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At the Age of Thirty, Recalling the Original Aspiration, and Setting Out Again: Post-Print

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Abstract

At its thirtieth anniversary, the China News Technology Workers Association (hereinafter referred to as the “China News Tech Association”) reflects on its founding aspiration and embarks on a new journey. Established during China’s reform and opening-up era against the backdrop of a technological revolution in news media, the Association was created in response to the calls of news technology professionals nationwide.

Full Text

Preamble

At its thirtieth anniversary, the China News Technology Workers Association (hereinafter referred to as the “China News Tech Association”) reflects on its founding aspiration and embarks on a new journey. Established during China’s reform and opening-up era against the backdrop of a technological revolution in news media, the Association was created in response to the calls of news technology professionals nationwide.

Looking Back, Remembering Our Original Aspiration

In the 1980s, a technology revolution centered on computer applications was gaining momentum in China’s news media sector. Xinhua News Agency abandoned its long-standing manual transcription dispatch methods and began using computers to broadcast Chinese news dispatches to newspapers and radio stations nationwide. After nearly a decade of united effort and arduous research, Wang Xuan and his scientific team developed a computer laser Chinese character phototypesetting system, which achieved breakthrough success at the Economic Daily and was rapidly promoted to newspapers across the country, heralding the arrival of a new technological revolution.

China's news technology workers keenly perceived that the growing popularization of computer technology would inevitably bring earth-shaking changes to the news industry in terms of concepts, systems, working methods, and personnel quality. To welcome this new technological revolution, they acted with a sense of urgency that time would not wait, accelerating their preparations—including the major initiative of establishing their own national organization.

On April 16, 1987, directors of radio stations from various newspapers who were in Beijing to attend the second training session on Xinhua's Chinese microcomputer manuscript reception system first issued the call to “establish a specialized industry association.” This initiative received enthusiastic responses from news organizations and technical personnel across the country. Led by Xinhua News Agency and jointly with People's Daily and the Ministry of Radio, Film, and Television, the application process for the China News Tech Association officially began.

In the golden autumn of 1991, Beijing welcomed delegates attending the inaugural congress and first representative assembly of the China News Technology Workers Association. Nearly 200 representatives from more than 150 news agencies, newspapers, radio stations, television stations, broadcasting bureaus, as well as universities, research institutions, manufacturers, and companies directly serving news technology, gathered together for this historic first grand assembly of China's news technology workers. In his report titled “The Historical Responsibility of the China News Tech Association,” newly elected Council Chairman Sun Baochuan stated that the Association's historical mission was to unite and bring together scientific and technical workers across the national news front, promote the modernization of China's news technology, and more effectively fulfill the role of the Party, government, and people's eyes, ears, and voice. Veteran leaders including Wu Lengxi, former Chairman of the All-China Journalists Association, and Mu Qing, former President of Xinhua News Agency, warmly congratulated the Association on its founding, declaring “we wholeheartedly support your organization,” and earnestly expressed their hope that the Association would work pragmatically to “give wings of science to news work in terms of news communication technology.”

Looking Forward, Starting Again

Time flies, and in the blink of an eye, thirty years have passed since the founding of the China News Tech Association. Over these three decades, under the leadership of the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Technology, with the support of media leaders at all levels and news technology workers nationwide, the Association has built three major media technology platforms: the annual academic conference, the “Wang Xuan News Science and Technology Award” approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology and its awards office, and the Association's official journal *China Media Technology*. For thirty years, the Association has accomplished a great deal of fruitful work and played an important role in strengthening technical exchanges and cooper-

ation among media peers, promoting research, development and application of media technology, encouraging innovation and growth among media technology talents, and fostering the prosperity and development of the media industry.

Standing at this new starting point as the Association marks its thirtieth anniversary and embarks on a new journey, the China News Tech Association will remain true to its original aspiration, reset and start anew, and truly build itself into a “home for news technology workers,” making even greater contributions to the development of China’s news media technology!

Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

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