
China Development Forum 2026

**China in its 15th Five-Year Plan Period: Advancing
High-Quality Development and Creating New Opportunities
Together**

**Symposium on Technological Innovation and Future
Industry Development
(Panel Discussion II)**

The China Development Forum 2026, hosted by the Development Research Centre of the State Council and organized by the China Development Research Foundation, was held at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on March 22-23, 2026. On the afternoon of March 22, the Symposium on Technological Innovation and Future Industry Development took place. The speakers for Panel Discussion II were Stefan Hartung, Chairman of the Board of Management of Robert Bosch GmbH; LI Dongsheng, Founder and Chairman of TCL; Jenny Johnson, CEO of Franklin Templeton; and Christian Hartel, President and CEO of Wacker Chemie AG. The session was chaired by YU Bin, Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Former Vice President of the Development Research Centre of the State Council.

Under the theme “Chinese Innovation, Empowering the World,”

Stefan Hartung elaborated on Bosch's development in China, its evolving role in innovation, and its deep collaboration with the Chinese market.

First, the unique strengths of the Chinese market lay the foundation for long-term cooperation. The Chinese market is rapidly transitioning from electrification to intelligence, positioning itself as one of the most important innovation hubs for the global automotive industry in the next phase.

Second, for Bosch, China is shifting from being an “important market” to a “source of innovation.” In a growing number of fields, technologies developed by Bosch's China teams are now reaching global markets.

Third, AI is reshaping research, development, and production models. AI-driven explorations and practices at Bosch's factories in Suzhou, Wuxi, and Changsha demonstrate that innovations originating in China are continuously strengthening its global manufacturing network.

Finally, he emphasized that China is increasingly becoming a vital source of global innovation and new development momentum, and that Bosch will continue to contribute to the development of China's industries.

Speaking on the theme “Openness, Win-Win Cooperation, and Shared Value Creation,” **LI Dongsheng** shared three key insights.

First, applying frontier technologies to industry requires dual drivers of capital and technology. On the one hand, enterprises should increase investment in basic research and pilot validation. On the other hand, it is important to encourage the cultivation of long-term capital in the market and provide enterprises with stable, long-term equity financing through policy-based financial instruments. He suggested that regulators ease financing approval restrictions for advanced manufacturing.

Second, cross-sector industrial innovation should be promoted to build a modern industrial system. Traditional, emerging, and future industries are not simply in a sequential or substitutive relationship, but rather mutually reinforcing and symbiotically integrated. This process generates a two-way driving effect, where mutual empowerment propels the overall advancement of the Chinese manufacturing sector and cultivates a group of globally competitive, world-class technology brands.

Third, international cooperation should be deepened through commercial ties. Chinese enterprises should move toward the “Globalization 3.0” phase, transitioning from product exports to co-building industrial capabilities. By establishing overseas presence and pursuing local integration, they can enhance their capacity to allocate resources globally.

Jenny Johnson highlighted the impressive ongoing progress in China’s economy and technology, along with its strong execution capacity. She noted that this year’s Two Sessions underscored China’s firm commitment to high-quality development and its prudent, long-term planning. At the same time, the five major financial tasks provide a clear roadmap for global financial institutions to support China’s long-term development.

She observed that the world is undergoing a profound technological transformation, with artificial intelligence at its core. AI has evolved from a concept of potential into a core driver of competitiveness across industries. In particular, the rise of AI agents is reshaping business processes and broadly influencing industry applications and the investment landscape. She emphasized that as China advances its “AI Plus” initiative, a reliable power supply will become a strategic resource and a core advantage for the country. Looking ahead, talent will surpass technology as the primary constraint on corporate

development—companies will need individuals with professional expertise, sound judgment, and strong leadership. Companies that benefit most from AI will be those that combine powerful technology with rigorous regulation, efficient governance, and a culture of responsibility.

Johnson identified three major trends shaping the future of finance. First, the definition of money is evolving, and the hierarchical expansion of data flow will enable real-time, intelligent optimization of asset allocation. Second, personalized services are becoming the new industry standard, with AI-powered investment advisors supporting clients throughout the asset life cycle. Third, AI will shift the competitive advantage in asset management from product breadth to excellent execution, speed of insight, and highly personalized client experiences.

In closing, Johnson said that Franklin Templeton is fully committed to supporting and leading this industry transformation. The company stands ready to deepen cooperation with Chinese stakeholders, drive innovation through technology, and contribute to China's high-quality development.

Christian Hartel noted that technological innovation today is no longer about isolated breakthroughs, but rather about the coordinated transformation of electrification, digitalization, and artificial intelligence. He emphasized that the speed of innovation determines the fate of industries, and only through large-scale collaborative innovation across the entire industrial chain at an early stage can sustained progress be achieved.

Regarding the role of materials in industrial transformation, he pointed out that advanced materials are the foundation for turning concepts into reality, whether in transportation or digital infrastructure. Wacker Chemie AG positions itself as a long-term partner for innovation in future industries, with products like polysilicon providing the

prerequisites for industrial-grade AI applications. Hartel stated that future industries are not meant to replace traditional industries, but to transform and upgrade them. Although the chemical industry is a traditional sector, new technologies such as digital twins and simulation have become standard tools in daily operations, enabling companies to accelerate capacity ramp-up and mitigate risks.

He stressed that the most successful innovations today arise from cross-sector collaboration between companies and even countries, where upstream technical expertise and downstream application experience create powerful complementary and enabling effects. Cooperation is no longer a soft factor that is “nice to have,” but a core strategic advantage for enterprises. By fostering trust-based collaboration across the industrial chain and integrating sophisticated engineering with digital intelligence, companies can translate today’s technological breakthroughs into long-term industrial outcomes.

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— Background Information —

The China Development Forum (CDF) is hosted by the Development Research Centre of the State Council and organized by the China Development Research Foundation. Since its inception in 2000, the Forum has been dedicated to the mission of “engaging with the world for common prosperity.” It has served as an important platform for high-level, professional dialogue among China’s senior government officials, global business leaders, representatives from international organizations, as well as scholars from both China and around the world.



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