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2023 Pujiang Innovation Forum Bulletin VI

Shaping new engines and new strengths in development through technological innovation

Editor's Note: The Theme Forum: Regional Innovation and Development" of the Pujiang Innovation Forum 2023, with the theme of "New Areas, New Arenas, New Space", explores how to promote regional scientific and technological innovation and transformation, and give further play to the important role of regional innovation in shaping new engines and new strengths in development by touching upon major regional development strategies such as the coordinated development in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Yangtze River Economic Belt, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Yangtze River Delta, and ecological conservation and high-quality development in the Yellow River basin, etc. This bulletin summarizes views of guests at the theme forum "Regional Innovation and Development" for your reference.

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The regional innovation system is an integral part of the national innovation system. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, positive progress has been made in the building of China's regional innovation system, and its level of opening-up to and cooperation with the outside world has been increasing. The building of the Yangtze River Delta scientific and technological innovation community has become a hardcore impetus to integrated and high-quality development. The G60 Science and Innovation Corridor has promoted the cross-regional collaborative development of industry chains, the technological innovation capacity of the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Yellow River Basin has been enhanced steadily, distinctive innovation and development paths have been explored, and regional innovation capacity and competitiveness have been improved in general. **The guests present agreed that given the new situation and requirements, we should gain new development drivers and advantages in reliance on scientific and technological innovation, create more development opportunities through high-level opening-up, explore a new pattern of coordinated regional development, further strengthen international opening-up and cooperation, and make new contributions to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.**

I. Grasp new trends, and establish new theories of regional innovation and development.

First, scientific and technological innovation has become an important impetus to high-quality regional development. Sun Dong, Academician of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, thought that scientific and technological innovation has become a key element in reshaping the world's political and economic landscape, and a main battlefield of international strategic gaming. Countries around the world are actively promoting scientific and technological innovation with focus on key regions to get the upper hand in new arenas. **Wang Jixiang, Director of the Jingjinji National Center of Technology Innovation,** thought that collaborative innovation is an important form of high-quality regional development and that an innovation system must be built persistently by integrating the best entities, factors and resources through cross-regional collaboration. He pointed out that we should further leverage advantages of multiple entities in different regions within the system, gain access to more high-end innovation resources around the world, and establish a regional innovation system with a core but no edge.

Second, regional innovation has become a common issue faced by all members of city clusters. Wu Zhiqiang, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Chief Scientist of the CIUC (China Intelligent Urbanization Co-creation Center for High Density Region), and Former Vice President of Tongji University, thought that global competition has changed from the competition among representative cities to the competition among city clusters. The current global competition among innovation-oriented city clusters is

increasingly fierce. For the Yangtze River Delta, a city cluster with great potential, all members must jointly face and explore tasks of collaborative innovation among cities. **Wu Jun, member of the CPC Group and Deputy Director of the Department of Science and Technology of Hubei Province,** pointed out that global regional scientific and technological innovation is taking on a trend of division of labor and collaboration, and city clusters have become clusters of global scientific and technological innovation factors, and main carriers of regional collaborative innovation and development. Global central cities of scientific and technological innovation have become the core force driving the integrated development of regional innovation through the siphon, radiation and backwash effects, and thus become the main force for countries to gain the upper hand in global economic development and be dominant in competition.

Third, the competition in innovation system is the core of the competition among city clusters. Wang Jixiang thought that innovation activities keep pushing the boundaries of disciplines, technologies and industries, and innovation competition is no longer the competition among individual entities, organizations, regions or even countries, but has essentially evolved into the competition in innovation system. Any organization, region or country must regard the establishment of an innovation system as a fundamental task in scientific and technological innovation.

II. Exploring new models and sharing new experience in regional innovation and development

First, the effective allocation of innovation resources is the key to regional innovation and development. Wu Zhiqiang thought that the combination of strengths and weaknesses of the cities within a city cluster helps to create a strong overall advantage for regional development. He also introduced the intelligent allocation system for the innovation city cluster of the Yangtze River Delta, and used Jinhua City, and the G60 Science and Innovation Corridor as examples to introduce the application of optimal allocation of regional innovation resources. According to **Wu Jun**, the development of the city cluster of the middle Yangtze River region also adheres to the concept of sharing of scientific and technological resources. Hubei Province has signed the Framework Agreement for Cooperation in Regional Collaborative Innovation among Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi Provinces in the Middle Yangtze River Region with Hunan and Jiangxi Provinces, established the Scientific and Technological Service Alliance of the Middle Yangtze River City Cluster, and relied on the Hubei Technology Exchange to coordinate innovation resources of the three provinces. Keep exploring cross-regional collaborative innovation models among city clusters, build up examples of cooperation in regional collaborative innovation, leverage industry innovation advantages, create regional industry cooperation clusters, and explore cooperation in technology finance with the Yangtze River Delta and the Greater Bay Area to access technological and financial resources.

Second, the coupling between innovation and industry chains should be deepened in regional collaborative innovation. Wang Jixiang introduced that during the building of the Jingjinji National Center of Technology Innovation, building a Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei

collaborative innovation community with innovation and industry chains coupled, and a global collaborative innovation system was explored. Build technology platforms in clustering areas of high-level universities, cooperate with top universities at home and abroad, accelerate the industrialization of major basic research achievements, and organize national innovation highlands to carry out disruptive technological innovation. Deploy scientific and technological achievement transformation bases in important nodal cities in the three locations[1], establish industry technology innovation centers in key industry clusters and at leading enterprises in the three locations, develop high-level, precision and advanced industries and new business formats, and promote industry upgrading.

Third, multiple parties collaborate to seize new arenas of green transformation. Erik Solheim, former Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, and Vice President of the Belt and Road Green Development Coalition, thought that China has shifted from high-speed development to high-quality development in the past two decades, led green transformation, seized new arenas in the fields of green energy and new energy vehicles, and kept promulgating industry policies in the field of new energy. As a result, vigorous enterprise technology innovation and application practices have kept emerging. China's "Wise Mind (Green Transformation Plan)" can provide a reference for promoting green transformation in other parts of the world.

III. Seizing new opportunities and drawing a new blueprint for regional innovation and development

First, the Yangtze River Delta should focus on improving its innovation level. Wu Zhiqiang thought that the innovation and development of the Yangtze River Delta will attract more partner institutions, experimental platforms and investors, provide more resources and support for innovation, and improve the innovation level of the Yangtze River Delta, thereby promoting the building of a globally influential scientific and technological innovation center in Shanghai. **Wang Jixiang** thought that the Yangtze River Delta should accelerate the building of a regional innovation system with a more reasonable "functional-spatial" layout, support the building of some world-class mainstream and emerging disciplines by first-class universities in the region, and leverage the cluster advantages of national laboratories and technological innovation centers to accelerate collaborative innovation in strategic fields and create an innovation highland.

Second, the city cluster of the middle Yangtze River should actively explore regional opening-up and innovation. Wu Jun stated that Hubei will accelerate the construction of the middle Yangtze River scientific and technological innovation community by building the National Technological Innovation Center of the Middle Yangtze River, jointly developing some new R&D institutions named after the middle Yangtze River in Hunan, Hubei and Jiangxi Provinces, and jointly developing an innovation program for the middle Yangtze River city cluster; promote the high-quality development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt jointly by accelerating synergies among nodal cities in the Yangtze River Economic Belt, and establishing a consultation and cooperation mechanism for the joint ecological protection and

governance of the Yangtze River; deepen exchanges and cooperation among scientific and technological innovation centers, and organize activities such as the Pujiang Innovation Forum, China International Import Expo, East Lake Forum, and China-Africa Innovation Cooperation and Development Forum together with open cities like Shanghai and Shenzhen to jointly create an international highland for scientific and technological opening-up and innovation.

Third, the Greater Bay Area should seize the opportunity of deeply aligning with our country's new fields. Sun Dong thought that with the support of our country's forward-looking strategies and policies, the Greater Bay Area is faced with new opportunities in technological innovation and development. Hong Kong should fully leverage its advantages in basic research, integrate the advantages of Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and make good use of the government policy support in the Lok Ma Chau Loop to create an international industry-university-research platform. Build an important base for the global layout of advanced industries, and turn Loop Cooperation Zone into an important pole of the International Scientific and Technological Innovation Center of the Greater Bay Area and an important engine for high-quality development. Develop a digital economy and an international data port by taking advantage of Hong Kong's status of being part of the Chinese mainland yet overseas, and its advantage of pooling domestic and overseas data resources. Build an international innovation and talent exchange platform, and expand international scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation.

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