



A group of student reporters observe a robotic dog at the 2025 China International Big Data Industry Expo, held at the Guiyang International Convention and Exhibition Center in Guizhou from Aug 28 to 30. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Teens report on tech

Middle school students from Guizhou step into the world of journalism, reporting on advanced technologies at the 2025 Big Data Expo.

By MENG WENJIE
mengwenjie@i21st.cn

On the morning of Aug 28, a group of middle school students in bright yellow vests gathered outside the Guiyang International Convention and Exhibition Center in Guizhou province.

Selected by the media center of Guanshanhu district, these students were about to mark their debut as bilingual reporters at the 2025 China International Big Data Industry Expo.

Among them was 15-year-old Li Yihan from Zunyi, Guizhou. “I’ve read several journalists’ memoirs, and I’ve always been fascinated by this profession,” he said.

In preparation for the event, Li and his peers underwent pre-job training. “Our English teacher reviewed potential interview questions, and experienced journalists taught us how to respond flexibly in complex situations,” Li explained.

As soon as they entered the exhibition hall, the students were immediately captivated by the cutting-edge technology on display.

Li chose to report on a cable repair

robot developed by China Southern Power Grid. “The staff told me the robot is named ‘Wukong’ because it uses a ‘duplication technique’ like the Monkey King,” he said. “Operators can control it remotely in real time, so there’s no need for humans to enter dangerous areas.”

Liu Yunyi, a 14-year-old from Guiyang, interviewed a man using a robotic arm, who had lost his forearm and had the device installed at his elbow.

“The man explained that the robotic arm made everyday tasks easier, from writing and carrying objects to improving his overall quality of life,” Liu said.

“Attending the expo gave me a firsthand look at just how advanced China’s technology has become,” she added. “I saw things here that I once thought existed only in sci-fi movies.”

Wang Zini, also 14 and from Guiyang, was intrigued by drone soccer. “It was my first time seeing such a unique sport, and I learned that it’s gradually being included in official competitions,” she said.

She described the game: a quadcopter is placed inside a netted sphere and flown through a sus-

pended hoop. Matches are typically played in 3v3 or 5v5 formats.

As bilingual reporters, the students also interacted with international exhibitors. Wang, for example, interviewed a US exhibitor whose company provides factory inspection services for hardware manufacturers.

Speaking English was not always easy for the 14-year-old, especially when technical terms became confusing. But she quickly found a way to adjust.

“With international exhibitors, I shifted the focus to lifestyle and cultural exchanges, like recommending Guiyang’s local cuisine or asking about their impressions of the city,” Wang said. “It was my first time speaking with foreigners, and I was nervous at first, but their warmth helped me relax.”

Behind the scenes

While most of her peers wrote articles, Liu chose to report through short videos.

“Videos bring the event to life for viewers,” she explained. “They capture the atmosphere and make the experience more engaging.”

That choice, however, came with its own challenges. Some interviewees were reluctant to be filmed, and at times, passersby wandered into the frame, forcing her to reshoot.

“Video reporting requires smooth communication, so even small interruptions during an interview can affect the final product,” Liu said.

Despite these obstacles, she successfully produced four videos, and the experience, she added, gave her a new perspective on journalism.

“Journalists don’t just share information. They dig deeper, seek a thorough understanding of the issues, and use their skills to clearly present facts to the public,” Liu said. “Telling a story is much more complex than it looks.”

Li, who had attended the expo before as a visitor, also felt the difference this time as a reporter.

“As a visitor, I might only browse the exhibits casually,” he said. “But as a reporter, I had the opportunity to truly engage with the tech products and develop a deeper appreciation for the immense effort researchers put into their work.”

Youth celebrate China-Nepal cultural bond

By GUI QIAN
guiqian@i21st.cn

On Sept 5, a group of Nepali students performed a classical Bharatanatyam dance at the Capital Museum in Beijing. Their colorful traditional costumes, graceful movements, and lively music created a festive atmosphere that captivated an audience of about 100 youth representatives from China and Nepal.

The performance was part of the China-Nepal Youth Art Exchange, organized by the Beijing Belt & Road Cooperative Community (BRCC) and the Silk Road Cities Alliance (SRCA) to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Earlier, on Aug 1, the organizers had led a delegation of Chinese students to Ullens School in Kathmandu for a sand-art exchange. The Sept 5 visit to Beijing was Ullens School’s return trip, bringing 60 students to China for a seven-day cultural program.

During their trip, they toured Beijing and Shanghai, visiting landmarks such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and Disneyland. They experienced tea culture and a river cruise, and also joined interactive exchanges with students from several Beijing high schools.

“The dance may not have been perfect, but it was performed with heartfelt gratitude,” said Ekta Singh Rana, vice principal of Ullens School.

“This trip has given us an opportunity to gain firsthand experience, helping us appreciate your culture and the hospitality you’ve shown, which in turn has fostered greater understanding in today’s globalized world,” she added.

Aaraohya Giri, 13, an eighth grader and one of the Bharatanatyam performers, said she was proud to share Nepali culture with Chinese audiences.

“It’s a really good way to show everyone who we are and embrace our identity,” she said.

Yang Yaran, 15, from Luoyang in Henan province, is a student at the High School Affiliated to the China Conservatory of Music and an accomplished *guzheng* (Chinese zither) player. At the event, she and her schoolmates performed two pieces using tra-

ditional Chinese instruments, including the *erhu* (two-stringed fiddle), *yangqin* (hammered dulcimer), and flute.

“This international exchange allows people from different countries to appreciate each other’s unique cultures,” Yang said, noting that preparing for the performance gave her a deeper understanding of both Chinese and Nepali traditions.

Jayden Khewnny, 13, was captivated by China’s breathtaking scenery. His most memorable moment of the trip was climbing the Great Wall. “Ever since I was a child, I’ve dreamed of visiting the Great Wall. Finally being here feels amazing,” he said.

As a hiking enthusiast, he is eager to introduce his Chinese peers to Nepal’s famous mountains.

Nepal, often called a “mountain kingdom”, is home to eight peaks over 8,000 meters. China and Nepal also share the core part of the Himalayas, a landscape that symbolizes not only natural grandeur but also the enduring friendship between the two nations.

This was Giri’s first visit to China, and the country left a strong impression on her.

“Before I arrived, I knew it would be very advanced because of all the AI technology,” she said. “When I got here, I found that even the public restrooms had such nice facilities and used robots. It’s really what I expected — and even more.”

Giri was already planning her second trip to China before leaving. Next time, she said, she hopes to visit the countryside because she has seen many pictures of rural areas and would like to learn how people live there and how the villages have become so modern and beautiful.

“We are both Asian countries and very close,” she said. “It’s important for young people like us to preserve our good relations.”

“Youth are the future of a nation and the bridge of friendship,” said Dong Shaopeng, chairman of the BRCC, in his welcoming speech. “Exchanges between the young people of our two countries not only enhance mutual understanding but also inject new vitality into the traditional friendship between China and Nepal.”

Global Insights

From poverty to prosperity: lessons from Manluanzhan

Five years ago, during my master’s studies at China Agricultural University (CAU), I visited Hebian village in Yunnan province as part of a poverty alleviation program.

It was there that I saw how my professor, Li Xiaoyun, and his team helped lift the community out of poverty by 2020.

Despite Hebian’s rich natural resources — rain forest-covered mountains, fertile farmland, and abundant vegetation — villagers had long struggled with limited education and economic stagnation.

With support from the United Nations’ “Global Call to Action Against Poverty” initiative, Chinese social charities, and the central government, Li and his team established the Xiaoyun Poverty Alleviation Center in Hebian, which became a model for change.

That experience left me with a lasting question: once poverty is eradicated, what comes next?

This summer, I found part of the answer in Manluanzhan village in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, during a field trip organized by CAU’s College of International Development and Global Agriculture, and the College of Humanities and Development Studies.

More than 60 students from over

13 countries — including Ethiopia, Austria, Ghana, Indonesia, Brazil, Myanmar, and the United States — came together from July 3 to 12 to study global development and rural revitalization.

Our destination, Manluanzhan, is a Dai ethnic minority village that has become a showcase for China’s rural revitalization program launched in 2019.

Unlike poverty alleviation, which focuses on meeting immediate needs, revitalization emphasizes long-term growth. It leverages rural talent, cultural heritage, and tourism to create sustainable livelihoods.

Villages are encouraged to diversify income sources, attract visitors, and preserve local traditions.

Once again, Professor Li and his team were closely involved in Manluanzhan. Their focus: sustainable village construction and community-led development.

As we walked into Manluanzhan, it was hard to imagine that this community had once struggled to make ends meet. Today, villagers not only enjoy self-sufficiency but have also embraced modern comforts.

Many families own cars and countryside apartments. Businesses thrive — from a restaurant, wellness



Lemi Chala Tamire (first from right) visits Manluanzhan village in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, during a field trip organized by China Agricultural University from July 3 to 12. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

center, coffee bar, and wood-fired bakery to a craft beer workshop and even an ice cream shop.

The village also boasts a modern outdoor swimming pool, large enough to host group activities.

It was there that we joined the villagers in their Water Splashing Festival. At first, it seemed like pure fun — tossing water under the sun — but it soon stirred childhood memories and gave me a renewed sense of con-

nection to nature and community.

We also tried our hand at the traditional art of papermaking. Guided by villagers, I dipped my hands into pulp and felt the rhythm of a craft passed down for generations. It was more than a lesson in technique — it was about continuity, culture, and respect for the past.

As night fell, we gathered for a communal dinner, followed by a bonfire. Under the stars, Dai music

and dance brought the village to life. In that moment, I didn’t feel like a visitor. I felt part of something bigger — a living, breathing community.

Seeds of change

Manluanzhan’s journey from poverty to prosperity was no accident. It reflects a carefully guided process: first meeting basic needs through poverty alleviation, then building long-term growth through rural revitalization.

The key was recognizing the village’s assets — its natural beauty and Dai culture — and turning them into opportunities. Tourism became central, while festivals and traditions were celebrated not only for locals but also as attractions for visitors.

What impressed me most was that villagers were not passive recipients of aid. They were entrepreneurs, hosts, and cultural ambassadors.

The community itself carried the project forward, with outside institutions acting as partners rather than commanders.

Coming from Ethiopia, I could not help but draw comparisons. Many of our villages, too, have unique traditions and natural

resources waiting to be unlocked.

From Manluanzhan, I learned four key lessons. First, understand the root causes of poverty before trying to solve them. Second, foster collaboration between governments, universities, and charities. Third, value local culture and the environment as development assets. And finally, ensure that communities lead the way.

For me, this trip was more than an academic exercise — it was a journey of discovery: about development, about culture, and about myself.

I left Manluanzhan with new knowledge and new friends, but also with a sense of responsibility. The transformation I witnessed in Yunnan is not just China’s story — it can inspire rural communities worldwide.

Written by Lemi Chala Tamire, an Ethiopian PhD candidate in development studies at China Agricultural University, Ethiopia. He earned his master’s degree in rural development and management studies at CAU from 2017 to 2019. Beyond his academic pursuits, he is a passionate basketball player and cyclist.