to build an inclusive digital economy and calls upon the global community to tackle governance challenges and fortify international cooperation in this realm. UNIDO’s analysis of 167 economies reveals a stark disparity: only 50 are actively engaged in cutting-edge digital production innovations, with the leading 10 economies holding sway over 90% of all relevant patents worldwide and commanding 70% of the total exports. The digital divide and inequality present urgent challenges that demand immediate attention.

The year 2023 celebrates a decade of the World Internet Conference (WIC) Wuzhen Summit and marks the fifth anniversary of the Global Internet Competition of “Straight to Wuzhen,” which has been supported by UNIDO ITPO Beijing for two consecutive years. This competition focuses on global technological frontiers and hotspots in industrial development, drawing participants worldwide to showcase their technological solutions in both virtual and live formats. The 2023 edition featured six primary categories: AI, digital healthcare, connected vehicles, the industrial internet, intelligent sensing, digital ocean and aerospace, alongside a special category on AI (large models and digital humans). It attracted 1,005 entries from 23 countries, with 70 winning awards. Through its endorsement, UNIDO ITPO Beijing and the event organizers efficiently curated a selection of pioneering internet technologies and sustainable investment projects on a global scale. This effort leverages China’s, particularly Zhejiang Province’s, digital economic strengths to facilitate the digital and green transformation of traditional industries both within China and across the developing world.
Sharing Opportunities and Shaping the Future Together —
Supporting the 2023 China Overseas Talent Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition

Talent stands as the cornerstone of industry, the catalyst for innovation, and a strategic asset in driving economic and societal development. The escalating demand for overseas and digital talents highlights a critical area of focus for countries to attract intellectual capital. Since its debut in 2016, the “China Overseas Talent Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition” has been successfully held for seven years, with over 3,500 teams and projects showcasing their achievements in the events.

The 2023 edition was hosted by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the People’s Government of Anhui Province. UNIDO ITPO Beijing supported the competition and formed a strategic partnership with the hosts. This collaboration has fostered a synergistic ecosystem where talent and industry converge, thus catalyzing the conversion of high-tech achievements and spearheading the shift towards “industrial technologization”. The two sides will launch a series of “local visits” for winning projects, inviting winners to explore China’s innovation hubs, cities, and industrial parks for roadshows and matchmaking.

Supporting the "Canton Fair Design Award"

The Canton Fair, inaugurated in 1957 and jointly hosted by MOFCOM and the People’s Government of Guangdong Province, is China’s longest-running, largest-scale, most comprehensive, most attended, and most reputable international trade fair, also known as China’s prime exhibition. Since 2013, the Canton Fair has annually bestowed the CF Award, honoring products that exemplify the pinnacle of design and commercial viability. From 2022, UNIDO ITPO Beijing has enhanced the CF Award by introducing a “Sustainable Development Award,” aimed at promoting sustainable design practices and embedding the principles of sustainable development into the fabric of everyday life.

2023 winners of the CF Sustainable Development Award
Evaluating and Matching Market Viability Through Global Exhibitions

For any groundbreaking technology to succeed, it must navigate the path to market acceptance and industrial application. International fairs and specialized trade shows are the gold standard for evaluating the market viability of innovations. UNIDO ITPO Beijing leverages esteemed global exhibitions, including the CIFIT and CUE, to offer free exhibition and roadshow opportunities for sustainable technology solutions. This direct linkage between projects and technology owners and professional procurement teams, institutional investors, and industry experts effectively facilitates technology transfer and project implementation.

China International Fair for Investment and Trade Digital and Green Transformation Technology Roadshow

For the past four years, UNIDO ITPO Beijing has consistently featured a UNIDO Booth at CIFIT, showcasing advanced digital and green transformation technologies as well as popularizing UNIDO’s motto of “Progress by Innovation,” in support of fulfilling the SDGs.

In 2023, the booth size doubled in response to the organizers’ invitation, and a new “UNIDO ITP Network Zone” was introduced. This zone spotlighted cutting-edge technologies and initiatives from ten UNIDO ITPOs and the eight countries they reside in. Deputy to the UNIDO Director General, headquarters officials, and heads of ITPOs engaged in exchanges with government and corporate procurement teams and professional visitors on site.
Smart Circular Economy

- Super Thermal Conductive Material-Micro Heat Pipe Array Technology
  Super thermal conductive materials based on flat panel micro heat pipe array technology, boasting thermal conductivity 5,000 times that of aluminum and 200 times that of graphene, have secured patents in China, the United States, Europe, and Japan. These materials have been deployed into three major business segments: clean energy and smart multi-energy complementary systems, industrial energy-saving (waste heat, waste cold) gradient recycling systems, and key technologies for battery pack heat management systems.

Smart Circular Economy

- "Carbon Neutrality" Solutions
  The project has been dedicated to developing negative carbon, green hydrogen, and energy storage technologies, thus offering positive "carbon neutrality" solutions. Grounded in electrochemical research, it has led to the development and deployment of three main business segments: electrochemical carbon capture and utilization, composite membranes for alkaline water electrolyzers, and electrochemical denitrification technology for industrial wastewater.

Smart Circular Economy

- Distributed Underground Reclaimed Water Ecosystem
  It spearheaded the development and application of underground reclaimed water plants as part of China’s "Thirteenth Five-Year Plan" major water initiative, thereby effectively transforming wastewater into a source of renewable energy and optimizing the utilization of water, green energy, and land resources. Recognized as one of China’s eight pivotal green infrastructure technologies, it extends across 22 provinces, addressing a comprehensive range of water environment management and resource recovery applications, from lake and river treatment to the development of new urban districts, urban renewal, industrial park construction, and village upgrades.
Digital Talent Training

Focusing on 15 specialized fields, including Kunpeng, HarmonyOS, Euler, cloud computing, big data, AI, IoT, 5G, cybersecurity, and the industrial internet, it provides industrial-talent digital-transformation services to governments, businesses, and education institutes, which is achieved through a synergy of industry-education integration training cloud and professional services. The industry-education integration training cloud, deployed and utilized in regions like Asia-Pacific, Southern Africa, and the Middle East, has nurtured over 300,000 ICT professionals globally.

Ultra-high-speed Liquid-phase Freezing and Ultra-long Cold Storage Technology

By harnessing advancements in material and food science, this novel food storage technology has achieved liquid phase freezing at -60°C, propelling the speed of conventional food freezing by more than a hundredfold. This innovation slashes costs, energy use, and carbon emissions by around 60%. It delivers the same efficiency of liquid nitrogen freezing at less than a third of the cost while minimizing the deterioration of fresh food quality during transport. It allows food to remain frozen for over 48 hours or refrigerated for more than 96 hours within standard shipping containers. This breakthrough enables traditional logistics services to incorporate cold chain capabilities seamlessly.

Autonomous Driving, Vehicle-to-Road Collaboration, and High-Performance Sensing

These innovations are pioneering safer, more efficient and eco-friendly transportation, facilitating autonomous driving and operation in mining areas and industrial parks.

(1) Vehicle-to-road collaboration: Proactive bus prioritization enables active safety, intelligent panorama, and information sharing for smart driving.

(2) High-performance sensing: An intelligent obstacle detection system for trains that caters to the specific needs of rail transit. Utilizing autonomous driving technology and AI’s ability to combine the sensing power of LiDAR, cameras, and millimeter-wave radar, it should help create a sophisticated obstacle detection system for trains.
China International Import Expo
"UNIDO Global Call Prize Winners" Roadshow

The UNIDO Global Call 2023 focused on clean and smart energy, aiming to identify replicable and scalable technological solutions in green hydrogen, energy efficiency and clean energy innovation around the world. At the China International Import Expo (CIIE), UNIDO ITPO Beijing set up a Global Call 2023 booth within the Technology Equipment Exhibition Area, providing a free display and roadshow platform for prize-winning solutions and state-of-the-art technologies. The booth ribbon cutting ceremony was graced by distinguished guests including Fatou HAIDARA, Deputy to the Director General and the Managing Director of the Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations of UNIDO; Siddharth CHATTERJEE, UN Resident Coordinator in China; Zongqiang MAO, Vice President of the International Association for Hydrogen Energy; Hui FANG, General Manager of the Exhibition Department of CIIE at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai); and Man SU, Vice-Mayor of Lu’an, Anhui Province.

During the event, Xiaozhun Yi, former Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization and former Deputy Minister of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China, Shaohua TAO, Mayor of Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Jie LI, Mayor of Dongtai, Jiangsu Province, Lijun CHEN, Vice Mayor of Dongtai, Jiangsu Province, and Samuel ABIKUNDA, Commercial Counselor of the Rwandan Embassy in China, visited the booth and interacted with the businesses present.

“I am wowed by the incessant flow of visitors at CIIE. The open market in China has given numerous startups like mine to seize a place in the highly competitive business arena. I am grateful to the hosts for giving us this opportunity,” said Professor Zeeshan ALI from Pakistan, sharing his experience participating in the exhibition.

Green Hydrogen Category

- **Green Hydrogen Energy in Hand - A New High Density Solid Hydrogen Storage and Transportation Technology**
  China
  The world’s inaugural graphene interface nano-valve technology controls reactions on a micro-nano scale, thereby producing new high-density solid hydrogen storage materials that excel globally in terms of safety, efficiency, and cost.

- **H2umidity®**
  Spain
  The solution to generating green hydrogen via water electrolysis while leveraging electrolysis byproducts to produce electricity, drinking water, ecological disinfectants (H₂O₂), and climate control solutions, achieving a 100% recycling process.
Proton Exchange Membrane Water Electrolytic Hydrogen Production Equipment Industrialization
China
This technology captures electrical energy from renewable sources to transform electricity into hydrogen energy through electrolysis. Employing PEM fuel cells, the electrolysis system is designed to be compact and small, making it highly adaptable to rapid changes in load. This results in an efficient system that produces hydrogen gas of high purity with low energy consumption and high reliability. It is especially advantageous when applied in the fields of photovoltaic, wind energy, and offshore wind power.

LONGi ALK Hi1 Series
- "Green Power + Green Hydrogen" Solutions
China
The hydrogen electrolysis cell is an alkaline electrolysis hydrogen production equipment based on structural optimization and material innovation technology. Operating under rated conditions, its direct current consumption is 10% below the industry average, significantly lowering the cost of hydrogen production, a viable alternative to conventional technologies featuring easy adoption across the board.

Plasmon Catalytic Water to Hydrogen (W2H) Reactor Technology
China
This W2H reactor technology enables catalytic water splitting into hydrogen without the need for high temperature or pressure, eliminating leakage risks and being completely eco-friendly. It enhances energy efficiency over a hundred times compared to nano-catalysis while halving the cost relative to electrolysis.

Green Hydrogen Equipment One Stop Whole-industrial Solution for Energy Storage, Fuel Cell Vehicles and Hydrogen Refueling Stations
China
The construction of green hydrogen liquefaction plants offers comprehensive solutions to building infrastructure for green hydrogen production, liquefaction, storage, transportation, and refueling as well as fuel cell vehicle operations.

High-Performance and High Durability Metal Bipolar Fuel Cell Stack (System)
China
The high-power metal bipolar fuel cell stack features remarkable consistency, longevity, and adaptability to a range of temperatures, leading domestically in bipolar plate and membrane electrode technologies.

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**Carbon Neutrality Driven Data Center Energy Management and Job Scheduling System: An Information and Energy Nexus Perspective**

**China**

This innovative system optimizes the timing and location of computing tasks in data centers by shifting the tasks to periods and regions with lower electricity costs and higher renewable energy availability. It dynamically manages the energy consumption of data center equipment, lowers energy expenses, encourages renewable energy usage, and facilitates a low-carbon approach to data center operations.

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**Efficient Thermal Management Technology for Hydrogen Fuel Cells based on Micro Heat Pipe Arrays**

**China**

With exclusive proprietary intellectual property rights, the micro heat pipe array technology boasts exceptional pressure resistance, minimal thermal contact resistance, excellent temperature uniformity, superior machinability, and a design that is both lightweight and ultra-thin. Its thermal conductivity is over 5,000 times that of comparable metals and 200 times greater than that of graphene, boosting the maximum current load of standard stacks by 80%, doubling their safety performance, and exceeding all thermal performance benchmarks by over 50%. This technology significantly extends both the lifespan and safety of fuel cells.

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**Green Power and Hydrogen Vehicles**

**China**

This innovative product seamlessly integrates methanol hydrogen production and purification units, providing on-demand hydrogen production with a minimal footprint and cutting the cost of hydrogen for end-users by half. It is designed for modular stacking, allowing for easy scalability. On the application front, it includes water-cooled hydrogen-powered two-wheelers that are widely used in food delivery, instant logistics, personal mobility, and other areas, forming a close business loop of “hydrogen production, supply, and operation.”

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**Hydrogen Loading - Promoting the Intelligent and Green Transformation of Industrial Parks**

**China**

Capitalizing on a key national research and development initiative, this project has achieved breakthroughs in core technologies for flexible multi-state switching. It harnesses clean energy and off-peak electrical grid power for hydrogen storage, subsequently utilizing hydrogen fuel cells to generate electricity during peak hours to mitigate peak loads. This has led to the creation of China’s first “electricity-hydrogen-oxygen-heat” integrated energy management system, which encompasses hydrogen production, storage, refueling, and hydrogen fuel cells.
Data Links of Electricity and Carbon - Pilot Energy Big Data Center of China in Zhejiang to Support Carbon Neutrality Strategy

China

Embracing a pioneering “government-business collaboration” model, this initiative has led to the establishment of China’s first provincial-level energy big data center adhering to business and technical standards. It has developed provincial, municipal, and corporate platforms and launched the “power supply + energy efficiency services” enriched with numerous patents, software copyrights, and industry standards.

Lenovo Warm Water-Cooling System

China

Lenovo has developed and introduced a solution that uses deionized water to cool data center servers. This revolutionary solution, which allows for 100% of server components to be water-cooled, proves to be more efficient than traditional air-cooling methods.

Alibaba Cloud Energy Expert

China

Leveraging big data analytics and AI, Alibaba Cloud Energy Expert aids in calculating carbon emissions and carbon footprints, developing carbon reduction plans, and planning carbon neutrality pathways, providing green finance/carbon finance services to enhance carbon inclusion.

Net-Zero-Carbon Targeted Energy Operation and Maintenance System

China

This advanced digital carbon management platform employs IoT smart circuit breakers and branch metering devices to automate the monitoring of energy consumption across customer circuits. It fine-tunes demand control by implementing algorithmic adjustments on edge hardware.

HyperHybrid: The Future of Sustainable Mobility

Austria

The HyperHybrid powertrain features an ultra-compact combustion engine at its heart, delivering maximum efficiency and space economy. Its zero-vibration generator exhibits the same level in terms of noise, vibration, and harshness comparable to those of a battery electric vehicle. The aFuel®, a pioneering energy carrier designed to combat climate change, allows the HyperHybrid to achieve negative CO₂ emissions, with costs similar to those of conventional gasoline or diesel engines and a significantly reduced system weight.
- **Portable DC Atmospheric Water Generator / Large Scale Distributed Atmospheric Water Supply Station**
  - **China**
  - This innovative technology marks a significant leap beyond conventional industry and physical methods, capable of producing water through AC and DC at atmospheric pressure in both high and low temperature environments. The water produced not only meets but exceeds national drinking water standards, showcasing the world’s leading core technology that can create artificial water sources across all regions.

- **Decentralized Solar-Water Solution Empowering Rural Communities**
  - **China**
  - This independently developed solar water supply solution harnesses efficient permanent magnet DC brushless motors, control systems, and IoT cloud platforms to enable the smart management of clean energy and data.

- **Drawing the Vision of Fishery & PV in the New Age**
  - **China**
  - This initiative integrates photovoltaics with the agricultural supply chain to promote automation, digitization, and expansion of aquaculture. Every fish is assigned a digital ID from birth to market, facilitating a triple yield of fish, electricity, and environmental sustainability.

- **Gilsun Biogas**
  - **United Republic of Tanzania**
  - Utilizing anaerobic digestion, this biogas power generation technology processes organic waste to tackle environmental challenges, adaptable to a range of scales.
Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT)

Pakistan

The power output of these VAWT systems can vary, ranging from as low as 300 watts to as high as 1,000 watts. They are built using locally sourced materials, offering a decade-long lifespan and scalability.

Underground Wood Project: Geo-Engineering Based on Wood Vaults

China

This project uses the photosynthesis of natural vegetation for cost-effective carbon sequestration and buries biomass from sustainable sources deep underground. The technology facilitates carbon trading in several countries, creates numerous jobs, and is noted for its affordability, durability, scalability, low risk, and minimal energy consumption.

Clean Energy Solution Based on Vanadium Flow Battery Energy Storage System

China

The all-vanadium flow battery energy storage system ensures a stable, safe, and reliable power supply without any risk of combustion and explosion. It boasts a lifespan exceeding 25 years or more than 20,000 charging cycles, with operational costs as low as 1.5 cents per kWh and a 75% lifetime efficiency.

Dynamic Air Cooling

Poland

The DAC system creates a fluorine-free environment and converts part of the thermal energy in the air into electrical energy for dynamic cooling, effectively doubling the cooling rate, cutting costs by 30%, saving energy by 50%, and enabling flexible food storage with simple and reliable installation.

GIVO Africa

Nigeria

Offering an end-to-end recycling solution, GIVO produces environmentally friendly and visually appealing products. It leverages the GIVO Technology Platform (GTP) digital power station to improve waste management transparency, track emissions, and meet compliance metrics, thus fostering circular economic growth.

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In November 2023, leveraging the UNIDO ITP Network, UNIDO ITPO Beijing invited Igor KOZHIN, Head of UNIDO ITPO Russia, and representatives from Kaspersky, a global leader in next-generation cybersecurity solutions, to the CIIE. In September 2023, under the delegation of IET/AGR/AIB of UNIDO, it aided in supplier due diligence, supported companies in selecting overseas locations, and matched them with necessary resources. In September 2023, in collaboration with the UNIDO Field Office in Cambodia, it also facilitated connections between Chinese industries and enterprises and the Exemplary Multi-Functional Economic Zone in Sihanouk Province.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing facilitated the signing of an MoU between the Bureau of Commerce of Xicheng District, Beijing and Internationaler Wirtschaftssenat e.V. (IWS) at the UNIDO headquarters.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing Northern China Regional Coordination Center (Zhengzhou) facilitated interactions between the Zhengzhou delegation and significant entities, including the UNIDO headquarters, the Vienna Economic Chamber, and the Austrian Federal Railways.
Impact Stories

Supporting Project Implementation & Facilitating Energy Transition

In recent years, there has been a global surge in commitment and investment in the renewable energy sector, with countries progressively raising their development goals for renewable energy. Portugal, for instance, has set a new target of achieving 56% renewable energy by 2030. Malaysia aims to have 70% renewable energy in its national electricity mix by 2050, which would mean a tenfold increase in its renewable energy installations from 2023 to 2050.

China has been a global leader in renewable energy, with its enterprises playing an active and substantial role in combating climate change. UNIDO ITPO Beijing's partnership with leading enterprises in the renewable energy industry is aimed at delivering clean and efficient localized solutions worldwide to support the fulfillment of SDG 7 "Affordable and Clean Energy" and SDG 13 "Climate Action".

The UNIDO ITPO Beijing Northern China Regional Coordination Center (Zhengzhou) has been instrumental in facilitating partnerships and offering consultancy services. This includes supporting the implementation of the Biochar-Gas-Oil Polygeneration and Carbonization Project of Henan Haiqi Environmental Protection Technology Co., Ltd.
UNIDO ITPO Beijing Northern China Regional Coordination Center (Zhengzhou) paid a visit to Haiqi’s facility in Shangqiu, Henan Province. In Malaysia and Portugal, thereby boosting the local utilization of renewable energy.

Haiqi is committed to the research and development of renewable energy technologies for low, zero, and even negative carbon emissions. With a focus on gasification and pyrolysis technologies, its projects involve distributed energy generation systems, energy-saving and emission-reduction solutions for industrial energy equipment, polygeneration and comprehensive utilization of biomass resources and harmless pyrolysis of waste resources. The projects in Malaysia and Portugal are designed to offer mid- and long-term solutions to biomass energy challenges, transforming waste biomass into energy in an environmentally friendly and economically feasible way.

**Follow-up**

In Malaysia, the project utilizes rubber wood, agricultural and forestry residues, and empty fruit bunches (EFB) as raw materials. The combustible gas generated by Haiqi’s carbonization equipment is purified before being used in power generation. This purification process also yields wood tar, wood vinegar, and biochar, with the latter being produced by carbonizing biomass at 600-650°C in an oxygen-free environment, where one ton of biochar can neutralize 2.3 tons of CO₂. The project is scheduled to commence operation in May 2024, with an anticipated annual output of 15,000 MW of electricity, 11,625 tons of biochar, 2,250 tons of wood tar, 4,500 tons of wood vinegar, and a carbon offset of 26,738 tons.

The project in Portugal uses crushed wood chips as a raw material. The combustible gas produced by Haiqi’s carbonization equipment is used for its own pyrolysis and carbonization. The project is scheduled to commence operation in May 2024, with an anticipated annual output of 2,344 tons of biochar, 469 tons of wood tar, 938 tons of wood vinegar, and a carbon offset of 5,391 tons.
Industry Penetration

Key industries and leading enterprises play an irreplaceable role in driving the achievement of SDGs.
UNIDO ITPO Beijing prioritizes pivotal industries, empowering them to generate ongoing social value. Through industrial visits, interactive seminars, trend analysis, and facilitation of international industry standards, it fosters inclusive and sustainable development solutions.
Nowadays, factors such as population growth, urbanization, consequent changes in consumption patterns, and climate change are challenging our food system's ability to provide nutritious food and sustainable livelihoods. UNIDO holds key solutions in addressing global hunger through sustainable and equitable food production worldwide. For instance, UNIDO actively promotes deep processing of food in developing countries by establishing agro-industrial parks, which helps create job opportunities, increase export revenues, and revitalize the local economies. Particularly, the initial step in addressing worldwide hunger includes advocating for smart agriculture and utilizing fewer resources to produce more food in response to global population growth.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing harnesses cutting-edge digital technologies including drones, blockchain, artificial intelligence, and satellite remote sensing within the agricultural sector. These advancements aim to optimize the utilization efficiency of natural resources and input costs, consequently enhancing yields, land conditions, environmental management, disaster mitigation, food traceability, and food safety.

China is the world's largest producer, consumer, and the second-largest exporter of tea. In September 2023, a delegation from the UNIDO ITP Network visited Empereur, a well-reputed Chinese tea company based in Xiamen, along with its International Tea Day Themed Park. The delegation sought to understand Chinese tea culture and its production techniques.

Fuding City in Fujian Province is renowned as the birthplace of white tea and a key hub for its production in China. In November 2022, the crafting techniques and associated customs of Fuding White Tea were added to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The white tea industry led the growth rate among China's 6 major tea categories in 2022. It has been recognized as a demonstrative and pillar industry benefiting rural revitalization and income growth in the country.

In November 2023, with the support of China Chamber of Commerce of Import & Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce and Animal By-products (CFNA), UNIDO ITPO Beijing, UNESCO, and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the First International White Tea Conference was held in Fuding, China. Smart tea plantations and factories have utilized modern information technologies such as big data and the IoT to achieve intelligent management of white tea production, processing, and sales.
A delegation from the UNIDO ITP Network visited Xiamen Gulong Foods, a leading enterprise in China’s canned food industry.

The perishability of agricultural products and food poses a significant challenge, and improper handling can lead to substantial waste. In 2022, the global population suffering from hunger reached 783 million people, while 13% of the food was lost at various stages of the supply chain globally, with households, catering services, and retail establishments contributing to an even higher waste rate of 17%.

Cold chain logistics employs temperature control methods to transport and store perishable goods that are susceptible to degradation from external temperature and humidity influences. With increasing consumption needs for fresh produce and grocery items, the significance of cold chain logistics in the entire agricultural food supply chain is becoming increasingly pronounced.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing has discovered and recommended an ultra-high-speed liquid-phase freezing and super-long-term refrigeration technology. Through multiple technological breakthroughs in the fields of integrated materials and food science, this innovation enhances the conventional food freezing speed by over 100 times, which helps maximally preserve the freshness of frozen food, reduce damage to the quality of fresh food during freezing and transportation, and significantly lower cold chain costs, energy consumption, and carbon emissions.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing showcased this technology at CIFTIS, CIFIT, and 4IR Accelerator (Hangzhou) in roadshows and matchmaking events, receiving positive feedback.
Against the backdrop of global challenges such as climate change, resource crises, and environmental pollution, promoting sustainable consumption has become a pressing task for the international community. SDG 12 within the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly emphasizes "Responsible Consumption and Production," advocating for enhanced resource use efficiency by global consumers and producers. The goal seeks to lower future economic, environmental, and social costs and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns worldwide.

**Hosting the China-Europe Sustainable Consumption Forum**

"Mass Customization" has become a crucial feature of 4IR, with consumer preferences driving the "green and digital transformations" of production. New consumption patterns give rise to new manufacturing approaches.

New consumption patterns must be sustainable. Future consumption should not only be socially responsible but also a crucial catalyst for developing a well-functioning whole-industry-chain cycle and facilitating the "green transformation" of traditional industries.

To promote the widespread adoption and practices of sustainability concepts in the consumption sector and strengthen China-Europe collaboration on sustainable consumption, UNIDO ITPO Beijing hosted the China-Europe Sustainable Consumption Forum with a focus on "Collaborative Innovation for Eco-restructuring" during the 17th EU-China Business & Technology Cooperation Fair.

Manuel C. MENENDEZ, founder and CEO of MCM Holdings, highlighted that issues such as energy, environment, and biodiversity are inextricably linked to consumption. He emphasized the need for achieving green development through technological innovation and policy guidance. Paul BRAND, President of the Association of German Meat Industry (VDF), mentioned that China and Germany are significant trade partners in the agricultural sector. Chinese consumers have a preference for high-quality meat products from Germany, and the German side seeks to deepen bilateral cooperation in the future. Attendees also engaged in discussions on topics such as "Sino-European Cooperation in Green Consumption" and "European Geographical Indications and China’s Time-Honored Brands".
Facilitating Jinan City's Matchmaking with International Partners

China is the world’s second-largest consumer market, where local governments consider the building of international consumption centers as a priority.

Assisted by the UNIDO ITPO Beijing Eastern China Regional Coordination Center (Jinan), the Jinan Municipal Bureau of Commerce visited organizations in Beijing, including CICPMC, CICETE, and CCPIT to exchange experiences in developing international consumption centers and bringing high-quality investments and brand resources to Jinan. UNIDO ITPO Beijing also facilitated the connection between Xicheng District of Beijing and Michelin, exploring experiential consumption and the building of urban circles for sustainable consumption.

The Chinese government has designated 2024 as the “Year of Consumption Promotion,” to vigorously promote the shift from post-pandemic recovery to sustained growth in consumption. The focus is on stimulating potential consumption, expanding beneficial investments, and fostering a positive cycle of mutual promotion between consumption and investment.
International organizations like UNIDO actively engage in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) and help developing countries bridge the gap in the recovery and development of the pharmaceutical industry through empowerment training and industry incubation. UNIDO ITPO Beijing contributes to the "green and digital transformation" of the pharmaceutical industry by promoting collaboration between China and the global digital healthcare sector.

As the global technological revolution and industrial transformation advance even further, remarkable strides have been made in cutting-edge technologies. ADP technologies, represented by AI, have become global investment hotspots in the new industrial revolution. The latest round of industrial transformation has spurred technological upgrading and cross-industry integration, with frontier technologies like big data and AI seamlessly woven into every facet of pharmaceutical industry development, which has propelled technological innovation and advancements. Digital healthcare, through technological innovations and data-driven methods, enhances the efficiency, precision, and accessibility of healthcare services, playing a pivotal role in improving patient care and healthcare systems.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing has collaborated with the China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Medicines & Health Products (CCCMHPIE) to co-author the "Blue Book on the Internationalization of China’s Pharmaceutical Industry 2023" for three consecutive years. Based on thorough data analysis, in-depth policy interpretation, and rich case experiences, this collaboration provides valuable insights for Chinese pharmaceutical enterprises in "going out" and contributes Chinese wisdom to the sustainable development of the global pharmaceutical industry.

The year 2023 marks the first year of global recovery following the pandemic, with global pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors undergoing profound adjustments and transformations. In the post-pandemic era, the UN is spearheading efforts to advance universal health coverage and protect people worldwide from health threats such as pandemics.

Smart Healthcare

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The Sixth CIIE Hongqiao International Economic Forum
"International Cooperation on Standards for Prosperous Global Market" Parallel Session

Hosts
State Administration for Market Regulation (Standardization Administration)
The Ministry of Commerce, PRC

Organizers
UNIDO ITPO Beijing
Shanghai Municipal Administration for Market Regulation

Co-organizer
Shanghai Institute of Quality and Standardization

An industry cannot possibly develop robustly without an adequate standard system, and the world needs coordinated standard development to promote global connectivity. In November 2023, the parallel session on "International Cooperation on Standards for Prosperous Global Market" was held in Shanghai during the Sixth CIIE Hongqiao International Economic Forum. Shihong TIAN, Deputy Director of the State Administration for Market Regulation and Director of the Standardization Administration, Qiuping SHENG, Deputy Minister of Commerce, PRC, and Jie CHEN, Vice Mayor of Shanghai, attended the session and delivered speeches. Leaders from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), heads of standardization institutes from countries, academicians, experts, and representatives of multinational enterprises were also present. Nearly 400 language versions of GB standards were released on the forum.

Currently, the automotive industry is gradually transitioning towards "electrification, network connectivity, and intelligentization". With its long supply chain, large scale, wide scope, and high interconnectivity, the industry is evolving concurrently with vertically integrated and complex, geographically dispersed regional production networks. This involves numerous new standards being formulated. Deepening cooperation on international standards is conducive to propelling global industrial development, facilitating trade and investment, and promoting economic prosperity and recovery. Professor Yabin WU, Head of UNIDO ITPO Beijing, presided over a roundtable dialogue, engaging in dedicated discussions with renowned partners in the new energy vehicle industry at home and abroad, including experts from automobile manufacturing, auto parts, and EV charging infrastructure sectors.
Impact Stories

Sino-German Dialogue on Sustainable Supply Chain

Global supply chains, as the main artery for global trade and investment and a vital tool for economic development and job creation, are of paramount importance to countries worldwide. Crises such as climate disasters, pandemics, and regional conflicts have underscored the vulnerability and resilience of global supply chains. The establishment and reinforcement of inclusive and sustainable supply chains are integral to the re-globalization initiative.

On January 1, 2023, the "German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act" came into effect, requiring large German companies to identify and assess human rights and environmental standards in their supply chains. Companies are mandated to develop risk management, monitoring, and reporting strategies. Stringent fines are imposed for non-compliance to enable more rigorous and binding social and environmental regulations. Moreover, the European Commission proposed a more comprehensive and rigorous "Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)," attracting widespread attention worldwide. It is expected to have a profound impact on future Sino-European investments and trade.

In June 2023, UNIDO ITPO Beijing, in collaboration with UNIDO ITPO Germany, the IWS, and the German BSP Business & Law School, hosted the Sino-German Summer Talk on Sustainable Supply Chain.
Qian ZHAI, Minister of the Economic and Commercial Office of the Chinese Embassy in Germany, mentioned that China and Germany possess the most comprehensive industrial and supply chain systems based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), and their scale is enormous. In the current context of deep restructuring in global supply chains, communication and collaboration are top priorities, and there are expectations for China-Germany cooperation to reach new heights.

Peter NUSSBAUM, Chairman of IWS, stated that China stands as a crucial international trade partner for Germany, and a resilient supply chain is vital to ensuring the smooth operation of the global value-added structure.

Gunther BEGER, Managing Director of Directorate of SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation at UNIDO, emphasized that consensus-based standards can promote shared development, and the smooth operation of supply chains facilitates the industrialization of final products.

According to Professor Yabin WU, Head of UNIDO ITPO Beijing, sustainability in the supply chain refers to both economic sustainability (ability to ensure stable expectations and enhance resilience) and environmental sustainability (highlighting clean and smart energy as well as green development). The importance of strengthening cooperation between China and Germany, two major players in the global industrial manufacturing sector, can never be overstated.

In the discussion session, there was an exchange of ideas on how to enhance supply chain sustainability. Participants included Feng HOU, Chairman of China Water Environment Group, a key player in China’s environmental protection industry, Professor Patricia GRAF from the BSP Business & Law School in Germany, Ms. Sandra SCHULER-BAUCH from Luther Law Firm, and Olaf DEUTSCHBEIN, Head of UNIDO ITPO Germany Berlin.

Follow-up

In April 2024, IWS will coordinate a delegation of German business representatives to visit China during the official visit of German leaders. The delegation is scheduled to attend the Canton Fair, conduct visits to Guangdong Province, Zhejiang Province, and Beijing City, and engage in dialogues with government and corporate partners.
In the digital age, every industry has the potential to be reimagined. An increasing number of companies are tapping into the power of original and disruptive digital technologies to transform their businesses, reduce costs, boost efficiency, navigate uncertainties, and drive sustainable transformation.

Based on the UNIDO 4IR Alliance and Accelerator, by employing cutting-edge digital solutions like AI, UNIDO ITPO Beijing is at the forefront of championing the digital transformation and growth of industries and businesses.
Amidst the unfolding Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), groundbreaking technological innovations are redefining the allocation of production factors. The seamless integration of nascent technologies and industries is fast-tracking the transformation and upgrading of industries.

The deployment of ADP technologies associated with 4IR is instrumental in tackling the globe’s most urgent sustainable development hurdles. Nonetheless, it is necessary to bridge the technological divide faced by developing countries.

UNIDO initiated the "4IR Alliance" at the third CIIE in 2020. Over the past three years, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Alliance has organized a series of events within China. These include global forums, policy dialogues, capacity building, industry visits, and matchmaking sessions for technology and investment projects, with the goals of fostering partnerships on the new industrial revolution, enhancing international collaboration, and promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
In November 2023, UNIDO ITPO Beijing held the UNIDO Fourth Industrial Revolution Alliance (Phase II) Launching Ceremony at the Sixth CIIE. This new phase continues to build multidimensional global partnerships and focuses on discovering, identifying, evaluating, and applying technological solutions. It aims to extend its reach into more traditional industries and sectors, supporting their transformation towards digital and "green" transformation. It also engages in the development of emerging and future industries, with pilot initiatives to establish expert panels in specialized areas such as digital talent, ESG, green transformation, and smart agrifood underway to expand international influence and contribute to the industrial advancements and economic and social development in the Global South.

### 4IR Alliance Achievements 2021-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals Covered/Reached</td>
<td>22,426,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals Affected by Skills Acquisition and Empowerment</td>
<td>1,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companies with Improved Management Practices</td>
<td>8,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companies with Increased Integration into the Value Chain</td>
<td>2,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technological Transfers</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediary Agencies with Cognitive/Knowledge Gains</td>
<td>819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Organizations with Cognitive/Knowledge Gains</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More to come...

### 4IR Alliance (Phase II) Members

Partial

[Image of members]
In the era of 4IR, China keeps pioneering advancements in AI, big data, IoT, cloud computing, and blockchain, solidifying its position as a global leader in digital trade. Zhejiang Province, led by Hangzhou, excels in digital development. Leveraging digital technology to transform traditional industries is critical for the nation in its endeavor toward poverty eradication, rural revitalization, and common prosperity. It is also a key to fostering inclusive, sustainable industrial growth.

To forge global partnerships, share global insights alongside Chinese solutions, enhance industrial chain collaborations, bolster SME growth, undertake South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and facilitate effective technology transfers and investment project implementations across sectors, UNIDO ITPO Beijing, upon the invitation of local governments and supported by the MOFCOM CICETE, launched the “UNIDO Fourth Industrial Revolution Accelerator (Hangzhou)” in Xiaoshan District, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. This initiative aspires to establish a global showroom, a “one-stop” procurement hub, and a “Everlasting” Investment Promotion Platform platform for investment promotion. It is committed to fostering investment and technology partnerships, hosting forums and seminars, enhancing capacity building, offering consulting services, and sharing knowledge, thereby facilitating an innovation incubator for China and the world, particularly for developing countries, to achieve "Strengthening Capacity, Accelerating & Leading the Ecosystem for Upward Investment (SCALE-UP)".

The accelerator, offered free of charge to global partners, utilizes a recommendation and invitation strategy for on-site initiatives, with a primary focus on providing support to MSMEs and startups, particularly those of disadvantaged countries, regions, and demographics. The selection process, informed by expert guidance and market feedback, aims to enhance resource allocation efficiency, adhering to an "end-place wash out" principle and a policy of regular rotation.
Six Advantages

Build a Hub for Science, Technology, and Innovation
Support the Sustainable Development of the Digital Economy

**International** Bring in global resources to enhance the internationalization level of local areas and industries.

**Innovation** Promote innovative solutions with both market and technical feasibility and accelerate the incubation of high-tech startups.

**Partnership** Engage in public-private cooperation and Trilateral/South-South Cooperation among governments, private entities, and international organizations.

**Capital** Gradually enhance the investment momentum across the entire lifecycle and facilitate capital connection.

**Implementation** Achieve precise investment promotion along the industrial chain through digital technology and provide project integration and technical support for industrial development.

**Services** Create a platform for talent attraction and the transformation of intellectual achievements both at home and abroad.

Five Modes

- Presentation/Roadshows
- Project Matchmaking

- Shared Workspace
- Capacity Building
- Knowledge Sharing

Multifunction Space

Outdoor Space

Showcase Space
From November 23 to 27, the Second Global Digital Trade Expo (GDTE), themed "Digital Trade Connecting the World", was held in Hangzhou. Chinese President Xi Jinping extended his congratulations to the GDTE. UNIDO ITPO Beijing was invited to the opening ceremony and supported the Digital Empowerment of Green Development Forum. During the event, esteemed guests including Baicheng LIU, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Xizang Autonomous Regional People's Congress; Yi ZHANG, Deputy Director of CICETE; Jun ZHU, Chief Economist at the Department of Commerce of Zhejiang Province; and Kai GUO, Vice Director of the Department of Commerce of the Xizang Autonomous Region, visited the accelerator’s venue.
4IR fundamentally transforms production, consumption, and the very fabric of society. The revolution of digital technologies, including AI, machine learning, robotics, additive manufacturing, the IoT, distributed ledger technology, and quantum computing, is consistently influencing the SDGs and sustainable investment.

AI, a cornerstone technology in the realm of ADP within the new industrial revolution, has emerged as a focal point for global investment and a powerful instrument in furthering the SDGs. Dr. Gerd MÜLLER, Director General of UNIDO, highlights the immense potential of AI to boost productivity, improve efficiency, and drive sustainable change across various sectors. As we embark on the "Decade of Action" dedicated to sustainable development, it has become increasingly critical to harness sophisticated digital technologies such as AI to foster sustainable investment and achieve the SDGs.

"We must ensure that these advancements are ethically sound as well. It is also our responsibility to see that the benefits of AI are accessible to ALL, and contribute to the well-being of all."

— Dr. Gerd MÜLLER, Director General of UNIDO

In September, during the "Global Forum on Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Investment" at the CIFTIS, UNIDO ITPO Beijing, together with MSC Consulting, unveiled the "White Paper on Artificial Intelligence Empowering Sustainable Development and Investment". The white paper delves into the rapid development of AI and its impact on the SDGs and sustainable investment.
Digital finance plays a pivotal role in driving transformation, enhancing services, and facilitating the harmonious coexistence and growth of both digital and real economies. In Beijing’s Xicheng District, there is a rapid expansion in the realms of digital, technological, green, and inclusive finance, drawing the presence of 143 internationally renowned foreign financial institutions. It accommodates key financial and investment bodies, including UNIDO ITPO Beijing, the Asia Financial Cooperation Association, and the Silk Road Fund, delivering personalized, customized, and smart services that bolster the global expansion of Chinese enterprises.

In November, UNIDO ITPO Beijing supported the Entrepreneur Roundtable Conference of the 2023 Financial Street Forum, inspiring dialogue on cooperative ventures and mutual growth opportunities. Professor Yabin WU, Head of UNIDO ITPO Beijing, delivered a keynote speech on “Financial Support for Corporate Globalization”. The UN system, along with UNIDO, brings to the table innovative ideas and a neutral, transparent platform that acts both as a unifying force and a catalyst, contributing to the robust international advancement of Chinese enterprises.
Energy represents a pivotal domain in "green transformation", where clean and smart energy serves as the foundation for traditional industries to embrace sustainability. SDG 7 within the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development advocates for "ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all". With the global population projected to increase, it is estimated that by 2050, global primary energy demand will surge by 50% to 70% from the current level.

The key to a successful energy transition lies in strengthening international cooperation and fostering corporate innovation, vigorously developing renewable energy sources, leveraging digitization to enhance energy efficiency, and addressing bottlenecks in the adoption of clean energy in developing countries. UNIDO ITPO Beijing promotes sustainable energy development and "green transformation" through various means, such as launching the UNIDO Global Call 2023, facilitating international cooperation on sustainable energy, and calling for the participation of developing countries in carbon trading and knowledge sharing.
As an annual flagship event of UNIDO, the UNIDO Global Call has emerged as a global initiative that seeks to mitigate climate change and contributes to post-pandemic economic recovery, green revival, and the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development. Hosted by the UNIDO ITP Network, it has been honored with the "UN Innovation Award".

In 2023, UNIDO ITPO Beijing initiated the UNIDO Global Call 2023, focusing on "Clean and Smart Energy for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development". This initiative featured three strategic categories: Green Hydrogen, Energy Efficiency, and Clean Energy Innovation, in an endeavor to identify projects with proven technical and market viability, replicability, affordability, and accessibility.

The Global Launching Ceremony of this event was held at the UNIDO headquarters, featuring promotional activities in multiple countries and regions, including the Middle East (UAE), Europe (Austria, Germany), and China. The event also provided technical support, empowerment training, and international matchmaking opportunities for participating projects, particularly extending support to initiatives concerning the least developed countries (LDCs), women and youth.
Global Launching

In June, the UNIDO Global Call 2023 was launched at the UNIDO headquarters in Vienna, the first time in the event’s history.

The launching ceremony invited delegates from relevant divisions and departments of UNIDO headquarters, UNIDO ITP Network, the Permanent Mission of China to the UN and other International Organizations in Vienna, UNIDO member states’ missions to UNIDO, representatives from the Xicheng District People’s Government of Beijing Municipality, the Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government, Chinese private sector entities, research institutes, and local media.

Dr. Gerd MÜLLER, Director General of UNIDO, delivered the welcome address. He emphasized that “affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” as stressed in SDG 7, it is where we need great investments in our shared future. "We need a green energy transition at the global level, leveraging the possibilities of innovative and digital technologies."

Mr. Kai BETHKE, Director and Officer-in-Charge of the Division of Member States and Funding Relations, UNIDO, delivered a speech on behalf of Ms. Fatou HAIDARA, Deputy to the Director General and the Managing Director of the Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations of UNIDO. He stated that the UNIDO ITP Network actively collaborates with host governments, the private sector, and stakeholders to promote sustainable development of clean and smart energy and scale up solutions through initiatives such as the Global Call. This collaborative effort aims to accelerate the global energy transition.
Mr. Rolf STELTEMEIER, Head of UNIDO ITPO Germany, shared the highlights and achievements of UNIDO Global Call 2021 held by UNIDO ITPO Germany. Mr. Feng HOU, Chairman of the Board of China Water Environment Group and the Global Call 2022 Award Winner, introduced the Distributed Underground Reclaimed Water Ecosystem (DURWEcos). He expressed gratitude to the Global Call for enhancing the international impact of this technology.

Ms. Petra SCHWAGER, Chief of the Climate and Technology Partnerships Division, UNIDO, and Mr. Alois MHLANGA, Chief of Climate Technologies Innovation Unit, Decarbonization and Sustainable Energy Division, UNIDO, introduced UNIDO’s main programs for hydrogen and efforts to support developing countries overcome identified barriers and to drive a just hydrogen transition that puts social and environmental responsibilities in focus. They emphasized the opportunities and challenges faced by developing countries in this field.

Mr. Peng GUO, Deputy Director of the Administrative Committee of Zhengzhou Airport Economy Zone, shared a video presentation as a representative of the Chinese local government. He highlighted the developments and progress made by Zhengzhou City in new energy, including hydrogen, and expressed the city’s determination to achieve the dual carbon goals and willingness to collaborate with countries and international organizations on green technology and low-carbon transformation. During the launching ceremony, the UNIDO Global Call 2023 launch video and congratulatory videos from partners in China and across the globe were shown, igniting an enthusiastic response from the audience. The launching ceremony was moderated and summarized by Mr. Weixi GONG, Chief of the Division of ITPOs and Institutional Partnerships, Global Partnerships and External Relations of UNIDO.
Empowerment & Training Programs
To boost the competitiveness of participating teams and expand their perspectives, UNIDO ITPO Beijing organized a series of virtual and on-site capacity-building programs for projects advancing to the semi-finals to support and grow alongside them. The programs centered on key topics including hydrogen energy, carbon neutrality, carbon markets, technology transfer, and successful business case studies.

Li HAN, Project Commissioner of Xi’an 1908 New Energy Technology Co., Ltd., joined all seven empowerment workshops held in Beijing. He said, "I feel especially honored to have been part of these empowerment and training sessions in Beijing. The instructors were all leading figures in the industry, offering us invaluable macroscopic insights and rich knowledge and experiences. This robust support bodes well for the future development of our projects and company, instilling in us the confidence to confront the challenges of global innovation competition. Moreover, it represents a precious opportunity for all participants, providing a platform for mutual learning and exchanging ideas with innovators from diverse fields and backgrounds."
Award Ceremony

The top three finalists from each strategic category of the Global Call 2023 were invited for roadshows at the Sixth CIIE. With onsite scoring by the jury members, the event culminated in the awarding of the grand prizes for each category, followed by an award ceremony.

### Green Hydrogen Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grand Prize</th>
<th>First Prize</th>
<th>Second Prize</th>
<th>Third Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Best Innovation Award

- Green Power and Hydrogen Vehicles | Sunhydro, Inc. | China

### Energy Efficiency Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grand Prize</th>
<th>First Prize</th>
<th>Second Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Second Prize

UNIDO ITPO Beijing subsidized the engagement of several award-winning innovators from developing nations in an exchange and matchmaking ceremony.

Among them, Tanzanian female entrepreneur Suzana MUNUO, a devoted advocate for green innovation, remarked, "With the help of UNIDO ITPO Beijing, I was able to participate in the CIIE, where I shared our entrepreneurial journey with outstanding entrepreneurs from around the world. For me, it is a tremendous encouragement and an opportunity. This not only acknowledges our individual efforts, but also supports our country and women in the field of tech entrepreneurship. I hope my story can inspire more women to engage in green innovation."

In its commitment to sustainability, UNIDO ITPO Beijing engaged a third-party to assess the carbon emissions of the Global Call 2023, ensuring the event achieved carbon neutrality by investing in carbon offset projects from developing countries.

Looking ahead, UNIDO ITPO Beijing will continue to collaborate with entities such as the China Centre for International Science and Technology Exchange (CISTE), Green Partnership of Industrial Parks in China (GPIIPC), and German Energy Agency (DENA), to initiate "local tours" and "industrial park tours" in cities and economic development zones across China to facilitate matchmaking and implementation of sustainable innovation projects and technologies.

**Clean Energy Innovation Category**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Grand Prize</th>
<th>First Prize</th>
<th>Second Prize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green and Low-Carbon New-Type Rail Transit Technology</td>
<td>Portable DC Atmospheric Water Generator/Large Scale Distributed Atmospheric Water Supply Station</td>
<td>Tongwei: Play the Song of the Fishermen in the New Age</td>
<td>Solar-Powered Mobile Cold Storage Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowering Women through Clean Energy Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Empowering Women through Clean Energy Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Gilsun Biogas</td>
<td>GIVO Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayr Melnhof Group – Europe’s Largest Industrial Solar Cooling Facility</td>
<td>Mayr Melnhof Group – Europe’s Largest Industrial Solar Cooling Facility</td>
<td>MVUTU GreenBox™</td>
<td>MVUTU GreenBox™</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most Promising Solution Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>Most Promising Solution Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>Most Promising Solution Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>Most Promising Solution Award</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HyperHybrid: The Future of Sustainable Mobility</td>
<td>HyperHybrid: The Future of Sustainable Mobility</td>
<td>FEAD: Inceptia’s Proprietary Total Solution for Fuel Saving in Autonomous Driving Heavy-Duty Trucks</td>
<td>FEAD: Inceptia’s Proprietary Total Solution for Fuel Saving in Autonomous Driving Heavy-Duty Trucks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best Innovation Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>Best Innovation Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>Best Innovation Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>Best Innovation Award</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Energy Efficient and Responsible Palm Oil Processing in the Eastern Region (Peer Processing Project)</td>
<td>Promoting Energy Efficient and Responsible Palm Oil Processing in the Eastern Region (Peer Processing Project)</td>
<td>PLAN FOR CHANGE GHANA</td>
<td>PLAN FOR CHANGE GHANA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excellent Organization Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excellent Organization Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excellent Organization Award</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excellent Organization Award</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Association for Hydrogen Energy</td>
<td>China Construction Fifth Engineering Division Corp., Ltd.</td>
<td>Lu’an Municipal People’s Government</td>
<td>Lu’an Municipal People’s Government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Call 2023 Sparks Developing World Engagement

Global Call 2023 attracted 315 clean energy solutions from 60 countries across Asia, Europe, North America, South America, and Africa. These solutions are distributed among three major categories: green hydrogen, energy efficiency, and clean energy innovation. Notably, developing countries emerged as significant contributors, claiming 88% of the proposals within these major categories.

China
Egypt
Nigeria
Kenya
Russia
Uganda
Finland
Germany
India
U.S.A

Top 10 Participating Countries in Global Call 2023

Number of Applications in Categories

- 49 Green Hydrogen
- 91 Energy Efficiency
- 175 Clean Energy Innovation

Technical Stage of Solutions

- 164 Start-Up
- 106 Growing
- 45 Mature

Female/Teenagers Friendly

172

SDG Coverage

18 Renewable Municipal Waste
17 Renewable Municipal Waste
16 Renewable Municipal Waste
15 Renewable Municipal Waste
14 Renewable Municipal Waste
13 Renewable Municipal Waste
12 Renewable Municipal Waste
11 Renewable Municipal Waste
10 Renewable Municipal Waste
9 Renewable Municipal Waste
8 Renewable Municipal Waste
7 Renewable Municipal Waste
6 Renewable Municipal Waste
5 Renewable Municipal Waste
4 Renewable Municipal Waste
3 Renewable Municipal Waste
2 Renewable Municipal Waste
1 Renewable Municipal Waste

Green Hydrogen Leads Sustainable Development

Hydrogen energy, as the most promising secondary clean energy source of the 21st century, plays a crucial role in achieving deep decarbonization and global energy technology transition. Winning projects in Global Call 2023 offer solutions spanning hydrogen production, transportation, storage, and utilization, fostering innovation and sustainable development. Among this category, six solutions are in startup (50%), four in development (33.3%), and two in the mature stage (16.7%).

Energy Efficiency Covers Different Fields

Energy Efficiency 2023, published by IEA, released during COP28, emphasized the global expansion of measures to improve energy efficiency in 2023, as well as the need to double energy efficiency within a decade to achieve the 1.5°C temperature control goal and ensure energy security. UNIDO Global Call 2023’s solutions innovate in areas like data center building, digital energy management, transportation production, and wider solar energy use.

Digital Transformation Facilitates Energy Efficiency

Global Call 2023 spotlights the application of digital technology in energy efficiency enhancement and innovation. Through data mining, empowering traditional industries with digital technology, and integrating resources through digital platforms, it creates new business models and services in fields such as decarbonization, energy efficiency optimization, and digital integration, generating diverse value.

Explore Innovative Clean Energy Solutions

Clean energy innovation stands as a pivotal measure to address the global challenges of climate change and energy security. Solutions showcased in Global Call 2023 cover diverse technologies for utilizing water, solar, photovoltaics, biogas, wind, storage, timber, biomass; and related technologies for clean energy integrated utilization.
Facilitating Carbon Credits and Carbon Trading

Since the “Paris Agreement” in 2015, carbon credits and trading have evolved into a sophisticated commercial system. With countries prioritizing sustainable economic development and aiming for a net-zero economy, carbon markets are poised to strengthen rapidly in the coming years. Yet, in many developing nations, regulatory barriers, scarcity of project developers and local intermediaries, and substantial funding gaps impede market efficiency, hindering participation and benefits. Attention focuses on unlocking carbon credit potential, particularly in African countries, to foster green economic growth in the region.

UNIDO ITPO Beijing promotes collaborations between Chinese environmental consulting firms and developing countries to advance carbon credit initiatives. By the end of 2023, it facilitated 18 projects in countries such as the Philippines, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Senegal, Kenya, Madagascar, and Rwanda. These projects, spanning clean stoves, water supply, and clean water initiatives, benefit 2,257,658 people, with an annual reduction of 1,151,636 tons of carbon emissions. Additionally, UNIDO ITPO Beijing hosts seminars introducing carbon credits and trading to Chinese enterprises, advocating for prioritized purchases from developing nations.
Clean Energy Industry Exchanges

In September, a delegation from the UNIDO ITP Network visited Hithium Energy Storage, honored as the first homegrown unicorn enterprise in Xiamen City, China, to gain insights into the application scenarios and solutions of battery energy storage technology.

In October, UNIDO ITPO Beijing Eastern China Regional Coordination Center (Jinan) featured a booth at the 2023 Shandong International Clean Energy Industry Expo.

In November, UNIDO ITPO Beijing visited the Alibaba Cloud Data Center and State Grid Zhejiang Electric Power Co., Ltd. in Hangzhou to investigate the development of China’s energy internet.

In March, UNIDO ITPO Beijing, in collaboration with Jieteng Culture Media, China Social Enterprise and Impact Investing Forum, and China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF), co-hosted the “ESG and High-Quality Development Seminar and 2052: A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years Reading Conference” at the UNIDO ITPO Beijing Multilateral Library. Professor Jorgen RANDERS, along with many other experts and scholars, were invited for knowledge sharing.
## Work Priorities for 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>HANOVER MESSE 2024</td>
<td>Hannover, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April/October</td>
<td>China Import and Export Fair</td>
<td>Guangzhou, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Annual Investment Meeting Congress (AIM Congress 2024)</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF 2024)</td>
<td>Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS)</td>
<td>Beijing, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>China International Fair for Investment &amp; Trade (CIFIT)</td>
<td>Xiamen, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>UN General Assembly (UNGA 79)</td>
<td>New York, U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Global Digital Trade Expo</td>
<td>Hangzhou, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>China Henan International Investment &amp; Trade Fair</td>
<td>Zhengzhou, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>China International Import Expo (7th CIIE)</td>
<td>Shanghai, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29)</td>
<td>Baku, Azerbaijan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit</td>
<td>Wuzhen, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF)</td>
<td>Vienna, Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>UN Global Compact (UNGC) Leaders Summit</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS)</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>EU-China Business &amp; Technology Cooperation Fair</td>
<td>Chengdu, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Sino-German (European) SME Communication &amp; Cooperation Conference (SMEC)</td>
<td>Jinan, China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
商务部部长：积极放宽汽车市场准入，扩大对外开放投资范围

2023中国服贸会“全球人工智能与可持续投资论坛”在京举办

数贸嘉宾说⑥ | 联合国工业发展组织投资和技术促进办公室（中国·北京）主任武雅斌：数字贸易与产业发展密切相关

第二十三届中国国际投资贸易洽谈会“全球投资对话会：第四次工业革命与投资促进4.0"成功举行

探索包容性可持续发展，跨国公司与成长型企业合作发展研讨会在京召开
Media Coverage

UNIDO’s Worldwide Network: Meeting of ITPO Heads
21 September 2023

Vienna and Addis Ababa, 9 Sept, 2023 – The heads of the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) network came together for a virtual meeting to discuss General Earl Wallis’ exchange expectations and future stock of how the ITPO can continue to address the Organization’s recently sharpened priorities.

Supporting Public Private Partnerships to Accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals

Abimbola Olufere: avantage de collaboration entre la Chine et l’Afrique

Partager

The 17th EU-China Fair Will Be Held in Chengdu, China on June 30

In cooperation with the UNIDO, the UN Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO) and the China Ministry of Commerce, a virtual meeting between China and the UNIDO was held in Beijing, China. The meeting discussed the future of public private partnerships and sustainable development goals. The UNIDO is working with China to support the development of sustainable technologies and innovations in the country.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Smart Mobility Forum – CLIÉ 2023

UNIDO ITPOs join forces for Berlin initiative

Delegation nach China

Internationaler Wirtschaftsforum UNIDO

Delegation to China to promote UNIDO’s activities in the country. UNIDO is working to promote sustainable development and technology transfer in China. The delegation discussed the future of public private partnerships and sustainable development goals in the country.

YouTube

Search

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