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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-Taiwan start direct transport, postal service



China and Taiwan began direct air, sea transport and postal services, the latest step to further improve strained ties. The move marks an end to the practice that air and sea transport as well as mail between the mainland and Taiwan had to be rerouted. Direct shipping, transport and postal services across the Taiwan Strait has also commenced. Direct flights are also being conducted between the two countries since the Chinese civil war in 1949.

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China cuts fuel prices for first time in two years



China will cut domestic fuel prices for the first time in almost two years as it revamps its regulated pricing regime, passing along a share of oil's over US\$ 100 slump to help revive flagging economic growth. Crude oil gained moderately after Beijing announced a 14 % cut in refinery gate gasoline prices and 18 % drop in diesel prices, plus a nearly one-third cut in jet fuel. The cuts were not unexpected after China announced last month that it would push ahead a long-stalled effort to allow its domestic prices to fluctuate in line with the global market.

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Foreign student studying Chinese surge



China's economic boom has led to more foreigners learning the Chinese language. Thirty years ago, when China commenced reform, only a dozen foreign students were enrolled at the Beijing Language and Culture University, now a renowned centre for foreigners to study. Over 10 000 foreign students, from 167 countries, and regions now enroll annually. With varied backgrounds, they all come to BLCU with the same goal, to master fluent Chinese. The increasing enthusiasm of foreign students studying Chinese indicates China's increasing influence and integration with the world.

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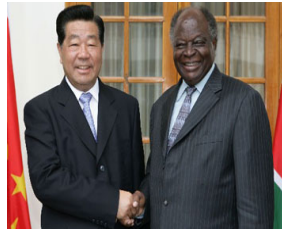
Angola seeks new Chinese loans as oil tumbles



Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos travelled to China this week to seek new loans, as tumbling world oil prices threaten the African country's plans for a big increase in spending on infrastructure next year. Angola's secretary of state for water, Filipe da Silva, said he hoped new credit lines from China would allow more investment in the sector. Newspaper *Semanario Angolense* said Angola could seek up to US\$1 billion for infrastructure and homes for the poor over the next four years.

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Kenya mark 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties



Chinese President Hu Jintao and Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki exchanged congratulatory messages on Sunday to mark the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. The two countries have always been supportive of each other on issues concerning their vital interests and have cooperated closely in the fields of trade, culture, education, health care and tourism. The friendship between the two peoples has always been growing, Hu said. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation also provided a new platform for the two sides to consolidate their cooperation, he said.

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China Sinoma cuts Nigeria cement projects



China's Sinoma International has reached an agreement with a Nigerian partner to suspend a cement project worth US\$ 1.45 billion and cut the size of another by nearly two-thirds -- both in the African country. Sinoma and Nigeria's Dangote Group had agreed to suspend one project involving six cement assembly lines, and cut the size of another project involving seven lines to US\$ 689.54 million equivalent from US\$ 1.81 billion, it said in a statement. Sinoma said the adjustments would not have a big impact on its 2008 earnings as Dangote agreed to pay some compensation.

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