

Tea-culture exchange brews stronger China-Africa ties

Ghanaian student Samuel Aboagye used to start his mornings with a coffee, but since coming to China, he gets his morning fix from a nice cup of tea. Aboagye first encountered Chinese tea when a Chinese friend gave him a packet of jasmine tea. "The taste and aroma attracted me, and I instantly fell in love with Chinese tea," said Aboagye, an international student at Capital University of Economics and Business. He was just one of many African visitors to an international tea-culture exchange event held in Beijing on May 21, which is also observed as International Tea Day. The event was hosted by the international cultural exchange and research center of China Institute for Innovation and Development Strategy (CIIDS), welcoming representatives from social organizations and enterprises, as well as diplomatic envoys from African countries and African students studying in China. Xinhua.

Officials call for strengthening China-Africa cooperation under FOCAC

Chinese and Ethiopian officials on Tuesday called for enhancing the multifaceted cooperation between China and Africa under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The call was made at a high-level conference titled "Revisiting Ethiopia's Role in the FOCAC and the Way Forward" in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. Speaking at the event, Eshete Tilahun, head of the Office of the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said FOCAC has proven to be an effective and strong platform for promoting Africa-China cooperation by supporting critical infrastructure development, enhancing connectivity, boosting trade activities, attracting foreign direct investment and fostering entrepreneurship across Africa. "Since its inception in 2000, FOCAC has been instrumental in fostering cooperation. It is a testament to the shared aspiration, mutual respect and collaborative spirit between China and Africa," Tilahun said. KBC.

<u>Direct Impacts and Spatial Spillovers: The Impact of Chinese Infrastructure Projects on Economic Activities in sub-Saharan Africa</u>

Amid a weak and uneven economic recovery in the Global South, regional development and infrastructure investment seem to be critical to sustainable development. In particular, infrastructure provision is seen as an "unmissable driver for development" in the sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region. Aside from institutional reasons, physical infrastructure is critical in facilitating market integration and freeing lagging regions from the poverty trap. In many SSA countries, regional development goals are often associated with the public infrastructure provision to increase productivity and promote welfare. Over the past 20 years, China has grown to be the largest financier and constructor of infrastructure in SSA. Have Chinese investment projects directly impacted local economic activities in SSA countries? And are there spatial spillover effects from those infrastructure projects across regional borders? Boston University.

Why Africa is caught between two stools with BRICS

With the presence of China and South Africa on the continent, African countries have little choice but to get involved with BRICS. At the same time, countries like Malawi do not want to lose touch with the western industrialised nations. When Malawi's President Lazarus Chakwera attended the 15th BRICS Summit in South Africa last August, he expressed Malawi's determination to work with the bloc to "confront the barriers that previously denied Africa a stake in global prosperity." Chakwera said: "We need to reboot the system. We need to reboot it now. And we are here to help BRICS nations design the software." Cooperation between the BRICS and Africa is becoming increasingly important. Last year, Ethiopia and Egypt, along with other countries, were officially accepted into the bloc of major emerging economies now named BRICS+. Dandu.

Huawei launches Egypt public cloud service as China ties grow

Last September, Huawei announced that it would pump \$430 million into North Africa to build the firm's first cloud center there as well as train thousands of developers and tech specialists. Huawei Technologies has launched an Arabic large language model (LLM) and Egypt's first public cloud service in Cairo, the Chinese telecoms giant said in a statement Tuesday, as the company continues to grow its artificial intelligence footprint in the region. The announcements were made at the Huawei Cloud Summit on Tuesday in Cairo. The Cairo region brings Huawei Cloud's total number of regions to 33 globally. Huawei has been quickly increasing its presence in the Middle East and North Africa. Last September, it opened a cloud data center in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh. In February 2023, the Chinese telecoms giant said it would invest \$400 million in the kingdom's Huawei cloud region over the next five years. Al Monitor.

China-Tanzania Tourism and Culture Year kicks off as Tanzania tries to attract more visitors

Tanzania, a jewel in East Africa known for its stunning natural landscapes and rich biodiversity, has recently kicked off the China-Tanzania Tourism and Culture Year in collaboration with Chinese authorities. The Tanzanian tourism authority is aiming for an increase in tourist numbers from China, recognizing it as a major source market for tourists. "We are launching targeted marketing campaigns in China to raise awareness about our rich natural landscapes, wildlife, cultural heritage, and adventure activities," Tanzanian Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Angellah Kairuki told the Global Times in a recent interview. "These campaigns will utilize various platforms, including social media platforms, travel websites, and traditional advertising channels." Global Times.

Chinese Enterprises Association in Tanzania renovates school, donates sports gear

The Chinese Enterprises Association in Tanzania (CEAT) on Monday handed over renovated walls and doors and donated musical instruments and sports equipment to the Sino-Africa Friendship Primary School in the port city of Dar es Salaam. Chen Mingjian, Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, and Kitila Mkumbo, minister of state in the President's Office responsible for planning and investment, attended the handover ceremony. Mkumbo thanked the CEAT for the donation, saying education remains a priority in the country's strategy. He said the donation would enable the school, which has 310 students, to improve its performance. Xinhua.

<u>China-Tanzania Cooperation: Tanzania's FM: Bilateral relations are valuable, beneficial to our two countries</u>

Tanzania's Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation January Yusuf Makamba has wrapped up his visit to China – part of efforts to strengthen cooperation. During an interview with reporter You Yang, he praised bilateral ties, now in the sixtieth anniversary, and pointed to the future. YOU YANG CGTN Reporter "You held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on May 17. What were the outcomes of the talks?" JANUARY YUSUF MAKAMBA Tanzania's Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation "It was very good with a very good meeting. We touched on many issues. But the key points are three. One is bilateral relations between our two. We positively assess the past 60 years of our relations. We also talked about the upcoming FOCAC. And the preparations and focus in issues that would be undertaken. We also touched on global affairs and regional affairs as well." CGTN.

China and South Africa agree to strengthen military ties amid fresh visits

South Africa and China enjoy close military ties, and will continue to strengthen bilateral defence relations, with South Africa's naval chief currently visiting Beijing, and a Chinese navy frigate visiting Cape Town. According to China Military Online, China's Defence Minister Admiral Dong Jun met with Vice Admiral Monde Lobese, Chief of the South African Navy, at the Bayi Building in Beijing on Monday 20 May. Jun said that although China and South Africa are separated by thousands of miles, they are like brothers, and under the guidance of their respective national leaders, "the China-South Africa Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has entered a golden age, providing opportunities and momentum to deepen mil-to-mil relations between the two sides." Defence Web

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