City’s robot production volume hits ¥100 billion

THE annual robot production volume in Shenzhen reached 15.6 billion yuan (US$1.97 billion) in 2017, according to a report released by Shenzhen Municipal Economic, Trade and Information Commission at the sixth China Information Technology Expo on Monday. 

The number of the city’s enterprises engaging in robot production increased to 594 in 2017 from 496 in 2016, Bao’an, Longhua and Longgang have seen rapid growth in the number of robot manufacturers.

In terms of robot production volume, an increasing number of enterprises, Nanshan District ranked first with 27.9 billion yuan (US$4.43 billion) in annual production volume in 2017. The number of robot enterprises in Nanshan makes up 36 percent of the total in Shenzhen.

The report said that service robots are seeing the fastest growth and robots for industrial use are being produced on a large scale. The leading enterprises in the industry are emerging, the report said. Service robots are keeping good momentum in segmented markets with Automated Guided Vehicles covering logistics, and drones and household robots becoming popular, according to the report.

Howard E. Michael, former chairman with the New York-based Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), said robots and intelligent systems will play more significant roles in various sectors, ranging from industrial manufacturing, agriculture and transportation to logistics, household services, pharmaceutical manufacturing and education.

As Shenzhen has a solid foundation in the industry, Qiao Yuehua, deputy chief with the IT department at the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said the ministry will support and push forward the development of the robot industry in Shenzhen. The ministry will speed up research on technologies in artificial intelligence and robotics, construct a public service platform, build an industrial innovation system and make breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, robot and driverless technologies.

The IEEE is formed in 1963 from the amalgamation of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Institute of Radio Engineers. It is the world’s largest association of technical professionals with more than 420,000 members in over 160 countries.

At a Glance

Expanded coverage
EIGHT kinds of vaccines will be covered by individuals’ social insurance medical payment accounts starting today.

The eight vaccines include the pentavaccine and EV71 vaccine, as well as vaccines for pneumonia and cholera viruses, among others.

According to a regulation, residents covered by the city’s medical insurance can pay the cost of the vaccines for themselves, their spouses and immediate relatives when the balance in their accounts exceeds 4,408 yuan (US$697).

Rhino horn smuggling
TWO travelers were caught smuggling rhinoceros horns by hiding them inside chocolate boxes before crossing the border at Shenzhen Bay Checkpoint recently.

The X-ray machine detected something abnormal in the luggage of the two travelers and customs officers found pieces of rhinoceros horns, weighing 5.32 kg, in further checks. As rhinoceros are on the border of extinction, the travelers are suspected of smuggling horns for their continued use to rise to between 250,000 and 350,000 yuan (US$39,677) and 1 million yuan.

The two smugglers have been criminally detained.

Stroke map
NINE A-level hospitals and 13 B-level hospitals have been included in the service map of the Shenzhen Stroke Association, which was established Sunday to improve the city’s capabilities in stroke prevention and treatment.

Shenzhen made its first stroke treatment effort by connecting hospitals with the 120 emergency service in November 2016 to prevent the network reduced stroke-related fatalities in hospitals by 8.7 percent.

The A-level hospitals include Nanshan People’s Hospital and University of Hong Kong Shenzhen Hospital. The B-level hospitals include Bao’an Central Hospital and Shekou People’s Hospital.

Luohu’s medical reform to be promoted nationwide

LUOHU District has become a model for national medical reform after accumulating years of experiences in the reform and exploration of integrating grass-roots medical resources, the Shenzhen Special Zone Daily reported.

The reform effectively promoted the medical level of community health centers in the district.

An 80-year-old senior, named Dai, is a beneficiary of the medical reform. Dai had a stroke four years ago and had to go to the hospital for regular physical checkups. Two years ago, she signed a contract with a family doctor from the Xiahu community health center affiliated with Luohu Hospital Group.

The doctor conducted a health assessment and developed a customized health management plan for her. As she has difficulty getting around, the doctor has set up a family bed for her. Dai said she feels very reassured being taken care of by a family doctor.

To truly push forward the efficient operation and quality services at public hospitals, Luohu District launched the reform of public hospitals in February 2015, aiming to develop three medical communities with shared responsibilities, interests and health.

The purpose of establishing a grass-roots medical group is to integrate the medical resources in the district and improve the medical service system, according to Zheng Liguang, director of the district’s health and family planning bureau.

In the first half of 2017, the district’s community health centers received 877,000 patients, an increase of 53.69 percent year on year.

In 2017, Shenzhen began to fully promote the district’s medical reform model in other districts and new areas.

At present, 12 medical groups have been set up in districts around the city.

Luohu’s medical reform to be promoted nationwide

Sightseeing buses go electric

ALL the double decker sightseeing buses, 135 in total running on four routes in the city, have been replaced with electric powered ones, Shenzhen Municipal Public Transport Administration Bureau said on its official WeChat account recently.

The four routes have been renamed M191, M192, M193 and M194 and are being operated by Eastern Bus Group and Western Bus Group.

The sightseeing buses run on the city’s thoroughfares, such as Shennan Boulevard and Binhai Boulevard, linking tourism attractions, including OCT in Nanshan District and Danmei in Yantian District.

M191 runs between Bao’an Passenger Bus Terminal and Danmei Bus Terminal from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The fares range between 2 and 10 yuan ($0.32-1.59).

M192 runs between World Food City in Nanshan Subdistrict, Longgang District, and Xiameilin in Futian District. It has adopted a flat fare of 3 yuan for each ride.

M193 links Yanchuan Village Bus Terminal in Bao’an District and Bijiaoshan Bus Terminal in Futian District between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. It has also adopted a 3-yuan flat fare for each ride.

M194 runs between Zhongguo Bus Terminal in Bao’an and panjiayuan in Longgang District, from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at a flat fare of 3 yuan.

Shenzhen became the first city in China to have its public bus fleet all powered by electricity in December 2017. The city now has 16,359 electric buses in service. Shenzhen aims at replacing all fuel-powered taxis with e-cabs and reducing its efforts to cut emissions.