

More T with China

At a time when investment, remittances and aid levels from OECD countries are in doubt or declining, Chinese investment is good news for Africa. Investments in areas as diverse as infrastructure and agriculture are helping to create jobs, reducing the cost of basic goods, and softening the blow to African countries of the global economic downturn.

China's trade with Africa, according to its Ministry of Commerce, has multiplied at least tenfold in the last ten years, and now stands at well over \$100 billion. And the Economist Intelligence Unit says FDI to sub-Saharan Africa rose from \$1.5m in 1991 to over \$500m in 2007.

Moreover, for African governments, dealing with the Chinese is easier than dealing with other partners. There is less conditionality and red tape. Chinese engagement, they point out, does not come with 'hypocritical' policy prescriptions and lectures about accountability. The Chinese treat Africans as equals, fellow 'southerners'.

Chinese engagement is not however uncontroversial. The economic benefits of Chinese investment are not uniform. There have been tensions associated with the arrival of Chinese businesses and workers. Civil society is concerned that deals lack transparency and disempower those trying to hold governments accountable.

This is not a new story. Exploitation of Africa's vast natural and mineral wealth has long benefited elites, exacerbated inequalities and has not resulted in national capacities to save, generate growth and deliver basic services. The big question is whether Africa will be able to benefit from China's growing engagement in a way that brings long term benefits to her economies and people.

A number of things need to happen. African leaders can treat Chinese as equals too – and do more to insist that Chinese (and indeed all) investment is aligned with national growth and development plans, which are then subject to proper consultation with civil society and business, monitoring and evaluation.

This is no disrespect to China. It would also have the benefit of allowing China more explicitly to add value to efforts to strengthen national capacity for growth, poverty reduction, MDG achievement and international cooperation.

The nature and scope of Chinese engagement also needs to be better communicated. China's engagement is highly complex, involving both private and state owned enterprises, and actors ranging from national Ministries to provincial and municipal governments, as well as companies. The scope for misunderstanding and suspicion is high.

Greater transparency is in both China's and Africa's interests. This week's FOCAC meeting should be used as an

News Overview

Around [50 African nations boycotted UN climate talks in Barcelona](#) in protest of inadequate emission-reduction targets proposed by the EU, Australia and other developed countries. African delegates noted that their nations are most exposed to severe climatic events triggered by global warming, despite having contributed little to the current level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The boycott was called off following promises of deeper cuts in developed countries.

In light of an average annual surge in Sino-African trade of 30 percent, [Chinese investments in Africa are increasingly extending beyond simple purchases of natural resources](#). China's largest bank, ICBC has purchased a 20 percent stake in South Africa's Standard bank, while China's biggest telecoms equipment maker is rapidly expanding in sub-Saharan Africa as well. Africa is increasingly seen as a great untapped market for Chinese firms.

[The United Nations' special rapporteur on torture was barred entry into Zimbabwe](#), where he was invited by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai to conduct a week-long fact finding mission. The mission was organized in response to recent allegations that supporters of Tsvangirai's MDC had been arrested and harassed amid the current political crisis.

[Kenya announced plans to conduct a census of its gay population](#) in an effort to bolster the fight against HIV/AIDS. Described as a first for Africa, many gay Kenyans are unlikely to identify themselves, for homosexuality activity is illegal in Kenya – punishable by 14 years in prison.

Though often eclipsed by China, the other BRIC countries – [Brazil, Russia and India – are also strengthening their trade portfolios with Africa](#). Brazil's annual trade with Africa has surged from US\$3.1 billion in 2000 to US\$26.3 billion in 2008, mirroring an increase of US\$27.1 billion in trade with India over the past decade. Though energy and minerals comprise the majority of African exports to BRIC countries, interest in agricultural products is growing.

[Sudan's People's Liberation Movement \(SPLM\) is displeased with the proposal by African leaders to end the conflict in the Darfur region](#). They rejected a recommendation to construct a special court to prosecute those responsible for the atrocities in Darfur, saying that the recommendation could undermine the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

[Tunisian president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has won his fifth consecutive presidential election](#), receiving a renewed mandate for another five-year term. AU observers hailed the election as free and fair, though opposition parties denounced the lack of choice.



As featured on BBC

“The position we have taken is in no way intended to block the progress, but to ensure we have ambitious numbers”

Pa Ousman Jariu, a Gambian delegeate soeaking on behalf of the African nations in Barcelona

G20 Update

BRAZIL

[The Mozambican and Brazilian governments have signed an agreement for the rehabilitation of the Machipanda Forestry Centre \(CEFLOMA\) in the central province of Manica](#)

CHINA

[Sino-African business leaders explore ways of deepening cooperation](#)

[The Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the UN said that China has cancelled 150 mature debts of 32 African countries](#)

[Vice Minister of Commerce, Chen Jien says China will announce new policies to boost cooperation with Africa ahead of the meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation](#)

EU

[The EU Council has resolved to fully implement the UN Security Council resolutions against FDLR rebels as well as their leaders operating within the bloc](#)

[The EU has launched the first ever European Report on Development dealing with the complete and multidimensional issue of fragility with a specific focus on sub-Saharan Africa](#)

[The European Commission is setting up an action plan to help improve and strengthen Africa's infrastructure, particularly its transport networks](#)

GERMANY

[The German Government is giving out €485,000 to train staff of the Nigerian Federal Capital Territory Staff on Data Management](#)

INDIA

[The Indian Government has expressed its willingness to strengthen investment ties with Nigeria](#)

MEXICO

[Mexico becomes an observer to ECOWAS, their participation is expected to create opportunities to have direct contact with the officials of each member state](#)

UK

[The UK partners with China to address global food needs and facilitate agricultural expertise to help countries in Africa](#)

[While delivering a lecture on "The Future of Aid," Douglas Alexander calls for additional funding "over and above existing aid commitments" - to help poor countries cope with the effects of climate change](#)

[Foreign Office Minister Baronnes Kinnock is visiting South Africa for discussions with ministers in the region highlighting the important role the Commonwealth and the UK/South Africa bilateral relationship, can play in tackling global issues](#)

USA

[The US has announced that it will provide \\$2m in new assistance to help Mozambique safeguard its citizens from abandoned landmines and unexploded munitions remaining from decades of conflict](#)

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

AfDB approved a €153m loan to finance a power project aimed at helping Botswana become energy self-sufficient

The AfDB approved a loan of €40m to help Cape Verde respond to the impact of the global economic crisis

The AfDB Group and the government of Malawi have signed a \$60m grant agreement to enable the country improve its road network

AU

AU Heads of State have imposed sanctions against the leaders of Guinea's ruling military junta

African leaders endorsed recommendations by the AU High-Level Panel on Darfur to end the six-year conflict in Darfur

The AU Heads of State have adopted and signed the first ever convention for the protection and assistance of IDP's

ECOWAS

ECOWAS bank will lend Niger 5 billion CFA francs (\$11.33m) to help fund a road project despite suspension of membership

EAC

EAC member states are undertaking measures to address challenges to trade

IFAD

According to an IFAD report "Sending Money Home to Africa" four out of five African governments restrict the type of financial institutions able to offer remittance services

Recommendations from the "2009 Global Forum on Remittances"

IMF

The IMF urges Zimbabwe's unity government to build policies to solidify recent economic reforms and win donor aid to finance growth and reduce poverty

SADC

SADC is intensifying its intervention to address outstanding issues between Zimbabwe's National Unity Government

UN

The UN has suspended some of its support to certain army units in the DRC for taking part in the deliberate killing of civilians

UNCTAD has released its "Information Economy Report 2009" that monitors global trends in ICTs as they affect developing countries

According to the World Investment Report 2009 FDI in Africa peaked in 2008 after 6 years of uninterrupted growth; there will likely be a fall in inflows for 2009

The UN has pledged its full support to help Africa address the needs of some 14 million refugees and IDPs

Lawmakers commit to Women's Health and Rights by 2015

WB

WB has approved a \$25m grant to support economic reforms in the Republic of Burundi

The WB will provide a \$136.4m loan for the Morupule 'B' Generation and Transmission Project in Botswana to help secure a reliable electricity supply for the country's economic growth and poverty reduction programs

World Bank will provide \$480m to combat food insecurity in Ethiopia

Countdown to Copenhagen- 32 Days

Following [protests that threatened to derail climate change negotiations, a new African accord clears way for climate talks to resume again](#) in Barcelona.

[China overtakes US in carbon emissions](#)

[The EU has agreed on a shared climate finance position](#) ahead of Copenhagen, following months of debate.

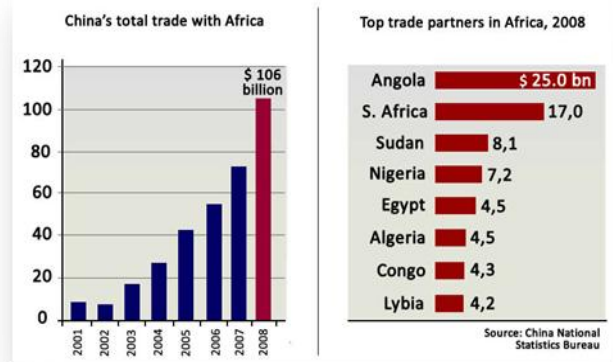
[US puts climate debate on hold for five weeks](#); Senate delay means no bill likely before Copenhagen

[China and India have signed an MoU on cooperation in dealing with Climate Change](#). They are seeking their own development while promoting international cooperation to deal with climate change

At the [UNDESA high-level meeting on climate change, technology development and transfer](#), organized in conjunction with the government of India, participants called for the acceleration of the global deployment of climate-friendly technologies particularly in developing countries.

[ITU highlights ICTs as part of the climate solution](#)

At a summit organized by UNDP, [nine of the world's major religions have announced new, concrete actions to tackle climate change](#)



Opinions

[The Daily Monitor \(Uganda\): African Governments Must End Impunity, Promote Justice, 2 Nov. 2009](#)

In reaction to an AUC Secretariat meeting taking place in Addis Ababa this week, William R. Pace, convener of the Coalition for the ICC, calls upon African governments to end impunity by defending the core principles of the ICC.

[The Guardian \(UK\): Why Africa Welcomes the Chinese, 2 Nov. 2009](#)

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda discusses the merits of Chinese investment, particularly its role in cultivating skill development and entrepreneurship. He also dismisses the notion that Chinese investment subverts democracy and ultimately, calls for the redefinition of the relationships between Africa and international partners.

[The Economist \(UK\): Democracy in Africa: A Good Example, 22 Oct. 2009](#)

In light of the elections in Botswana and the lack of a worthy recipient of the Mo Ibrahim prize, the editorial highlights both Ghana's and Botswana's history of good governance, while concurrently noting that a trend towards greater democracy through term limit imposition and transparency is emerging.

APP Activities

In a message to a high level private equity summit at the London Stock Exchange, **Tony Blair urged private equity community to invest in emerging African economies like Rwanda, Sierra Leone** ♦ In a recent article focusing on health, **Graca Machel** called on African leaders to be more serious about protecting the continent's children from Aids and said it is time for them to change state spending priorities ♦ While speaking to the press, **General Obasanjo said that the problem of the FDLR is being solved and will soon be history** ♦ On October 20th, **Peter Eigen** was presented with the prestigious **German British Forum Award** ♦ **Kofi Annan** calls on young people to join the campaign for Climate Justice at <http://www.timeforclimatejustice.org> ♦

Calendar

- 2-5 Nov 3rd Global Forum on International Migration and Development: Athens, Greece
- 2-6 Nov Barcelona Climate Change Talks 2009: last preparatory session before COP15: Barcelona, Spain
- 6 Nov Ministerial Meeting on the Rome Statute of the ICC: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 6-7 Nov G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors: St. Andrews, Scotland
- 8-9 Nov Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC): Cairo, Egypt
- 10 Nov World Energy Outlook to be released
- 9-11 Nov 2nd Pan-African Cultural Congress of the Africa Union: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 9-13 Nov [3rd Global Corruption Conference](#): Doha, Qatar
- 9-13 Nov 2nd Africa Water Week and 7th Session of the African Ministers' Council on Water: Johannesburg, South Africa
- 11-12 Nov [AfricaCom 2009](#): Largest Pan African Communications Event: Cape Town South Africa
- 11-12 Nov 2009 Annual Ministerial Meeting and Expert Roundtable of the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative: Johannesburg, South Africa
- 11-13 Nov 2009 African Economic Conference: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 12-13 Nov Club of Madrid Annual Conference: Madrid, Spain
- 13 Nov Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the world summit on food security: Rome, Italy
- 14-15 Nov 17th [APEC](#) (Asia, Pacific Economic Cooperation) Economic Leaders Meeting: Singapore,
- 17 Nov APP Workshop on "Kick-Starting Africa's Carbon Markets:" Geneva, Switzerland
- 16-18 Nov World Summit on Food Security: Rome, Italy

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