

STRATEGIC ENGINE OF THE NEW QUALITY PRODUCTIVE FORCES

RDI ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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2023: STRATEGIC ENGINE OF THE NEW
QUALITY PRODUCTIVE FORCES

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Preface

In 2023, the global landscape in politics, economy, technology, and the military underwent numerous changes.

Globally, the world has entered the “post-pandemic era,” with economic recovery becoming a key term for countries. However, the “scar effect” left by the COVID-19 pandemic is difficult to erase. Local conflicts are delayed, inflation remains high; the aftermath of interest rate hikes in a high interest rate environment has led to financial vulnerability. And extreme weather is intensifying and multiple factors are superimposed, testing the resilience of the economies of all countries and the power of recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a lasting negative impact on the global industrial and supply chains. Although countries have striven to repair them, they have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels due to various political and economic factors. The industrial foundation and material security for the healthy development of the world economy urgently need to be restored. The trade barriers are obvious, as the sanctions and anti-globalization policies of some countries undermine trade liberalization and cooperation among nations.

From a domestic perspective, China’s economy has developed and advanced through twists and turns. In addition to the decline in external demand and weak domestic demand, there are also intensified risks in real estate and local government debts, as well as challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises. Moreover, some areas are experiencing frequent natural disasters, including floods, typhoons, and earthquakes. Faced with multiple challenges, China has introduced a series of policies to stabilize growth, relying on innovation to lead industrial upgrading, deepening reforms, and expanding opening-up. The effects of macro policies continue to be felt, and the transformation and upgrading of industries are advancing steadily.

In 2023, President Xi Jinping proposed the concept of “New Quality Productivity” for the first time. New Quality Productivity represents the evolutionary direction of advanced productivity and is the quality of advanced productivity manifested by revolutionary technological breakthroughs, innovative allocation of production factors, and in-depth transformation and upgrading of industries. Driven by a series of new technologies, New Quality Productivity facilitates the flow, sharing, integration, development, and efficient utilization of factors, such as labor, capital, land, knowledge, technology, management, and data. It gains strong momentum for development and is capable of leading the creation of a new era of social production.

In 2023, big models of AI applications represented by ChatGPT, Midjourney, Sora,

etc. came into being and swept the world. By the end of 2023, China had released more than 200 large AI models, with over 20 of these large model products providing services to the public. As a foundational element, large models are accelerating the reconstruction of the global software, hardware, and application ecosystems, reshaping industrial structures, business models, and future work styles, and driving a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation.

In 2023, we discussed the dynamic practices of China's regions and industries guided by New Quality Productivity in light of the new global political and economic situation. Entitled "Strategic Engine of the New Quality Productive Forces—RDI Annual Report 2023," the report systematically reviews the latest observations and findings from the 2023 investigations and research conducted by the RDI, as well as significant activities and key achievements in the construction of networks among think tanks, international organizations, cities, enterprises, and the media. We hope that the insights of experts and scholars and the vivid practices in various fields presented in this report will provide valuable references for policy formulation by relevant departments and for cultivating and developing New Quality Productivity across a wide range of enterprises.

In 2023, RDI actively provided advice and has completed nearly 100 high-quality research reports covering such areas as international situation, major country diplomacy, regional economy, advanced science and technology, and industrial development. Over the past years, RDI has conducted extensive think tank research, technical discussions, and industrial research under the leadership of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and with the support of the National Committee of the CPPCC (NCCPPCC), the United Front Work Department, International Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, and Ministry of Science and Technology. RDI has actively built cooperation links between BRI countries and Chinese cities, helped Chinese STI-oriented enterprises enter the international stage in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and injected vitality into BRI building and development with the scientific and technological achievements of China. We expect that RDI will gain a deeper understanding of the essence and implications of New Quality Productivity, actively explore platform development, inspect and cooperate with local parks, industry associations, research institutions, and international organizations so as to further enhance its professional capability to serve local economy and enterprise development.

Weiguang WANG

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Academy of Social Sciences

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March 2024

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