



Weekly China Briefing 12th September 2008

The Weekly China Briefing is compiled by the Centre for Chinese Studies at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. It tracks China business news with a special focus on China and Africa.

Malawi-China Projects A contract for two year has been signed between the two countries to build the Karonga-Chitipa road in northern Malawi and the new parliament building in the capital. The projects will cost the Chinese government over US\$ 100 million in a period of two year. These two projects were abandoned by Taiwan when they cut ties with Lilongwe in 2007 [Read More](#)

China August trade surplus a record high of US\$ 28.7 billion The August surplus, which beat all previous records was caused by an abrupt slowdown in imports rather than any particular pickup in exports. The low import growth could be an indication of weakening domestic demand, induced by the credit tightening a year ago. Economists doubt that this will push Beijing to allow any major rise in its currency [Read More](#)



Chinese firm to build Rakai free trade zone Paradise International Investment Ltd (China) is to invest US\$ 1.5 billion in Lake Victoria Free Trade Zone to be known as Ssesamirembe Eco-City in Rakai district. The deal signed between Paradise and the Kagera Eco-Cities last month, will be the single largest private investment in East Africa. Companies operating in this zone will be exempt from paying income custom, corporate income and value added taxes [Read More](#)

China up 7 spots on ease of doing business ranking The recent improvement in China's 'Doing Business 2009' rating is due to the reform undertaken. The country's reforms made it easier to access credit, pay taxes and enforce contracts. China is now ranked 83rd from a previous 90. 'Doing Business 2009' ranked 181 economies on the ease of doing business [Read More](#)



Zambia opposition warms to Chinese investment Micheal Sata said he would welcome Chinese investors in the countr's mining industry if he was elected president. He acknowledged that Zambia needs Chinese investment and technology. This is a shift in policy, from his 2006 election campaign where he promised to expel Chinese investment if he was made president [Read More](#)

More Chinese aiming to invest in Africa Addressing the African Countries Investment Seminar Wang Chao, the minister of commerce said that more Chinese companies are investing in Africa because of their complementary roles. Bilateral trade between China and Africa remains at more than 30 % since 2000, the trade volume was US\$ 53.1 billion in the first half of 2008 [Read More](#)



ABOUT US

The Centre for Chinese Studies is devoted to the study of China-Africa relations. The CCS promotes the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experiences between China and Africa. Based at Stellenbosch University, the Centre is active in research, corporate advisory, executive education, teaching, training, and culture.

The CCS is also home to the Confucius Institute that is active in promoting Chinese language and culture to the African continent.

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