

## Empowering Africa: How Host States Can Influence Chinese-Supported Power Projects

Over the past decade, Chinese investments have significantly bolstered Africa's infrastructure landscape. However, prevailing narratives have often emphasized China's influence, overshadowing the critical role of African host states in determining project outcomes. My new working paper with the Boston University Global Development Policy Center provides a different perspective, highlighting how African states can exercise agency to influence the success of Chinese-supported power projects. Africa's power crisis is severe, with over 40 percent of its population lacking access to electricity, predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa. This shortage stifles economic growth, productivity, and job creation. Traditionally, African governments funded and constructed large-scale power generation projects, but fiscal constraints have necessitated alternative investments. Chinese companies have installed over 25 GW of generation capacity in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite these contributions, the outcomes of these projects have varied widely across countries. China Global South Project.

#### Chinese firm Zhongshan Fucheng rejects Nigeria's \$5m offer, seizes jets

When President Bola Tinubu travels to Beijing for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to drum up investment and prop up the naira, the elephant in the room will be Nigeria's publicised feud with Zhongshan, a firm that describes its ordeal with Nigeria as a "foreign investor's worst nightmare". Chinese firm Zhongshan Fucheng obtained an injunction last week from a French court to take ownership of three jets belonging to the Nigerian government. In an effort to protect these assets, the Nigerian government had offered \$5m in compensation, to no avail. The Africa Report.

#### China, Africa set to embrace closer economic, trade ties at FOCAC

Located 95 kilometers southeast of Addis Ababa, in the heart of the East African Rift, the Adama Wind Power Project stands tall with its impressive 80-meter-high white turbines. The project, built by Chinese companies, is a landmark in the partnership between China and African countries. Since they started operating in May 2015, the wind turbines have been a vital source of power for about 600,000 households. They have helped ease Ethiopia's power shortages, reduced the need for diesel generators and supported economic growth. Around 2,100 local jobs have been created and several universities are involved in training and maintenance. This hands-on experience has prepared many for future roles in Ethiopia's wind energy sector. Adama city has also seen significant growth, with its population rising from 324,000 in 2015 to over 480,000 in 2023. Improved infrastructure and investment have attracted businesses from various countries, leading to rapid changes in the city's landscape. CGTN.

#### China-Africa: FOCAC 2024 Begins on September 4

The 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC 2024) will take place from September 4 to 6 in Beijing, China. This year's theme is "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future". The event was announced by Chao Weidong, China's ambassador to Togo,

during a media meeting in Lomé last weekend. Ministerial meetings will be held ahead of the event, to draw up agreements that may signed. FOCAC 2024 will also feature a China-Africa business conference, a roundtable that should help enhance bilateral relations and foster economic and cultural exchanges. Togo First.

## African envoys expect deeper ties with China

African diplomats to Kenya have expressed strong optimism for the upcoming Forum on China-Africa Cooperation summit, viewing it as an opportunity to further deepen ties and chart new paths of cooperation toward building a China-Africa community with a shared future. The diplomats, having toured key Belt and Road Initiative projects in Kenya, including the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway, lauded the initiative for transforming the continent's infrastructure network and consequently boosting economic growth. Anouar Ben Youssef, Tunisia's ambassador to Kenya, said the FOCAC summit, scheduled for Sept 4-6 in Beijing, will provide a chance to reaffirm China's engagement with Africa across various sectors beyond infrastructure. "The summit will also be an opportunity to exchange new views and opportunities for a stronger cooperation between China and Africa," he said. Ecns.

#### China Isn't the Solution to Africa's Industrialization Dilemma

There is going to be a lot of talk at the upcoming Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit that will take place in Beijing in early September about the need for African countries to move up the value supply chain. African delegations are going to speak at length about their desire for Chinese companies to move more manufacturing to the continent and to invest in industrialization. For countries like the DR Congo, Zimbabwe, and Zambia, among others, the discussion will center on early-stage processing of critical resources, including lithium and cobalt. The Chinese, too, will fill their press releases from the summit with lots of happy talk about the importance of bolstering Africa's industrialization drive. While there will no doubt be some very interesting announcements, it'd also be prudent to keep expectations in check. Chinese companies, if nothing else, are among the most cost-conscious in the world — oftentimes operating their businesses on the slimmest of margins. China Global South Project.

## US Aims to Boost Trade With Africa to Challenge China on Key Minerals

It's unclear whether Donald Trump or Kamala Harris will triumph in the Nov. 5 presidential election, but one thing's for sure: America's next leader must ensure it doesn't lose out in the competition to secure supplies of key minerals needed to produce clean energy. More than a fifth of the world's reserves for minerals essential to the green-energy transition — including cobalt, copper, nickel and lithium — are in Africa, and China has more operational mines on the continent to tap them than the US does. That makes the world's biggest economy vulnerable to supply disruptions and surges in the prices of inputs used in technologies such as lithium-ion batteries, fuel cells and wind energy.

# Chinese hospital ship Peace Ark leaves Mozambique for South Africa

The Chinese naval hospital ship Peace Ark on Mission Harmony-2024 wrapped up its visit to Mozambique and departed from the Port of Maputo for South Africa, the fifth stop of the mission, at around 10:00 a.m. on August 16 local time. During the seven-day goodwill visit to Mozambique, the ship Peace Ark provided medical services for more than 7,300 patients, performed 74 surgeries, including cataract operation, submandibular gland

extraction and calculus extraction. The ship has also seen the birth of Mozambique's first "peace baby". On August 14,1,658 patients were treated, setting a new record for the highest number of treatments in a single day during the mission. Multiple medical teams were also dispatched to local hospitals and military bases to conduct joint consultations, medical tours and military medical exchanges. China Military Online.

## Kenya hosts conference to promote traditional Chinese medicine in Africa

Kenya hosted a conference on Monday to promote the use of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) across Africa. The one-day International Expert Forum on China-Africa Partnership for Women's and Children's Health featured a high-profile delegation from central China's Hunan Province, and included cultural and fashion shows showcasing traditional costumes from both countries. Liang Huizhen, director at the Department of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine at Hunan Provincial Maternity and Child Health Care Hospital, highlighted the similarities between TCM and African medicine, noting both employ a holistic approach rather than focusing solely on diagnosis. "Traditional Chinese medicine has many advantages, including the use of natural products such as herbs to cure diseases," Liang said, emphasizing China's interest in expanding cooperation with Africa to enhance the use of TCM to improve health outcomes across the continent. Xinhua.

## Joining hands to build a China-Nigeria community with a shared future, By Yu Dunhai

I will make my utmost efforts to contribute to the resilient relations between China and Nigeria, to the profound friendship between our two peoples, and to the building of a high-level China-Nigeria community with a shared future. On 10 August, I departed from Beijing and landed in Abuja, from a city near the western side of the Pacific, to a capital adjacent to the eastern side of the Atlantic, and started my journey as the 15th Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, with a lofty mission and great excitement in my heart. Upon arrival at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, I deeply felt the hospitality of the Nigerian people and their friendship with China, which boosted my confidence in my tenure in the coming years. There is much common ground between China and Nigeria, and between our two peoples. China is the second largest economy and one of the most populous countries in the world, while Nigeria is a major economy and the most populous country in Africa. Premium Times Nigeria.

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