



Nottingham University
Business School

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

중국의 시골기: 드러난 저력

류성한 | Sunghan Ryu

Professor in Management Science and Analytics

Nottingham University Business School China

University of Nottingham Ningbo China



The “DeepSeek” Moment and More

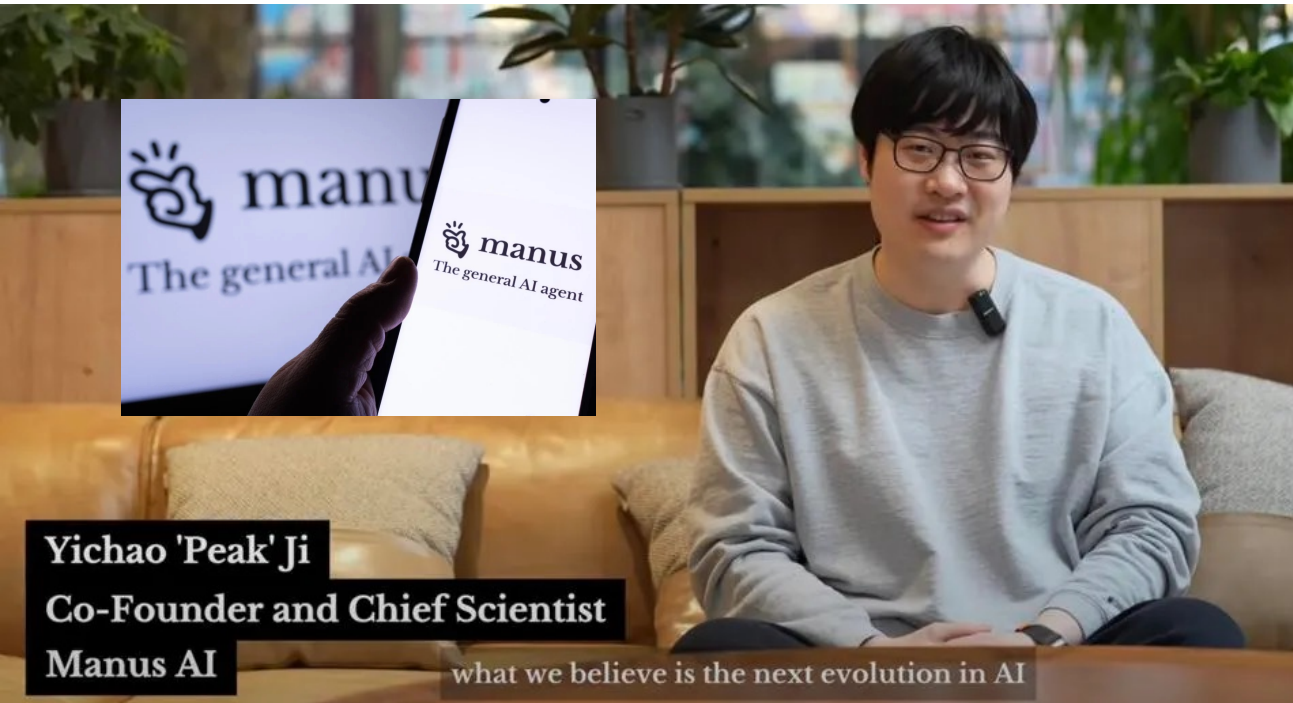


World ▾ Business ▾ Markets ▾ Sustainability ▾ Legal ▾ Breakingviews ▾ More ▾

China's Manus AI partners with Alibaba's Qwen team in expansion bid

By Reuters

March 11, 2025 10:33 PM GMT+8 · Updated 16 hours ago



Yichao 'Peak' Ji
Co-Founder and Chief Scientist
Manus AI

what we believe is the next evolution in AI



Source: <https://www.peoplesworld.org/article/is-deepseek-chinas-sputnik-moment/>

Soudrc: <https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/chinas-manus-ai-announces-partnership-with-alibabas-qwen-team-2025-03-11/>



Nottingham University
Business School

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

중국 AI 연구 및 산업 현황

연구 성과 및 산업 규모를 중심으로

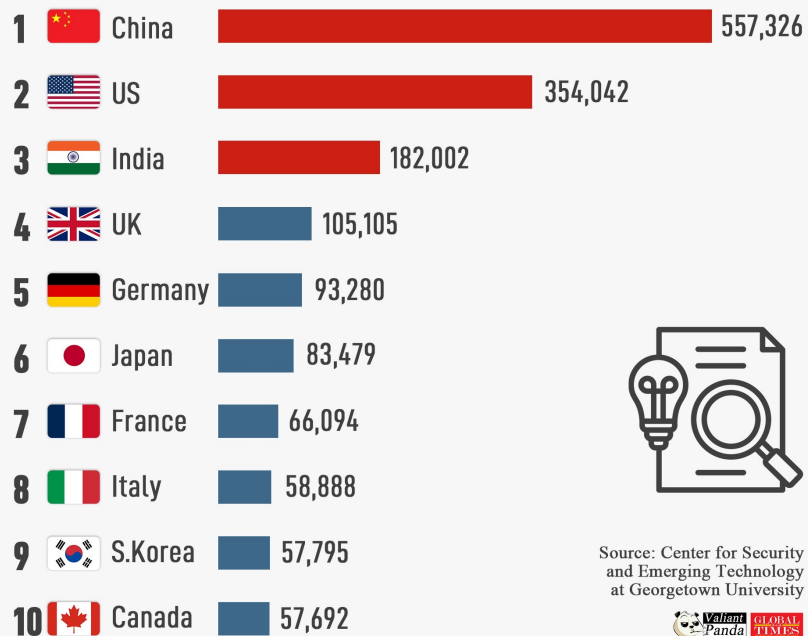


AI Research Impact

- China has challenged the US dominance in AI research impact for both quantity and quality.

WHICH COUNTRIES LEAD IN AI RESEARCH?

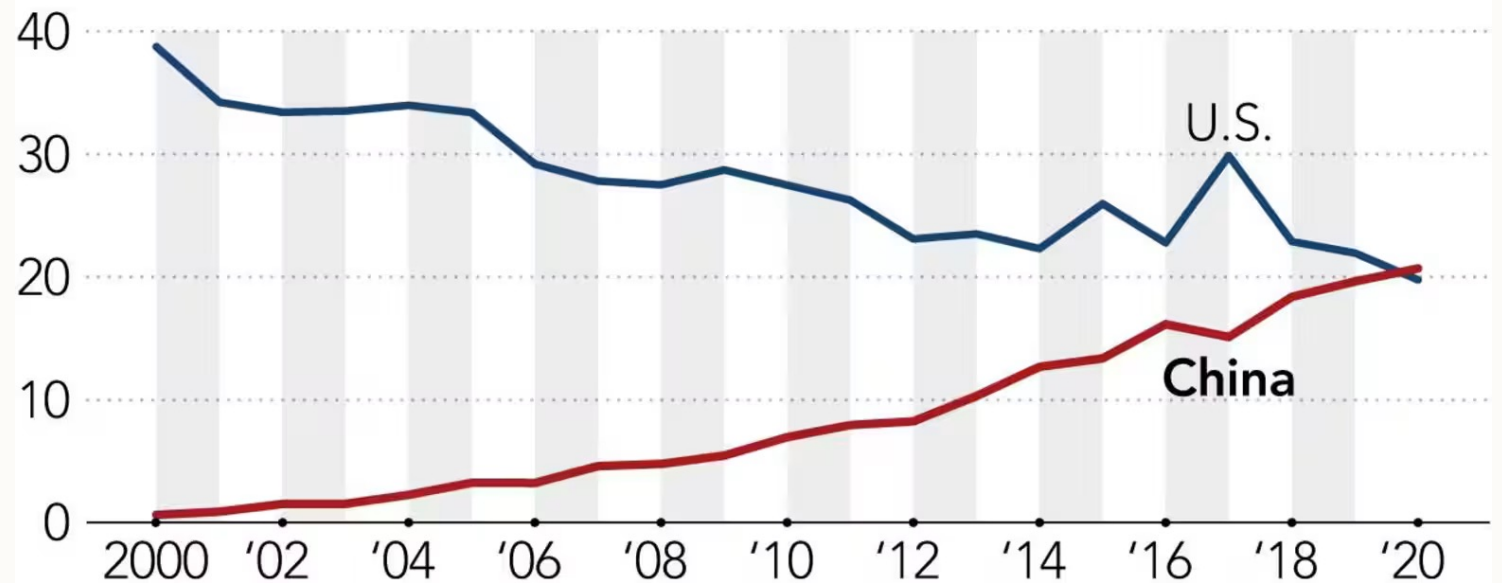
Number of AI-related articles published
(2013-2023)



Source: Center for Security and Emerging Technology at Georgetown University



Share of AI paper citations (In percent)





















Source: Stanford University's AI Index Report



AI Research Impact (Cont'd)

- Leading organizations in Generative AI research (in 2023)

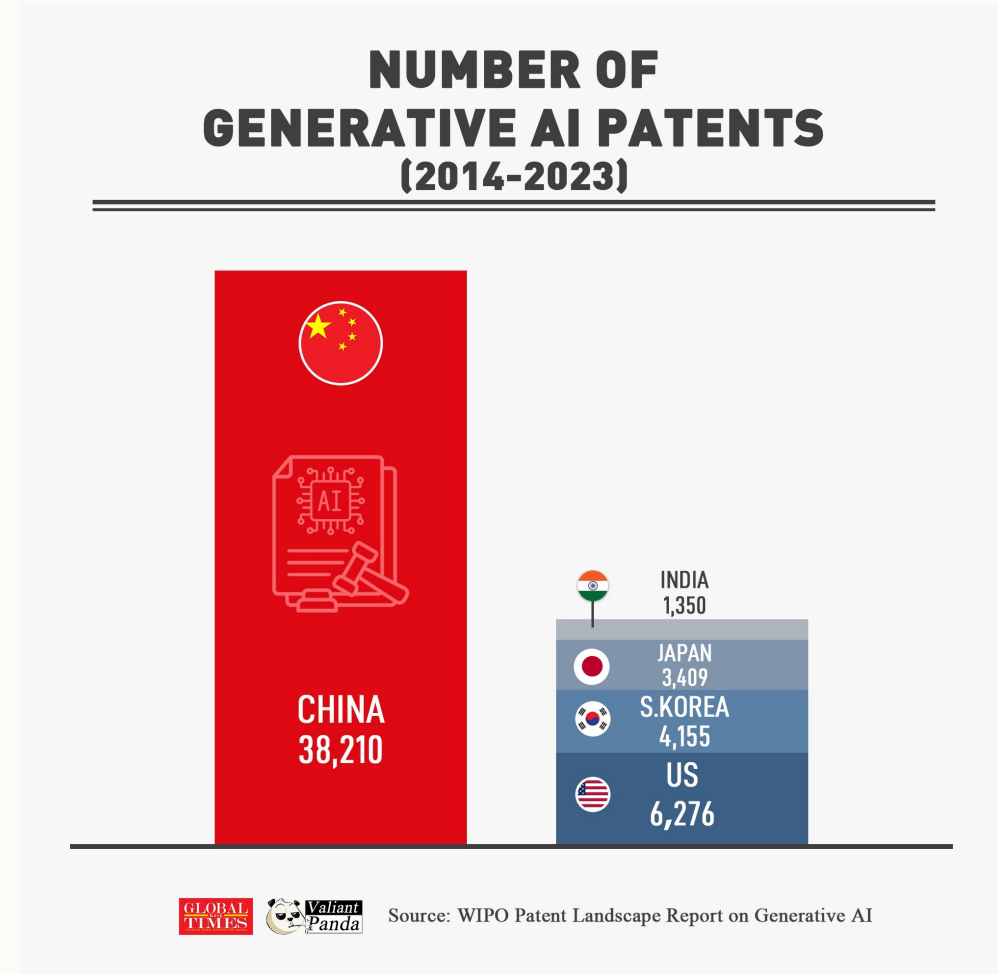
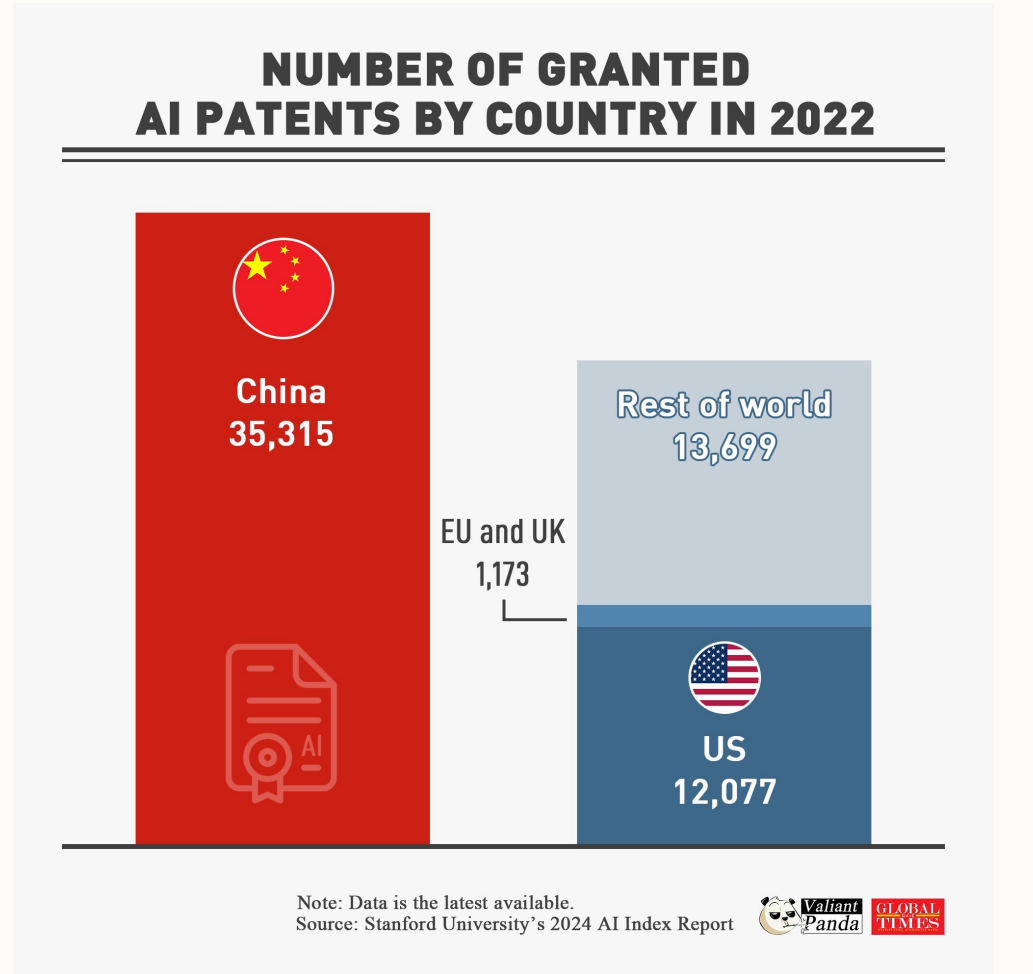
All Research		Top-cited Research	
1	 Chinese Academy of Sciences	 Alphabet	
2	 Tsinghua University	 University of California, Berkeley	
3	 Stanford University	 Université de Montréal	
4	 Alphabet	 Stanford University	
5	 Shanghai Jiao Tong University	 Meta	
6	 Massachusetts Institute of Technology	  DeepMind	
7	 Zhejiang University	 Seoul National University	
8	 Harvard University	 Massachusetts Institute of Technology	
9	 Carnegie Mellon University	 Chinese Academy of Sciences	
10	 University of Oxford	 Imperial College London	

Source: <https://itif.org/publications/2024/08/26/how-innovative-is-china-in-ai/>



AI Patents: Quantity

- China is dominating in terms of the number of AI-related patents filed.





AI Patents: Quality

- China may be winning the AI patent race in terms of volume, but the US dominates in terms of impact
 - American AI patents are cited nearly seven times more than Chinese patents (13.18 vs 1.90 average citations)
 - Many Chinese firms file exclusively within China, while big tech firms, such as Huawei and Tencent, have a more diversified AI patenting strategy
 - Global companies such as Intel Corporation and Samsung Electronics file across 10 or more jurisdictions



Technological Advancement

- Gap between the leading models from US industry leaders and those developed by China's tech giants and start-ups is quickly closing
- The makeup of players developing China's top models are a mix of start-ups and tech giants
 - Baidu's Erniebot, Alibaba's Qwen, and Tencent's Hunyuan
 - Zhipu AI, Baichuan AI, Moonshot AI (Kimi), and MiniMax (Talkie)
 - And **DeepSeek**
- China's open-source LLM ecosystem is gaining significant traction



Key Observations

- China is the global leader in AI research and is neck and neck with the United States
- China's research publications have less impact than US ones, with fewer top-cited research
- China is far and away the leader in number of AI patents, though it lags behind in patent quality
- China's AI landscape is rapidly evolving, with its tech giants and start-ups closing the gap with US industry leaders while also building a strong open-source LLM ecosystem



Nottingham University
Business School

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

중국의 AI 혁신 생태계 분석

세가지 관점: 1) 정책 지원 2) 인재 양성 3) 산업 연계



Three Key Aspects

■ Government support in strategic planning and financing

- The government plays a proactive role in facilitating AI development, exhibiting robust strategic planning and execution capabilities
- Chinese government provides financial support to nurture high-potential firms, including ones in less-developed inland areas

■ Cultivating universities and AI talents at core

- There is an emerging set of Chinese AI start-ups, supported by the prestigious Tsinghua University and other top Chinese universities, e.g., DeepSeek - Zhejiang University
- Universities are launching massive AI-related programs as the demand for skilled AI professionals has surged

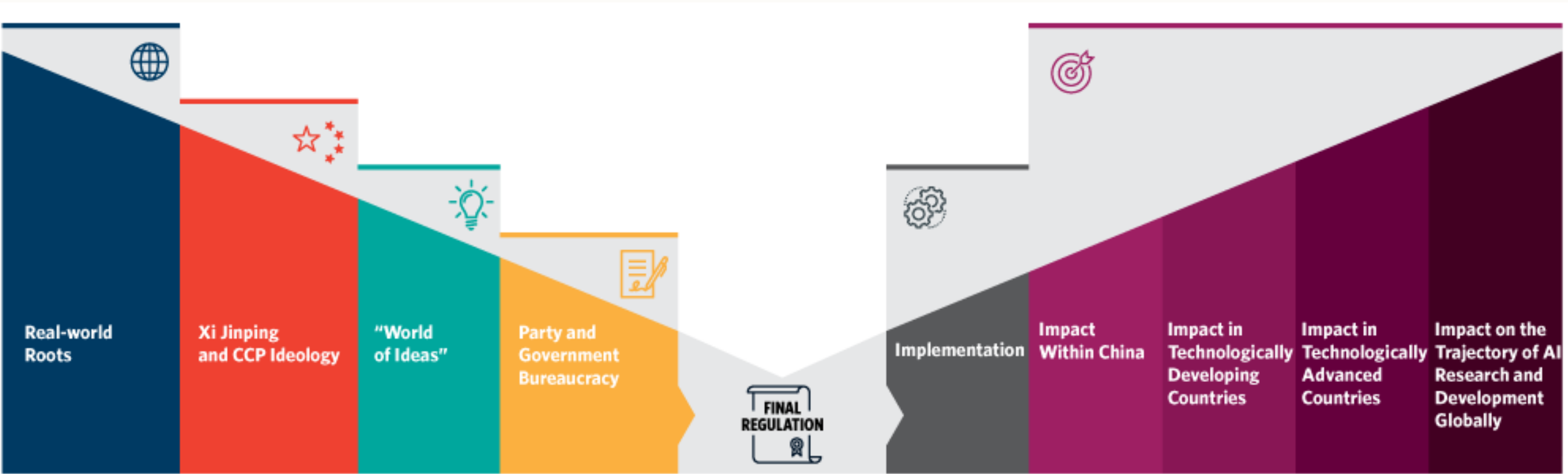
■ Industrial application and scaling AI innovation

- Leading companies in China are investing heavily in the development of AI, with a focus on key business scenarios to solve industry-specific problems



The "Policy Funnel" of China

- Major government initiatives, including AI development, tend to proceed from left to right through this funnel (not in a linear fashion)





China's Strategic AI Development Plan

- China aims to become a primary AI innovation hub by expanding its core AI industry to over \$140 billion by 2030, and to boost related sectors to \$1.4 trillion in value during the same period

Step 1 2020



- AI technology and applications are synchronized with the world's advanced levels
- The AI industry is a new key driver of economic growth
- The application of AI technology provides a new way to improve people's livelihoods

Step 2 2025



- Major advancements to be made in the foundational theories of AI
- AI becomes a key driver of industrial and economic transformation in China
- Solid progress to be made in advancing the development of an intelligent society

Step 3 2030



- AI theories, technologies and applications to reach global-leading level, making China a key hub for global AI innovation.
- The breadth and depth of AI applications to be significantly expanded



Government Supports

■ Government guidance funds

- Between 2000 to 2023, Chinese government funds invested in 9,623 unique firms in the AI space through more than 20,000 transactions, totaling \$184 billion
- More spatially distributed than private funds
- Often invest in AI firms before private VC funds, and these government investments attract subsequent private VC investments

■ Subsidies

- E.g., Beijing city introduced subsidies for firms buying domestically produced AI chips
- E.g., Shanghai city provided companies with vouchers to access subsidized processing power from large state-operated data centers



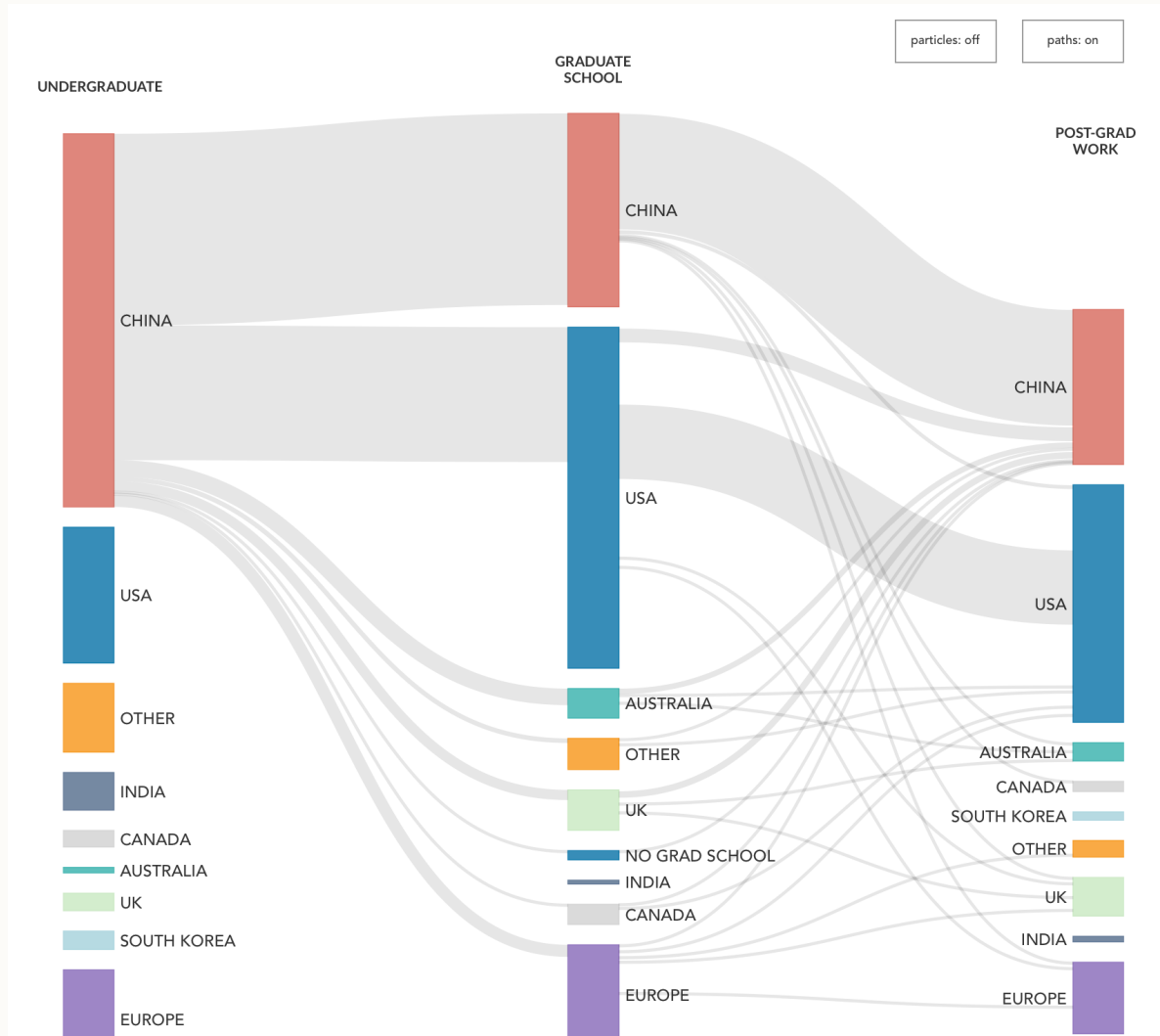
Efforts to Cultivate AI talent

- With China's rapid advances in AI technology, demand for skilled AI professionals has surged
 - E.g., autonomous driving, smart manufacturing and healthcare
- At least 535 universities in China currently offer AI-related majors, reflecting a growing emphasis on AI talent cultivation
- It's estimated that China accounts for nearly half of the world's top AI researchers (29% in 2019 to 47% in 2022)



Efforts to Cultivate AI talent (Cont'd)

What are the career paths of top-tier AI researchers? (2022)



Cour



Chinese AI Team 🇨🇳

Leading or AI research in U



USA AI team 🇺🇸



Efforts to Cultivate AI talent (Cont'd)

- Tsinghua Univ. has become renowned as a hub for top AI start-ups founded by its faculty and alumni, including China's new "AI tigers"



Source: <https://www.thewirechina.com/2025/02/04/whos-who-chinas-ai-industry/>,
<https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2023/07/chinas-ai-regulations-and-how-they-get-made?lang=en¢er=global>










Scaling AI Innovation in Industry

- China's diverse industrial landscape creates a rich environment for AI adoption and innovation.
 - AI technology offers significant growth opportunities in key industries in China, e.g., manufacturing, automotive, retail, healthcare, finance, utilities and public services
 - E.g., AI & industrial robotics: There are 1.7 million industrial robots (51% of global demand) operating in China's factories in 2023
- The deep integration of AI technology with business use cases in China has become a catalyst for both 1) driving AI innovation and 2) accelerating industrial transformation
 - The country aims to become a primary innovation hub for the technology by expanding its **core AI industry to over \$140 billion** by 2030, and to boost **related sectors to \$1.4 trillion** in value during the same period.



Scaling AI Innovation in Industry

■ Top AI application scenarios in China by industry

<p>Industrial manufacturing</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Production optimization– Quality management 	<p>Automotive and autonomous transport</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Autonomous driving– Intelligent cabins 	
<p>Retail</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Hyper-personalized engagement– Supply chain/logistics operations– Virtual live host 	<p>Healthcare</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Assisted diagnosis and screening– Healthcare delivery– Assisted treatment– Drug R&D 	
<p>Finance</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Fraud detection– Financial inclusion– Digital payment– Credit risk management 	<p>Renewable energy and utilities</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Energy management 	<p>Public services</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Smart city 



Nottingham University
Business School

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

시사점과 향후 전망



Key Takeaways from China AI

- **AI governance and regulatory developments**
 - China is actively shaping AI regulations, balancing innovation with state control
 - Policies focus on data sovereignty, ethical AI, and alignment with national priorities

- **Strategic investments and innovation**
 - Heavy government funding with following private sector funding fuels AI advancements
 - AI is integrated into key strategic industries, e.g., robotics, healthcare, finance, smart cities

- **AI research and foundational model development**
 - Rapid progress in LLMs, with tech giants and start-ups driving innovation

- **Global AI influence and competition**
 - China is expanding its AI footprint through partnerships and infrastructure projects
 - Open-source LLM initiatives are gaining traction and boosting global collaboration



Key Challenges for China AI

▪ **AI regulation and government oversight**

- A highly regulated AI environment can hinder innovation
- Strict government oversight limits the flexibility of AI firms

▪ **Lower private Investment**

- Much of its funding coming from state-directed sources
- Inefficiencies in state-backed VC funds can lead to underwhelming results

▪ **AI talent drain**

- China produces a high number of AI graduates, from institutions like Tsinghua University
- However, top AI researchers often seek opportunities in the US due to global recognition and academic freedom

▪ **Barriers to global AI influence and trust**

- Chinese AI companies face geopolitical skepticism, given the competition with US
- Restrictions in countries over concerns of government influence



Nottingham University
Business School

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

감사합니다!

류성한

sunghan.ryu@nottingham.edu.cn

Nottingham University Business School China

University of Nottingham Ningbo China

