X. STUDY ON THE INFLUENCE MECHANISM OF DIGITAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT ON CHINA'S SERVICE TRADE EXPORTS-BASED ON COUNTRIES ALONG THE "BELT AND ROAD"

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The digital economy has injected a strong impetus into developing service trade along the "Belt and Road" between China and other countries. Based on the countries along the "Belt and Road", this paper analyses the impact mechanism of the digital economy on China's service trade exports, focusing on cost reduction and market expansion, and puts forward corresponding policy recommendations. DOI https://doi.org/ 10.18690/um.epf.7.2025.10

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1 Introduction

In light of the current global situation, a wave of anti-globalisation is rising, and trade protectionism is increasing. However, economic globalisation remains the dominant trend at the time. Since the 1980s, international trade has developed rapidly, and the proportion of global trade in total output has shown a rising trend. As an indispensable part of foreign trade, service trade has become increasingly important in the world economy and international trade. It has also become a new engine of economic growth for all countries (Ding, 2007).

At the same time, the world is gradually entering the era of the digital economy, benefiting from the development dividends it provides. Countries worldwide have begun to recognise the importance of the digital economy for service trade exports. Securing a leading position in the digital economy is crucial for gaining an advantage in future international trade competition. Consequently, numerous countries have introduced policies and measures to support the digital economy (Bukht & Heeks, 2018). The digital economy has become a driving force for economic growth, facilitating trade globalisation and profoundly transforming international capital flows, goods trade, and services. In 2015, China introduced the "Internet+" strategy, which accelerated digital transformation and promoted the upgrading of the service industry (He, 2021).

Many factors influence China's service trade exports. In the information era, information and communication technology (ICT) plays an increasingly significant role in shaping China's service trade (Jing & Sun, 2019). Since the introduction of the "Belt and Road" initiative, service trade transactions between China and participating countries have intensified. These countries have enormous potential for digital economic growth, aligning with global digital development trends. By leveraging the digital economy's rapid advancement, China can reduce its longstanding trade deficit in services and expand its service trade export volume (Miao, 2022). Taking advantage of digital economic expansion can contribute to a more balanced service trade between imports and exports, fostering the overall development of China's service trade sector (Gao & Wang, 2022).

Theoretically, the rapid expansion of international trade has gained considerable attention from scholars. As the share of trade in services within global trade continues to rise, many academics have begun to study service trade. In the era of the digital economy, many previously non-tradable services have become marketable, enhancing the role of digitalisation in service trade development. However, most academic research on service trade exports focuses on cultural, institutional, and competitive aspects. There is little direct research on the theoretical relationship between the digital economy, China's trade in services, and its impact mechanisms (Xu, Zhang, & Ma, 2018). Investigating how the digital economy influences China's service trade exports will contribute to a better understanding of this relationship and further enhance research on China's digital economy and service trade exports.

Practically speaking, under the current wave of anti-globalisation, the global trade environment is deteriorating. Many countries are implementing trade protectionist measures against China, making service trade exports increasingly challenging. As a result, China's service trade has faced persistent imbalances in import and export volumes. In the digital era, however, the digital economy has emerged as a new engine for global economic development. The growing application of digital technology in international trade has facilitated economic and trade integration, leading to more efficient and convenient transactions (Zhang & Jiang, 2021). By analysing the development of the digital economy and China's service trade exports to the countries along the "Belt and Road," this study aims to provide new insights into reducing China's long-standing trade deficit. The findings can help formulate constructive policy recommendations for developing China's service trade exports and contribute to constructing a more substantial digital Silk Road (Zheng, 2009).

2 Literature review

The digital economy is a new economic form that has emerged with the development of information technology and is closely related to the information economy, network economy, and knowledge economy, serving as a core element in all three. The digital economy is characterised by binary coding and can be understood as a form of the Internet economy. The concept of the "digital economy" was first introduced as early as 1996 by American economist Don Tapscott in his book The Digital Economy: Promise and Peril in the Age of Networked Intelligence (Tapscott, 1996). However, it has only been in recent years that the concept of the "digital economy" has been gradually enriched. Despite its growing importance, there is no unified definition of the digital economy within the academic community.

Foreign scholars Bukht and Heeks (2018) argue that the digital economy can be categorised into three levels: the core layer, which consists of information and communication-related industries; the middle layer, which includes business models that leverage digital technology; and the outermost layer, which encompasses economic activities carried out through digital technology (Bukht & Heeks, 2018). Meanwhile, domestic scholars such as Pang (2013) and Zhao (2016) emphasise the role of digitisation, defining the digital economy as an economic activity that utilises digital technology and trades digitised products (Pang & Zhu, 2013). Other scholars, such as He (2021), place greater importance on big data, arguing that the digital economy is closely linked to data analytics (He, 2021). Overall, the digital economy is defined from multiple perspectives, but most scholars agree it is fundamentally based on digital technology.

The development of trade in services has long been a topic of academic interest, and research on its influencing factors is abundant. Most scholars analyse this subject through the lens of "the impact of multiple factors on the export of trade in services." Using econometric analysis, Ding (2007) found that the number of employees in the service industry, the degree of market openness, the utilisation of foreign direct investment, and the volume of trade in goods all have a significant positive correlation with service exports (Ding, 2007). Xu (2018) examined the factors affecting service trade competitiveness from the global value chain perspective, using Porter's theory of competitive advantage as the foundation (Xu, Zhang, & Ma, 2018). Similarly, Jiang (2021) employed the principal factor method to analyse the influence of seven indicators, including GDP per capita, goods trade exports, and total education expenditure, on the technological content of China's service exports (Jiang, 2017).

Scholars increasingly focus on the relationship between the digital economy and service trade exports. The digital economy, which is rooted in digital technology, plays a vital role in nations' economic and trade development. At the same time, many scholars have empirically examined the impact of openness to foreign markets, per capita GDP, and other factors on service trade exports. With the continuous

evolution of the global economic structure, the digital economy will inevitably influence service trade. However, the mechanisms through which the digital economy affects service trade exports and the intrinsic connection between the two remain underexplored. Therefore, this paper analyses the impact mechanism of the digital economy on China's service trade exports based on countries along the "Belt and Road." This research aims to support China's efforts in building the Digital Silk Road by providing more practical policy recommendations.

3 Analysis of the impact of the digital economy on China's service trade exports

3.1 Theoretical foundation

Traceability of services

The traceability of services has long been one of the key research priorities in trade. Some scholars initially argued that services were not tradable due to their inability to be stored. However, this view's limitations have become increasingly evident with the digital economy's continuous development. A review of relevant literature indicates that the key factors affecting the traceability of services primarily include the intrinsic characteristics of services, national regulations, and the level of technological development. Time and space constraints, along with government regulations, influence the degree of traceability of services. At the same time, technological advances have enabled certain services to be delivered in ways that separate the service provider from the consumer (Zhang & Jiang, 2021).

The recognition that services are tradable is now well-established in theory and practice. Limited traceability has historically constrained the growth of international trade in services, and enhancing the traceability of services can serve as a fundamental driver of its expansion (Zheng, 2009). Therefore, one of the key pathways to promoting the development of international trade in services is to improve the tradability of services.

Transaction cost theory

The digital economy has penetrated all aspects of society and has become one of the key elements in promoting social and economic development. The advancement of the digital economy has encouraged countries to increase investment in digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, the Internet, and other large-scale digital infrastructure projects. The widespread use of the Internet and computers has positively impacted China's service trade exports. Trade partner countries that have developed digital economies can effectively reduce trade costs, including information, communication, and transaction costs (Jing & Sun, 2019).

Traditional transaction cost theory posits that enterprise coordination replaces market coordination, thereby reducing costs incurred in the transaction process. However, the nature of these costs has gradually evolved in the era of the digital economy. Blockchain technology, a distributed shared database ledger, represents a transformative "information transfer" technology in the Internet age. It ensures that transaction information is open, transparent, and tamper-proof, significantly addressing the problem of "information asymmetry" and effectively reducing information costs in transactions.

Furthermore, the Internet environment provides a more open and transparent transaction system, where most current transactions rely on network platforms to reach final agreements. The entire supply chain process—from product transportation to final delivery—can be fully recorded, tracked in real-time, and accessed at any moment, significantly reducing communication and transaction costs and mitigating associated risks.

The theory of economies of scale

The economy of scale refers to the phenomenon where an increase in enterprise production within a specific range of production leads to a decrease in average costs. Economies of scale can be categorised into internal and external economies of scale. Generally speaking, as market consumer demand increasingly diversifies and orders grow to a certain level, enterprises often struggle to balance production scale with the need to meet individual consumer demands. The development of the digital economy can effectively alleviate this contradiction. Communication between buyers and sellers is more direct in the digital economy, and international trade's supply and demand dynamics are more precise (Miao, 2022). For domestic exporters, a larger export scale enables enterprises to expand their trade reach and accumulate vast amounts of raw data through trade activities. By leveraging big data technology, businesses can accurately assess foreign consumer demand and market trends, thereby facilitating the formation of economies of scale.

For foreign consumers, market information becomes more open and transparent in a trading environment dominated by network platforms. Small product price, quality, or turnover advantages among leading enterprises become key criteria for consumer selection. This, in turn, drives an expansion of consumption and contributes to the formation of economies of scale on the demand side of trade.

3.2 Analysis of Impact Mechanisms

Cost reduction effect

First, it reduces information costs. In traditional trade models, information exchange between trading parties often incurs high costs. In the era of the digital economy, the widespread application of the Internet, trade platforms, and big data has eliminated many information barriers in service trade across countries. The speed of information transfer, sharing, and collection has significantly increased, improving efficiency and reducing information costs (Gao & Wang, 2022).

On the one hand, service trade-exporting countries find it more challenging to understand international markets than domestic ones. However, with the advancement of digital technology, Chinese export enterprises can more easily access relevant information about countries along the Belt and Road, reducing the difficulty of obtaining information and mitigating the problem of information asymmetry. On the other hand, enhanced and optimised information technology enables data disclosure and sharing. As a service trade exporter, China can use digital technology to disseminate trade-related information quickly. This allows potential buyers in other countries to understand Chinese enterprises comprehensively, facilitating one-to-many trade cooperation and improving the matching efficiency between China and Belt and Road countries regarding product demand and supply.

Second, it reduces communication costs. The rise of Internet-based e-commerce and digitalisation has had a transformative effect on the traditional model of international trade. The negotiation process between trade partners has shifted from offline, inperson meetings to online, remote communications. Digital technology in Belt and Road countries has seen substantial advancements in recent years, with continuous improvements in digital infrastructure and platform applications. These developments provide enterprises with various online communication platforms that bridge time and space constraints. The digitisation of information and the adoption of information communication technology have strengthened support for online communication in service trade. The immediacy of online interactions significantly shortens waiting times for cross-border negotiations, reducing the adverse effects of geographic distance. Consequently, China and its trade partners along the Belt and Road can use email and other online communication platforms to facilitate timely feedback and cross-border negotiations, thereby reducing communication costs and minimising the waste of human, material, and financial resources.

Third, it reduces transaction costs. The application of the digital economy minimises the costs associated with production, transportation, and sales in the fulfilment process for both trading parties. In the digital economy, service products from different countries can be replicated at lower costs without compromising quality. The development of the digital economy in China and Belt and Road countries has accelerated the adoption of the Internet of Things (IoT), leading to digitalisation and automation in processes such as order processing, goods sorting, warehousing, and transportation. This reduces errors caused by human negligence, enhances transportation efficiency, and lowers costs in service trade exports.

Furthermore, the digital economy enables direct transactions between producers and importers, eliminating intermediaries and reducing trade costs at multiple levels. Additionally, the rise of mobile e-payments and e-banking has encouraged more enterprises to adopt digital payment methods when exporting, significantly lowering document processing costs. Third-party payment platforms offer transaction security guarantees, effectively reducing transaction risk costs.

Market expansion effect

Firstly, diluting market boundaries. In traditional service trade exports, Chinese exporters have often been constrained by time and space, making it relatively difficult to trade services with countries along the Belt and Road. However, in the era of the digital economy, the rapid expansion of the Internet of Things has enabled the widespread dissemination of data and information across borders. As a result, various entities involved in service trade are no longer restricted by geographic distance (Tadesse & White, 2010). The emergence of diverse Internet trading platforms has further provided a more open environment for economic innovation and the evolution of innovative business models. In addition, with the expansion of the digital economy, Internet applications have blurred traditional market boundaries. Even if the two parties in a service trade transaction are located in different regions, they can conduct real-time virtual meetings, exchange data, and communicate effectively online. This enables service trade enterprises to tap into potential markets without physical visits entirely (Han et al., 2022).

Secondly, expanding the scale of user demand. With continuous improvements in digital economic infrastructure in Belt and Road countries and the widespread adoption of mobile Internet, the demand for diversified service products has grown, and digitalisation has been increasingly integrated into trade activities. Various digital platforms have been developed, allowing enterprises to showcase their offerings comprehensively. Consumers can now use digital platforms to perform simple searches and quickly find the services they need at competitive prices. As a result, service products that were previously unknown to consumers have entered the market, offering buyers more choices while expanding sales channels for sellers. Furthermore, through Internet-based data collection, China can capitalise on potential market opportunities in Belt and Road countries, enabling a more precise understanding of service market demands. This enhances China's ability to expand its service trade export markets.

Finally, expanding transaction varieties. Digital technology has penetrated various industries regarding service transaction types, facilitating the creation of new service products. These new service forms are increasingly important in China's service trade exports, contributing to the diversification and expansion of China's service trade offerings. In traditional international trade, most transactions have been

concentrated on goods produced by the manufacturing sector. However, as Internet information technology continues to integrate with service trade, the production speed of service products has significantly accelerated, productivity has improved, and the export value of services has increased annually. The adoption of digitalisation has given rise to new business models in service industries, allowing China to provide a more diverse range of services to Belt and Road countries. This also ensures higher quality service offerings, further strengthening China's position in global service trade.

The digital economy enhances China's service trade exports by reducing information, communication, and transaction costs. Additionally, it promotes service trade exports by breaking market boundaries, expanding user demand, generating new market opportunities, supporting the emergence of new industries, and diversifying service trade exports (Wang, 2023). Based on the Belt and Road countries, the impact mechanism of digital economy development on China's service trade exports can be summarised, as illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1: The Mechanism of the Digital Economy's Impact on China's Service Trade Exports China's Services Trade Exports

4 Status of China's services trade exports with countries along the Belt and Road route

4.1 Overview of the current status of China's trade in services exports

The Scale of China's Trade In Services Exports Maintains Relatively Rapid Growth, and the Growth Rate Continues to Rise

In recent years, China has further opened up to the outside world and increased its support for service trade. From 2010 to 2019, the proportion of service trade to GDP showed an upward trend. In 2020, due to the pandemic's impact, the proportion of service trade exports decreased significantly. In 2021, China's service trade maintained a rapid growth trend, with a total service trade volume of 12.2%. In 2022, it also steadily increased, reaching 13.4%. Among them, the growth rate of knowledge-intensive exports reached 18%, and the growth rate of intellectual property usage fees far exceeded 30%. The export value of China's transportation services is 820.55 billion yuan, with a growth rate of 110.2%, making it the fastest-growing sector in service trade.





Trade deficit in services narrows but remains in trade deficit

In 2021, China's total service trade imports amounted to \$427 billion. Service trade exports reached \$394.2 billion, narrowing the service trade deficit to \$32.75 billion, which is the lowest in the past decade.2022, in the first half of the year, the service trade deficit was further shrunk to \$12.2 billion, which fully reveals that China's measures such as continuously optimising the structure of trade in services and constantly promoting the export of emerging services have achieved specific results. From a general point of view, China's advantages in construction engineering, international transportation and other aspects are more significant in IT services, finance and tourism and developed countries; if there is a certain distance, China's trade in services will still be in deficit.

Trade structure is further optimized, but the level of development still falls short of that of developed countries

Since China acceded to the WTO, the open fields of service trade have been increasing, relevant trade measures have been continuously launched, and the structure of China's service trade has been further optimised.2022 From January to October, the export of knowledge-intensive services was 1,149.92 billion yuan, with an increase of 14.3%, and the competitiveness of China's knowledge-intensive services has significantly improved, and the trade in knowledge-intensive services has become a driving force for promoting the innovation of high-quality development of China's services. Knowledge-intensive service trade has become an innovative driving force for the high-quality development of China's services. The proportion of high-quality service exports represented by knowledge-intensive service exports has been increasing, which profoundly shows the further optimisation of China's service export structure. Although China's service trade is now ranked second in the world, the value-added of the tertiary industry accounts for 53.3% of GDP, which is still lower than the global average and even lower than the proportion of service trade in the GDP of the Western developed countries. Although the proportion of knowledge-intensive service exports in China's service trade exports has been rising, it has not yet reached 50%, still lower than traditional service trade exports. In contrast, the high-tech service exports of developed countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States are much higher than the proportion of traditional service trade exports. Overall, although the level of development of China's trade in services exports has continued to rise, it will still take some time to catch up with the developed countries.

4.2 Analysis of the current situation of China's trade in services exports to countries along the Belt and Road

The Scale of Trade in Services Exports is Growing Steadily, but Overall Development is Lagging Behind That of Trade in Goods

In 2020, due to the impact of the epidemic, China's service trade exports to countries along the "Belt and Road" amounted to \$37.73 billion, a year-on-year decline of 0.9%, and the service trade exports to countries along the route accounted for 13.4% of China's total service trade exports (Table 3). In 2021, China's service trade exports to countries along the route amounted to \$56.33 billion, an increase of 49.3% yearon-year. In 2021, China's service trade exports to countries along the routes will amount to 56.33 billion U.S. dollars, with a year-on-year growth of 49.3%. From 2020 to 2021, China's service trade exports to countries along the routes will grow from 37.73 billion U.S. dollars to 56.33 billion U.S. dollars, compared with 2020, China's service trade exports to countries along the routes will increase significantly, and for the first time, China will realise a significant increase in service trade exports to countries along the Belt and Road. "China's service trade exports to countries along the Belt and Road have increased significantly compared to 2020, and for the first time, it has realised a trade surplus in services with countries along the Belt and Road. However, compared to trade in goods, although China's exports of services to the countries along the Belt and Road have increased significantly, they are still lagging compared with trade in goods. In 2021, China's trade in goods with the countries along the Belt and Road amounted to 700.5, the highest total trade in goods in the past eight years.

Table 3 Development of service trade between China and countries along the Belt and Road

Year	Export volume of service trade	Proportion
2020	\$37.73 billion	13.4%
2021	\$56.33 billion	20%
2022	\$70.5 billion	29.7%

Data source: National Bureau of Statistics

In 2021, China's trade in goods with countries along the Belt and Road will total RMB 11.6 trillion, the highest in the past eight years, and will account for 29.7% of China's total trade in goods, much higher than its share in China's total trade in services.

The export structure of trade in services has been optimized, but the development potential of high-tech industries can be further explored

In 2020, due to the impact of the new coronary pneumonia epidemic, the export value of the traditional services trade represented by the tourism industry dropped significantly, and its development was seriously hampered. At this time, knowledgeintensive services defined by the digital economy show their prominence, and knowledge-intensive services represented by information and software services, service outsourcing, and digital service exports have significantly increased their status in China's service trade exports to countries along the route. According to statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce, in 2020, China's execution of services contracted out from abroad increased by 8.9% year-on-year, and in 2021, China's contracted services from the countries along the route amounted to 226.1 billion yuan, an increase of 25.7% year-on-year. At the same time, however, trade in services serving trade in goods and trade in productive services is expanding rapidly. During the epidemic, the export value of logistics and transportation service trade continued to grow. China's productive services accounted for 80% of the total, with China's export value of transportation services at 820.55 billion yuan in 2021, a growth rate of 110.2%. At the same time, driven by the China-EU liner, the amount of goods transported and the number of cities that arrived have increased significantly, and the export value of logistics and transportation services will further increase. In contrast, the traditional transportation and construction industries still dominate China's service trade exports to the countries along the route. With the lifting of the sealing control in various countries, tourism services will be revitalised again. The potential for cooperation in high-tech and high-value-added fields such as digital services, medical and health care, technology and intellectual property rights has yet to be further explored.

Services exports are closely traded, but the country structure needs to be further optimized and balanced

Since the Belt and Road Initiative was put forward, China has continued to develop the Belt and Road market. In the era of digitalisation, General Secretary Xi has even proposed building a sound digital Silk Road to further realise the connectivity between China and the countries along the route. However, China's service trade exports along the "Belt and Road" have been more concentrated in a few countries or regions in recent years. East Asia, West Asia, South Asia, and other areas are the central regions of China's service trade exports. According to the data on China's service trade exports in 2021, China's service trade exports with the top ten countries, such as Singapore, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Vietnam, India, etc., accounted for nearly 80%. As a major global financial centre, shipping centre and trade centre, Singapore accounts for a relatively large share of China's service trade exports to Singapore. In the future, China can further develop the markets of other countries along the route without limiting itself to individual countries, realise the diversification of service trade export markets, explore countries with service export potential, and optimise the country composition of China's service trade exports.

5 Apocalypse and policy recommendations

At present, China's trade in services is still in deficit. In the context of the digital economy, developing the digital economy in trade partner countries has become an essential factor for China's service trade exports. In recent years, the digital economy of the countries along the "Belt and Road" has been developing rapidly, and after the analysis of the above theories and influence mechanisms, it can be seen that China can take advantage of the momentum of the development of the digital economy of the countries along the route, on the one hand, by reducing the cost of information, communication and the transaction process, and on the other hand, with the dilution of the market boundary, further expand the market in terms of increasing the scale of demand On the other hand, as market borders are diluted, China can further expand the market by increasing the scale of demand and transaction varieties, so as to strengthen the service trade cooperation with the countries along the route, in order to narrow the existing service trade deficit, expand the scale of China's service trade exports, promote the further growth of service

trade exports, and achieve the relative balance of the import and export volume of the service trade.

Based on this, in the following three aspects, I will put forward corresponding policy recommendations for China's service trade exports with the countries along the Belt and Road under the digital economy.

5.1 Accelerating digital economy policies to achieve balanced digitalization

China's digital economy has been steadily advancing in recent years, but some problems still need to be solved. China's Internet penetration rate is not high compared with developed countries, and there is an imbalance between the east and west of China in terms of digital development, with some economically disadvantaged regions not entering the digital era, which indicates that there is still much room for digital growth in China to be tapped. Suppose China wants to achieve further cooperation with the countries along the "Belt and Road" regarding the digital economy. In that case, we need to improve the construction of the digital economy in our trading partners and synchronise the progress of China's digital economy. The development of the digital economy in the central and western regions of China is lagging behind that of the eastern areas. The western and central regions need to refer to the advanced experience of the eastern areas and combine it with their advantages, vigorously build and develop the whole chain of the digital service industry, improve the construction of relevant information industry infrastructure in the western regions as soon as possible, and expand the channels of the digital economy in the field of service trade, logistics, information transmission and other aspects. China's "14th Five-Year Plan" has put the digital economy at the top design level. Then, we need the provincial and municipal governments to better implement the national digital economy policy to provide a more stable, perfect, and sound environment for developing the digital economy to export service trade to Chinese enterprises.

5.2 Expanding services market openness and optimizing the structure of services exports

The problem of unbalanced development of China's service industry still exists. Although China is continuously expanding the degree of opening up to the outside world, the degree of opening up is insufficient, and the areas of opening up are concentrated in the service market, thus restricting the improvement of the scale and efficiency of the development of China's service industry. China should further promote the "going out" of Chinese services, reduce trade and export restrictions in related sectors, promote Chinese service trade exports in an orderly manner, and create a more relaxed market business environment. At the same time, China should, according to the actual situation of the countries along the "Belt and Road", broaden the development channels of high-tech industries, increase the export scale of hightech industry services, and continuously promote the integration of digital information technology with financial, cultural and other sectors, to promote the innovative development of China's industries. Development of China's industries. In addition, we will continue to improve the quality-of-service exports, deepen bilateral and multilateral cooperation, optimise the industrial structure of China's service exports based on better quality service products, and promote the development of China's service exports with higher quality.

5.3 Contributing to the construction of digital infrastructure in countries along the route and promoting the construction of the digital Silk Road

In the digital era, the precondition for digital technology to promote economic development is the construction of a sound digital infrastructure. However, the development of the digital economy of the countries along the route is not balanced; the development level of each country has a large gap, and most of the countries along the "Belt and Road" are developing countries with a relatively backward level of economic development, so it is difficult for these countries to complete the construction of digital economy infrastructure alone. Therefore, to realise better connectivity between China and the countries along the Belt and Road, China should provide technical and financial support to the countries along the Belt and Road while continuously developing its digital economy. It should make full use of China's advantages in digital information technology, strengthen the cooperation between

China and the countries along the routes in terms of the three major network operators, encourage enterprises with technological advantages and much experience in digital infrastructure construction to go out of the country, and continuously increase the investment in the infrastructure of trade partner countries, to help the countries along the routes to build and improve their digital infrastructure, improve their network coverage, and promote the development of digital infrastructure. Infrastructure development. The idea of the Digital Silk Road will further contribute to developing the regional and world economies. Therefore, China should further promote the Digital Silk Road construction process and push forward the construction of big data, cloud computing and smart cities to bridge the digital divide between countries. It should further reduce the transaction costs of service trade participants, enhance the tradability of services, and stimulate the development potential of China's service exports.

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