Concept Note

The 5th NEXT Summit will be held in Singapore on September 29, 2021. Due to the global ravaging of COVID-19, the Summit will be conducted mainly online and supplemented offline.

Organizers: NEXT Federation, China Economic Information Service of Xinhua News Agency, Singapore Economic Development Board or Singapore Tourism Board (to be invited)

Theme: Promoting Total Factor Cooperation

Promoting total factor cooperation aims to improve Total Factor Productivity (TFP), which is essentially to improve the efficiency of resource allocation. The world today is undergoing profound changes as unseen before. New rounds of scientific, technological and industrial transformations are gathering steam. At the international level, global industrial chains are in the process of restructuring, and the international community is facing global challenges. At national level, developed countries

are suffering from sluggish economies, lack of impetus for growth, unbalanced distribution of interests, worsening social illnesses and policy dilemmas. Meanwhile, developing countries are under great pressure to achieve rapid economic and social development, promote structural transformation, improve human capital, and strengthen innovation-driven development. At institutional and individual level, it is becoming a common aspiration to make innovations, break inward loop and achieve sustainable development. To address all these, solution lies in promoting total-factor cooperation.

Main Contents

2   **Online and offline global interactions**

Due to the Covid, the Summit will be held online and offline, with the offline venue set in the world-renowned city state Singapore. This will include the opening ceremony, keynote speeches, global roadshow of international projects and the "Hurricane Lamp" award ceremony.

5   **G-M-A-B-C consultation on Total Factor Cooperation**

The NEXT Summit (Singapore 2021) will invite guests from Government, Media, Academy, Business and Community with an aim of strengthening total factor cooperation at all levels and promoting innovation, cooperation and development in a pragmatic way.

10   More than 10 online sub-forums

The Summit will hold parallel sessions on the topics of Technology Singularity and New Information Technology Revolution, Agricultural Science and Food Security, Biomedicine and Health, Energy Conservation, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Intelligent Manufacturing and Changes of Industrial Structure, Silver Economy and Aging Society, E-Commerce Upgrade and Supply Chain Finance etc. Through these parallel sessions we share the latest scientific and technological research results and high-yielding practices, to provide a high-level platform for the exchanges and cooperation between talents, knowledge, technology, capital and other industrial development elements.

20   Participation from over 20 countries

The Summit intends to invite guests from more than 20

countries including Singapore, China, the US, Canada, New Zealand, Indonesia, the UAE, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, the UK, Germany, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Egypt.

30   **Discussions on cooperation regarding 30 leading technological projects**

The Summit intends to invite more than 30 world leading technological project participants to engage in a speech roadshow for the purpose of follow-up cooperation on project delivery.

60   **Over 60 high-end talents and dignitaries**

The Summit intends to invite more than 60 guests, including world leaders, academicians and scholars, business leaders and startup entrepreneurs to deliver speeches and share cases around a variety of industrial fields, which will serve as a world's top knowledge and information festival.

200+   **Over 200 media outlets**

More than 200 global media will be invited to participate in the thematic warm-up activities, conference information release or interview coverage.

500+   **Promotion by over 500 influencers and prominent**

leaders

The Summit intends to mobilize more than 500 global prominent leaders from political, economic, social and cultural fields to participate in the global thematic event of "Promoting Total-Factor Cooperation" to jointly advocate the promotion of total-factor cooperation and promote global innovation, cooperation and development.

1 Million + **Online interactions covering more than 1 million viewers**

The Summit intends to expand the influence of the conference through global online live broadcast and new media interactions, which is expected to attract more than 1 million online viewers.

Core Topic 1: Technology Singularity and New Information Technology Revolution

As mankind enters the information age in the 21st century, information technology revolution is becoming an important driving force and a bridge for economic globalization as well as a leading force for global economic and social development.

The new technology revolution centering on information technology (typified by the Internet, Cloud Computing, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence) represents both the vertical upgrade and horizontal integration of information technology, which will eventually become a highlight in the history of world economic development.

According to the viewpoint of technology singularity, human science and technology are in a state of exponential acceleration, and currently approaching the singularity of technological breakthrough. In today's society, new technologies have provided unprecedented impetus to economic development, and technology is changing people's way of life as well as the speed of human socio-economic advancement.

Regarding mankind's blind optimism about technological development, there are views reflecting on whether we will usher in a technological singularity that disrupts everything. Are we ready for it?

The social changes brought about by a technological revolution are reflected in all sectors of society, and this is especially true of the new information technology revolution. However, any fundamental technological revolution brings more than just opportunities and good expectations. It also implies

fundamental changes to the original social structure and organization as well as the way of operation, which brings about huge challenges of transformation, including the challenges for all social individuals and organizations to gradually adapt to behaviors and structures in the internet era, the challenges of confronting the risks of exposing behaviors and privacy, and the challenges of alternative competition of artificial intelligence.

Core Topic 2: Agricultural Science and Food Security

For thousands of years, agriculture has played a vital role in driving the progress of human civilization and has been the backbone of some countries' economic systems, supporting the construction and development of the national economy. With the transition from traditional to modern agriculture, agricultural development has been highly commercial, capital-based, large-scale, specialized, intellectual and internationally regionalized.

From the perspective of the demand of agricultural modernization, speeding up the solution of development problems has provided unprecedented internal driving forces for the development of agricultural science and technology. Since

the first industrial revolution in the 18th century, mankind has built a technology system based on fossil energy to support the continuous development of agriculture and the increase of food production. However, in today's world faced by energy depletion, environmental pollution and ecological dysfunction, it is urgent to lead the development of modern agriculture with a new scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation.

At present, some countries are restricting food exports due to COVID-19, and climate change has also caused large-scale crop disasters and reduced food production, triggering widespread concern about food security. Strengthening innovation in agricultural science and technology to safeguard food security has become a broad consensus.

Core Topic 3: Biomedicine and Health

Biomedical and health industries mainly include biomedicine, medical devices, health products, medical services, health management, health care and other fields closely related to human health.

With the escalation of the global pandemic, biomedical and

big health industries have once again become the focus of market attention. In recent years, the scale of global biomedical industries been expanding at a faster pace than ever before. The product structure has been optimized, leading enterprises have emerged rapidly, and the development trend is sound. However, there are also problems such as unbalanced development, unreasonable industrial layout and insufficient innovation capacity.

The biomedical industry is characterized by high risk, high investment, high technology and a long cycle, and contains huge economic and social benefits. The global biomedical industry is facing transformation. It's even more urgent to transform especially after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to meet the demand for more targeted and personalized health services in the post-pandemic era.

We need to have in-depth analysis of the shortcomings in the development of the biomedical industry, find the main direction; accelerate the construction of the R&D platform, promote the transformation and upgrading of enterprises; optimize the industrial layout, promote the development of industrial clusters; strengthen international biomedical technology cooperation, support the transformation, application

and promotion of advanced technologies, in order to accelerate the realization of high-quality development of the biomedical industry.

Core Topic 4: Energy Conservation, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development

With the emergence of global problems such as resource scarcity, ecological environment deterioration, and unsustainable economic development, the importance of energy conservation and an environmental protection industry has risen to an unprecedented level in the world, and energy conservation and the environmental protection industry have become an important strategic emerging industry in the world. Viewing from the development trend of the world's environmental protection industry, environmental protection equipment will develop in complete and serialized sets with cutting-edge technologies. Its focus will turn from market to source control.

The "green barrier" to the world's environmental protection equipment industry has brought great business opportunities and challenges. High-tech demand in energy saving and environmental protection industry is increasing, and the

competition is becoming more intense. The deep integration of mobile Internet, big data, cloud computing, 5G Internet, etc. with the energy conservation and environmental protection will profoundly change the production, governance and operation mode of the energy conservation and the environmental protection industry.

At present, the global environmental protection industry is facing unprecedented opportunities for significant development. In the face of the urgent need for sustainable human development, there is an urgent need to overcome technical problems in equipment and services in related fields, innovate and create future-oriented original scientific and technological achievements; improve industrial competitiveness with technological progress, and promote the healthy development of the global energy conservation and environmental protection industry with international cooperation as a bridge.

Core Topic 5: Intelligent Manufacturing and Changes of Industrial Structure

As a new engine and core driver of global economic development, smart manufacturing forms an integrated

manufacturing system with dynamic perception, real-time analysis, autonomous decision-making, precise execution and learning enhancement features through the deep integration of a new generation of information technology, advanced manufacturing technology and advanced manufacturing equipment. By further realizing the digitization, networking and intelligence of manufacturing, we can promote the innovative, green, coordinated, open and shared development of manufacturing industry.

At present, the global intelligent manufacturing ecosystem has taken initial shape, but it still faces problems such as unbalanced basic theory and technology application structure of intelligent manufacturing, imperfect construction of infrastructure, unbalance between intelligent manufacturing standard systems and talent cultivation, and insufficient support for the management system.

Intelligent manufacturing industry has become the core part of the new round of global industrial structure change. Countries around the world have accelerated planning and layout, actively participate in the global industrial redistribution of labor, further innovate industrial management mode, improve the industrial development environment, grasp the opportunity of intelligent

manufacturing development. Significant changes have appeared in aspects as intelligent manufacturing leading industry, intelligent synergy effect, etc.

Core Topic 6: Silver Economy and Aging Society

Population aging is an important trend in social development and one of the main issues of international concern in the future. This trend marks the opening of the era of "silver economy" represented by the elderly, and the blue ocean of senior care is arriving at a faster pace.

However, there are always rough waves under the deep sea. The rapid growth of the aging population is not only affecting families, but is also one of the biggest changes in the social, economic and political landscape of our time, forcing new changes in the entire current system, and we urgently need new solutions to deal with these challenges.

Data from the seventh Chinese population census shows that there are 264 million people aged 60 and above, accounting for 18.70% of the population, with 190 million people aged 65 and above, accounting for 13.50%.

In the context of the aging of world population, "silver

economy" will become a "sunrise industry" with great potential for development. The "silver economy" is one of the important engines of the world's future economic development, and will be a precious promising land. How to face up to this challenge and handle it in a positive way to bring concrete effects is the next step that the world needs to explore.

Core Topic 7: E-Commerce Upgrade and Supply Chain Finance

While bringing about changes in consumption, e-commerce is also facing a new round of upgrading. Its upgrading from traditional online models to more traditional offline models, from a comprehensive platform to a private niche market, from focusing on "domestic connection" to giving equal importance to "going out" and "bringing in". The rapid rise of new social media platforms is drastically changing the e-commerce landscape.

The integration of industry and finance, which is closely linked with e-commerce, is witnessing a huge demand.

As an important way to promote the integration of industry and finance, supply chain finance is an important means of

financial service to the real economy. Market competition has changed from competition between single customers to competition between different supply chains, and all parties within the same supply chain are closely interdependent. In the future, the effective integration of industry and finance will become an important strategic direction for the transformation of enterprises.

However, the weak quality of their own, poor risk resistance, small and fast financing needs, and opaque information are still common problems faced by small and medium-sized enterprises. How to ensure that supply chain finance is online, digital and intelligent system? This question has once again pushed for the transformation of supply chain finance.

Under the background of the Internet+ era and the development of economic globalization, the Internet supply chain finance empowered by technology has become one of the core trends. The early supply chain finance is gradually transforming into intelligent supply chain finance, and also announces to the world that the era of supply chain finance 4.0 has arrived.