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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.

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.

China Exports Shrink, Output Cools



China's exports may have contracted last month as industrial output cooled, adding pressure for policy makers meeting in Beijing this week to do more to sustain economic growth. "Things are not so good," Fan Gang, an adviser to the central bank, said at a Beijing forum. "November figures will come out soon, and industrial growth will be something around 5% and export growth will be negative." The government has already unveiled a 4 trillion yuan (US\$ 582 bn) stimulus package and cut interest rates by the most in 11 years as a global recession reduces demand for toys, textiles and electronics.

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Chrysler & China's Chery call off cooperation talks



Chrysler and China's biggest domestic automaker said this week they have called off talks on cooperation due to the global financial crisis. The proposed partnership with Chery Automobile Co., first announced in July 2007, was meant to produce a low-cost model in China to be sold under Chrysler's Dodge brand in the United States and Europe. But given the current global financial crisis, the two sides have decided for both companies to independently develop and promote their own businesses. China's Export and Import Bank (EXIM Bank) is lending Chery 10 billion yuan (US\$ 1.5 bn) to help support its international expansion.

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Slowed growth hurts investment in Africa



China's investment in Africa could slow next year as the continent's economies look less attractive to Chinese companies and China is hit by the global downturn, a fund manager has warned. Chinese investment is increasingly being seen as vital to many African economies as the tight credit market restricts investment from the West. According to a manager with the China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund) who identifies Chinese companies to partner with the fund on projects proposed by African governments and companies, some Chinese companies are now

less willing to make overseas investments.

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China to train 15,000 African personnel



26 small scale miners from Ghana are undertaking a two-week study tour of China to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of their operations. The tour, under the sponsorship of the government, is designed principally at replacing the rudimentary technologies used by small-scale miners through the adoption of modern, cost effective technologies.

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China Supports Mozambican Armed Forces



The Chinese government has pledged to disburse US\$ 1.5 mn in 2009 to support the Mozambican Armed Forces (FADM). To that end, the Mozambican Defence Minister, Filipe Nyussi, signed a cooperation agreement in Maputo this week with Chinese Ambassador Tian Gueng Feng to formalise the grant. At the ceremony, Nyussi said that this money will help his institution overcome some of the difficulties it faces, particularly in the areas of logistics, training, and the daily running of the barracks.

Thanking China for the financial support, Nyussi said that such initiatives help enhance the projection of the FADM in its various missions, including peace keeping, humanitarian aid and operations to defend the country's sovereignty.

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China Invests US\$ 7.3 million in Equatorial Guinea Government Projects



China has given Equatorial Guinea US\$ 7.3 mn towards a series of public works projects in the oil-rich former Spanish colony. Agreements were signed during an official visit by Chinese Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade Chao Wu-Chen. Equatorial Guinea is currently the third-biggest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria and Angola, producing some 500,000 barrels a day.

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