

### Kenya seeks to enhance ties with China in tourism, cultural sectors

Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening ties with China in the tourism and cultural sectors, building on the success of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in September in Beijing, China's capital. Benard Kahuthia, acting tourism secretary in Kenya's Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, highlighted the enduring partnership between Kenya and China, rooted in mutual respect and a shared vision for growth. "As we come together to deepen our ties, we recognize the impact of tourism in building bridges between our countries, fostering mutual respect, and inspiring the exchange of ideas," Kahuthia said Friday during the China-Kenya Tourism Dialogue, dubbed "Nihao! China," at the well-known Maasai Mara game reserve in southwest Kenya. Xinhua.

### Putin promises Africa 'total support' in anti-West pitch at Sochi summit

Russia is seeking to woo African countries this weekend at a summit in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, with President Vladimir Putin promising the continent "total support". Facing isolation in the West following its full-scale offensive against Ukraine, Moscow has tried to build new partnerships across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, promoting itself as a bulwark against what it calls Western domination on the international arena. "Our country will continue to provide total support to our African friends in different sectors," Putin said in a speech read out by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to other foreign ministers and senior officials. South China Morning Post.

# Forum on China-Africa innovative cooperation held in Wuhan

The 2024 China-Africa Innovation Cooperation and Development Forum took place in central China's Wuhan, drawing nearly 800 experts and government representatives from 32 countries and regions attended the event. A China-Africa youth innovation venture contest was also held during the forum, mainly focusing on economy and agriculture. Nearly 100 young contestants from China and Africa took part in the event. CGTN.

#### Chinese EV makers look to Africa as rivalry with US, Europe heats up

Chinese electric vehicle makers are opening flagship stores and assembly plants in Africa as they look to expand on the continent and circumvent tariffs and other import restrictions imposed by the US and Europe. State-owned carmaker BAIC Group and Zeekr, Geely Auto's premium EV maker, have both announced plans to enter Egypt – a key location for companies looking to tap into the Middle East and Africa. By the end of next year, BAIC Group is expected to start producing 20,000 electric vehicles annually at an assembly plant it is establishing in Egypt. That will increase to 50,000 units by its fifth year in a deal with Alkan Auto, a subsidiary of Egyptian International Motors (EIM Group). South China Morning Post.

Chinese road builders win credit in Uganda for community engagement

For 20-year-old Peninah Nasambu, a civil engineering student from Uganda, her recent visit to a Chinese road construction camp brimmed with new discoveries. As Buhimba Technical Institute inked a cooperation memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China Railway Seventh Group (CRSG), Nasambu and dozens of her schoolmates took the opportunity to explore the camp's laboratory, stone quarry, and warehouse. The tour allowed the young generations to gain firsthand insights into how a road is built from scratch. During the MoU's signing ceremony in Kikuube, a western Ugandan district where expansive savannah and mountain slopes frame the camp, Nasambu told Xinhua that she dreamed of becoming a certified civil engineer. Finishing her studies, in her eyes, will mark an essential milestone toward her goal. The Independent.

## Ex-Im Bank's \$2.5 billion Angola loan funds Chinese-tied firms, not American jobs

The U.S. Export-Import Bank faces scrutiny over a \$2.5 billion giveaway to green energy development in Angola that benefits foreign companies with ties to China and the Angolan president, despite the bank's claims that it will support thousands of American jobs. The Ex-Im Bank, led by Biden administration appointee Reta Jo Lewis, loaned over \$900 million in June 2023 and another \$1.6 billion to American company Sun Africa, which is in charge of developing solar energy plants, mini-grids, and storage and water treatment facilities in Angola. The largest-ever Ex-Im loans were issued as part of the Biden administration's flagship global infrastructure partnership and the China and Transformational Exports programs, which seek to support American companies competing against China. The bank touts that the financing will support over 4,700 American jobs. Washington Examiner.

Please note: The news items presented here are for informational purposes. The views expressed within them are those of the authors and/or individuals quoted, not those of the Africa Policy Institute.