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“Let a Thousand Flowers Blossom”: Confucius Institutes in Africa

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Editorial

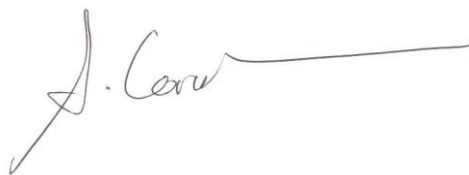
Since the establishment of the first overseas Confucius Institute in 2004, there has been a precipitous growth in their number. Today there are close to 300 Confucius Institutes (CIs) across the world. Most of these are in Asia, but nearly a third of all Confucius Institutes are in west and central Europe.

The rapid rise of these institutes is closely linked to the growing significance of China in the international arena. Devoted to increasing mutual awareness and understanding between China and the rest of the world, Confucius Institutes are usually set up as centres for the teaching of Chinese language and culture.

The first Confucius Institute in Africa was launched in Kenya in 2005. Five years later, Confucius Institutes had been established in 16 African countries (Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe).

Given China's increased economic presence on the African continent, and the diplomatic initiatives the Asian country had launched in the recent past (such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation), Confucius Institutes can play a key complementary role to enhance collaboration, exchange and knowledge between China and Africa. In this edition we report on the outcomes of two recently held meetings about African and worldwide CIs: the Confucius Institute Africa Regional Conference hosted by the University of Nairobi in October 2009 and the fourth Confucius Institute Conference hosted in Beijing in December 2009. Commentaries are provided by the directors of CIs at two South African universities, Stellenbosch and Rhodes. In his commentary Prof Marius Vermaak of Rhodes University presents a provocative set of ideas for taking African CIs further.

There are certain lessons to be learnt from the way in which Confucius Institutes have thus far taken root on the continent. Their expansion and optimal functioning have been affected by a number of factors, ranging from the wider conditions in the higher education sector in Africa, the ability of Chinese language teachers and volunteers to integrate in their adopted environments, and the extent to which Confucius Institutes are operationally incorporated into management structures at African universities. Addressing these challenges can help African CIs reach their full potential



Professor Scarlett Cornelissen

Interim Director, Centre for Chinese Studies

Policy Watch

Notes from the recent Confucius Institute Africa Regional Conference

By Mr. Robert Kotzé,

*Director: Postgraduate and International Office,
Stellenbosch University &*

*Co-Director: Confucius Institute,
Stellenbosch University*



Robert Kotzé addresses the Conference
Photo: SU International Office

“CI’s in Africa are developing rapidly and are already facing the next stage: developing degree programmes.”

In October 2009 the University of Nairobi hosted the second Confucius Institute Africa Regional Conference, a space created by the Confucius Institute (CI) Headquarters in Beijing for African CIs to meet, discuss and engage with the CI Headquarters. The focus fell on the needs, challenges and features of local environments for CIs in Africa. In all the conference provided for fresh perspectives on building teaching capacity, extending relevant educational material and developing a 10-year plan for African CIs.

In discussing the need to build teaching capacity aspects of sustainability, continuity and staff preparation were profiled. Some of the issues raised were:

- CIs in Africa are developing rapidly and are already facing the next stage, i.e. developing degree programmes. The question is whether the volunteers sent by the CI Headquarters are qualified to teach in degree programmes and whether they could help constitute the basis of such programmes? Second, is it sustainable to use volunteers? How can the development of local teachers contribute towards sustainability? And finally, how can local quality control mechanism at different universities be used to develop degree programmes and to recognize local multilingual experience and second language acquisition competencies? Using local talent and local pedagogies will lead to greater ownership.
- With reference to continuity, several CI representatives suggested that Chinese teachers and volunteers should stay longer. Ideally, a teacher should stay with a cohort from the start of their studies until graduation. Apart from better incentives and conditions for Chinese volunteers, conference goers also suggested that the total career path of Chinese teachers and volunteers should be considered when deciding on candidates and the length of their stay.
- Opinions were also expressed about the bilingual capabilities of Chinese



The CI Africa Region Conference
Photo: college.chinese.cn

“African CIs have the opportunity to enrich Higher Education in Africa with significant programmes in Chinese studies.”

staff, their pre-departure orientation and the time they have to become immersed in the local culture before their teaching period commences. Chinese staff should also try to understand the educational context within which they work.

Linked to the emphasis on developing local teachers and tapping into local experience and competencies, is the development of relevant local teaching material. Strong views were expressed on creating a network of African CIs to engender the rise of a community of excellence to develop resources. This need will also be addressed through the CI Headquarter development of base institutions at selected Chinese universities, where the focus will be on the teaching of Chinese as a foreign language.

From the discussions and the official feedback it is clear that there is no such thing as a one size fits all CI model. A successful CI needs to:

- Recognise the local needs and comply with local university policies and procedures with regard to managing resources and procurement;
- Build a strong partnership between co-directors and be defined according to well delineated roles for co-directors;
- Be integrated in the regular processes of the host institution; and
- Secure buy-in from the University Vice-Chancellor or President for continued support and to ensure that the institution takes ownership of the CI.

The role of the CI Headquarters is to visit local CIs regularly, to ensure the flow of information and to develop the management skills of CI directors. Ultimately, CIs can feed into and enhance the activities of academic departments. Other than European universities with a long tradition of Sinology Studies where CIs have in the main become add-ons to Sinology departments, African CIs have the opportunity to enrich Higher Education in Africa with significant programmes in Chinese studies.

Involving the governments on both sides remains contentious. On the one hand, Embassy representatives felt strongly about the importance of the different Chinese Embassies in linking the CI to the local Chinese community and to the Ministry of Education in Beijing. Some conference participants from Africa also expressed the opinion that CIs on the continent can not develop independent of wider African developmental processes. On the other hand, some participants held the opinion that this may lead to a perception that CI and the resultant influence sphere may be seen as a form of neo-colonialism. This was noted in the feedback from the CI Headquarters and CIs were encouraged to use the CI structure as an opportunity to develop strong partnerships with Chinese universities..CIs should also rather be



Delegates at the CI Africa Region Conference
Source: SU International Office

“Without endangering the diversity, the development plan from CI Headquarters should give a vision and guideline that can be implemented in each CI.”

seen as an opportunity to strengthen higher education activities.

The invitation to contribute towards an overall strategic plan for CI for the next 10 years was taken seriously and the following ideas were discussed:

- The 10-year plan should be seen as a *process* where CI as a *learning organization* develops a strategic plan that is sustainable and systematic.
- Without endangering diversity, the development plan from CI Headquarters should give a vision and guideline that can be implemented in each CI through shorter term plans and programmes that are tailored to the local landscape and partnerships involved in directing the CI.
- The plan should reflect
 - The important place of culture in language;
 - The fact that CIs are a result of partnerships and that this has implications for communication processes.
 - A longer term view on quality and quantity – the scale of activities should be expanded, but should still be based in research and good applications.
- The strategy should have a regional focus to develop own relevant standards and to address the unique challenges of CIs in Africa.

“Mutual Collaboration, Continuous Innovation, and Sustainable Development for the Future of Confucius Institutes around the World” was the title of the keynote address of Liu Yandong, Chair: Council of the Confucius Institute Headquarters, at the fourth Confucius Institute Conference held in Beijing in December 2009. For the next five years he had four suggestions:

“First of all, take a future-orientated perspective while focusing on the present and carefully plan for the future development of Confucius Institutes.... We need to make visionary arrangements in the mode and conditions of operation and the selection of directors and teachers....

Secondly, strive for a coordinated development, give priority to quality and substantially raise the level of Chinese international education..... focusing on increasing the Chinese teaching skills and ability of cross-cultural communication,... give vigorous support to Confucius Institutes in developing their own textbooks tailored to the local reality....



Thirdly, respect uniformity while encouraging diversity and support Confucius Institutes to innovate and differentiate themselves from others.... This requires Confucius Institutes to adapt to the local situation, position itself scientifically and constantly innovate and work out a diverse and differentiated development mode....

Fourth, increase communication and cooperate sincerely to push forward for the prosperity of Confucius Institutes.”

(Taken from handout of keynote address.)

The points above echo important notions that were part of the discourse at the CI regional conference. It also indicates a commitment from the CI Headquarters to take the localities seriously and to respond to local needs and interests. The future will show if these notions will become part of the strategy for the next five years.

Robert Kotzé is the Director of the Postgraduate and International Office at Stellenbosch University & Co-Director of the Confucius Institute at Stellenbosch University

Commentary

What should African Confucius Institutes do?

By Professor Marius Vermaak,
Rhodes University



State Councillor Liu Yandong.
Source: www.xinhua.com

“Should African CIs do something more than or different from the core business of the CI system as such, namely, teaching Chinese and encouraging understanding of Chinese culture?”

At present there are roughly 300 Confucius Institutes (CIs) in Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe, and Oceania. Twenty five of them are in Africa. The question in my title hints at two other questions: First, should African CIs do something more than or different from the core business of the CI system as such, namely, teaching Chinese and encouraging understanding of Chinese culture? Second, are African conditions sufficiently distinctive to require distinctive functions? I would like to argue that the answers to both these questions are: Yes. African CIs must be different from, say, European ones; and African CIs need to go beyond the core functions as set down by the Hanban.

Let me give some background by mentioning two crucial interventions by top Chinese officials.

At the recent fourth Confucius Institute Conference in December 2009 in Beijing, State Councillor Liu Yandong gave a surprising keynote address. The gist of her message was that CIs should be diverse and should function in a manner that is responsive and sensitive to local conditions. I believe this was a very significant moment. The tension between two schools of thought regarding CIs, the “one size fits all” faction and the “let a thousand flowers blossom” faction, was resolved. The Hanban is clearly on a steep but successful learning curve concerning the constraints and opportunities offered by operating across the whole wide world.

My own Confucius Institute at Rhodes University, in Grahamstown, South Africa, organised a very successful colloquium on “China-Africa Economic Relations” [<https://www.ru.ac.za/documents/confuciusinstitute/Colloquium%20booklet.pdf>] in September last year. The ambassador to the People’s Republic of China to South Africa, the Honourable Mr. Zhong Jianhua, was the guest of honour. During one of the discussions a postgraduate student from a country to the north challenged the diplomat: “Mr Ambassador, you need to tell us what China plans for us.” Mr Zhong’s response was: “You are asking the wrong question. You should not worry about what China wants to do to you, but what you want to do for yourself.” The message was that Africans should stop thinking of themselves as passive victims – always on the



Confucius institute exhibit at Rhodes University

Source: www.ru.ac.za

“The Chinese are, despite what the cynics may think, opening the space for the development of distinctively African CIs, and inviting us to occupy it.”

receiving end, and begin thinking of themselves as active agents – at least sometimes creating their own future.

The persons involved in building African CIs must keep these two points firmly at the front of their minds: the Chinese are, despite what the cynics may think, opening the space for the development of distinctively African CIs, and inviting us to occupy it. African conditions include the following: weak Higher Education systems, with universities that do not have a distinguished tradition in the teaching of Chinese or research in Chinese Studies; a growing demand for university education that can not possibly be satisfied on the continent - for the foreseeable future many students from Africa will have to look at educational opportunities in the US, UK, Europe, Australia, and, more and more so, in China; almost no teaching of Chinese at school level; a lacklustre market for the commercial teaching of Chinese, say for business purposes; a special developing economic and business relationship with China – Africa is crucial for China’s future energy, food and commodity requirements.

Do not misunderstand me: these are not disadvantages, they are actually opportunities. Let me illustrate this by considering only the first condition I mentioned above. Africa does not have a SOAS, a School of African and Oriental Studies, with 90+ years of expertise in all matters Chinese, in their Department of China and Inner Asia and their Contemporary China Institute. Well, then, African CIs can perhaps, with careful planning fill the intellectual gap to develop the study of Chinese and Chinese Studies as proper academic pursuits *from an African perspective*. There is an obvious and urgent need to deepen and broaden Africans’ understanding of China, given the linked, intertwined, futures of Africa and China. Whether we loathe or love the Chinese, Africans will have to deal with them in the 21st Century. CIs in Africa can play this indispensable role, and *without any obstruction from existing interests in universities*. All the other conditions I listed could receive similar responses.

I have argued that African CIs have the leeway, from the Chinese partners’ side, to respond creatively to our distinctive situation. Here are three critical strategic considerations that should shape such a response:

1. Do we play a *promotional* or an *intermediary* role?

CIs are the new kids on the block. The Alliance Française was founded in 1883 and the British Council in 1934; the first CI was established in Seoul, Korea, in 2004. It would clear our thinking to study the variety of activities and organisational structures of this family of cultural organisations – the Alliance, the Council, the Goethe Institut (German), the Società Dante Alighieri (Italian), the Instituto Cervantes (Spanish). Do they only promote, say, French, or do they



South African students compete at the China Bridge competition
Source: www.ru.ac.za

“Chinese culture is often presented as an unchanging, stable set of practices, values and objects that are 5 000 years old. A moment’s acquaintance with the history of this wonderful civilization is enough to dispel this false picture.”

Marius Vermaak teaches Philosophy at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, and has been Dean: International Office since 2004, and Director of the Confucius Institute at Rhodes University since its launch in August 2008.

also make links between French and the cultural context they find themselves in? I would argue that, especially in Africa, there is a strong case for giving more emphasis to playing an intermediary role. What would this mean in concrete terms? For instance, rather than organising an exhibition on Chinese calligraphy, I suggest it would be more effective to design a show that compares, contrasts and showcases Chinese writing *and* the rich traditions of African writing systems. Instead of organising a colloquium on teaching Chinese as a second or foreign language, open up space for comparison with, say, teaching Xhosa in such a situation.

2. Are we working with an *essentialist* or an *open* concept of culture?

Chinese culture is often presented as an unchanging, stable set of practices, values and objects that are 5 000 years old. A moment’s acquaintance with the history of this wonderful civilization is enough to dispel this false, and I would like to say, boring picture. Africa is in a unique position here (compared to a fossilised construct such as “Western Culture”): the essentialist notion of culture is so obviously nonsense in our context; museums just cannot capture the living reality of constantly changing African *cultures*. African CIs, as intermediaries, can present this vibrant scenario of living culture. We can move beyond the usual paper-cutting and acrobats (and so on, and so on) to really fascinating areas such as contemporary Chinese art or pop music or migrant experiences. CIs can become a mirror for the Chinese themselves, for Beijing, in which they rediscover themselves, and perhaps like what they see.

3. Are we *embedded in* or *isolated from* our context?

This is perhaps the key question. CIs can develop into powerful (the funding has so far been generous) but actual alien entities awkwardly positioned within universities or other communities. They may function reasonably well in this manner, but they will not flourish. The only way to avoid positioning ourselves in a ghetto, is to collaborate, collaborate and collaborate with the locals. Whatever we do, it should be guided by the principle that significant players should be involved and should benefit. I have no sinister agenda in mind; I am not advocating corrupting our environment. Here is an example of what I have in mind: When a CI wants to organise, say, a colloquium on Chinese traditional medicine, some of the local academics and researchers (if this is a university) in the Medical Faculty should participate in both the planning and execution. The result should be a new course or research project, and good connections with the Chinese counterparts.

I hope to have made a persuasive case that African CIs have the opportunity to play an exciting and innovative role in the greater network of CIs.

Business Briefs

The Business Briefs section summarises key events regarding China's economy during the month of January

China aims to transform a nation of savers into spenders China's forceful use of government stimulus programs helped it emerge from the financial crisis as the world's fastest-growing major economy. Yet with the worst of the crisis past, the government is putting more resources into subsidies to support consumer spending. That short-term focus on boosting purchases of automobiles and home appliances, critics say, does little to address the longer-term challenge: weaning China's economy off exports and finding new sources of growth in domestic consumption.



China's emergence in peacekeeping a major boost to UN capabilities: SIPRI In a report published late last year, SIPRI argues that China's new engagement in peacekeeping presents a

potentially win-win situation for China, the UN and countries emerging from conflict. "For example, Chinese peacekeepers and Chinese equipment provide a significant boost to UN operations at a time when they are critically needed. At the same time, China's profile as a big player outside the West reassures developing country governments about the motives behind UN intervention," the institute said.

China's Ministry of Commerce looks to lift domestic consumption China's Ministry of Commerce will make efforts to increase domestic consumption, and open new markets for foreign trade in 2010, said Chen Deming, the country's commerce minister. Chen made the remarks at a national commerce meeting held in Beijing recently, saying the government would continue to stimulate domestic demand, especially consumption, amid the slow and tough world economic recovery and weak overseas demand.

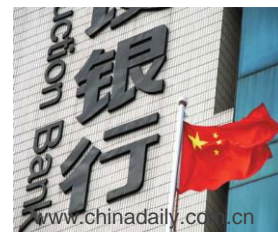


Why is China buying more gold than India?

In 2009, China bought more gold than India, making it the world's top consumer. China passed South Africa in 2007 as the world's largest gold producer. Revving up

production to take advantage of record prices is understandable. But why have the Chinese suddenly fallen in love with gold? And does this affect the price we pay?

Chinese Banks Look Set to Keep Up High Levels of Lending in 2010 China's banks are gearing up to extend their flow of credit into 2010 to keep the economy humming, analysts say, a trend that could add to



the financial challenges already facing the industry in the aftermath of a historic lending spree in 2009. China's government hasn't announced a target for lending in 2010. But analysts who cover the industry expect new loans in 2010 to total US\$1.03 trillion to US\$1.17 trillion.

China's economy poised to overtake Japan sooner than expected China is expected to take Japan's spot as the world's second-largest economy sooner than expected, as Beijing revised its 2008 growth numbers upwards. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, China's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008 grew 9.6%, up 0.6% from previous estimates, due to the role of the service sector, which was bigger than originally estimated. China expects GDP growth of at least 8% for this year and the next, despite the global downturn, and is set to overtake Japan in 2010 as the world's second-largest economy, after the US.

China to have second biggest power capacity in world Xinhua reported that China's electricity generation capacity increased to 860 million kilowatts at the end 2009, the second largest capacity after the United States. China's energy official said that the nation's power grids coverage has become the world's largest with fast expansion of ultra high voltage network. New energy such as nuclear and wind power played an increasingly important role. Mr Zhang Guobao head of the National Administration of Energy said that at the end of July, China overtook the United States to have the world's largest network with a total length of 375000 kilometres.



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Chinese banks find their credit in high demand China's state-owned banks have become a main engine of the global recovery, financing the construction of copper mines, purchase of airplanes, expansion of retail stores and other projects even as their U.S. and European counterparts scale back lending. Over the first nine months of 2009, new lending by Chinese banks has injected US\$1.3 trillion

into the world economy, according to statistics from the People's Bank of China, which functions as China's central bank.



China overtakes US as world's biggest auto market Chinese automakers say surging sales in 2009 have helped China to overtake the United States as the world's biggest auto market. The China

Association of Automobile Manufacturers said Monday its members sold 13.6 million units in 2009, an increase of 46% over the previous year. In the United States, industry figures show only 10.4 million vehicles were sold last year, a 21% drop from 2008. Analysts say the Chinese government boosted its auto industry last year by offering consumers incentives such as tax breaks and subsidies.

China steps up control of export goods quality

China has over the years faced massive challenges over sub-standard counterfeit goods, leaving consumers in target markets such as Kenya jittery about purchasing them. But Chinese products remain popular among low end consumers because of their pocket-friendly prices. "We have noticed that there have often been concerns over Chinese goods but we have moved to enforce standards among producers at home and we are liaising with regulators in target markets to ensure standards are adhered to," Mr Hongbo said at a press briefing.



China surpasses Germany as world's top exporter

China overtook Germany in 2009 to become the world's top exporting nation, another milestone in China's rapid rise and growing economic influence. China's customs

agency released figures Sunday showing that total exports last year were more than US\$ 1.2 trillion, slightly ahead of the US\$ 1.17 trillion forecast for Germany by its foreign trade organization, the Federation of German Wholesale and Foreign Trade.

China manufacturing growth accelerates, survey shows

China's manufacturing grew at the fastest pace in more than five years in December, 2009 a survey of purchasing executives showed. China's growth may accelerate to 9.4% this year from an estimated 8.5% in 2009 as the government sustains stimulus measures and the world recovers from the financial crisis, economists forecast. Liu Mingkang, China's top banking regulator, said that challenges include weak export demand, the threat of asset

bubbles, and an underdeveloped social-welfare system that limits spending.

As China rises, fears grow on whether boom can endure

As much of the world struggles to clamber out of a serious recession, a gradual flow of economic power from West to East has turned into a flood. New high points, it seems, are reached daily. China surged past the United States to become the world's largest automobile market — in units, if not in dollars, figures released recently show. It also toppled Germany as the biggest exporter of manufactured goods, according to year-end trade data. World Bank estimates suggest that China — the world's fifth-largest economy four years ago — will shortly overtake Japan to claim the No. 2 spot.



Rare map with China at the centre of world goes on display

A rarely seen 400-year-old map that identified Florida as "the Land of Flowers" and put China at the centre of the world has gone on display at the U.S. Library of Congress in Washington D.C. The map created by Matteo Ricci was the first in Chinese to show the Americas. Ricci, a Jesuit missionary from Italy, was among the first westerners to live in what is now Beijing in the early 1600s. Known for introducing western science to China, Ricci created the map in 1602 at the request of Emperor Wanli. No examples of the map are known to exist in China, where Ricci was revered and buried. Only a few original copies are known to exist, held by the Vatican's libraries and collectors in France and Japan.

Oil imports hit alarming level in China: Study

China's crude oil dependency reached alarming levels last year with more than half of the country's total oil consumption coming from



abroad, latest official statistics show. Figures from the General Administration of Customs show imported oil in December 2009 hit a record 21.3 million tons, pushing the country's total oil imports last year to 204 million tons. Imported crude oil accounted for 52% of the country's total oil consumption last year, experts said. Importing more than 50% is a globally recognized energy security alert level. China produced about 190 million tons of oil in 2009.

China and the Islamic Republic

China's Ambassador to the United Nations Zhang Yesui declared last week that it is "too early" for new sanctions on Iran. As China takes over the rotating

presidency of the Security Council, the Obama Administration should consider why, exactly, Beijing is so reluctant to punish Tehran's refusal to make a deal over its nuclear program. The usual answer is that China has large commercial interests in Iran, particularly in energy, and would be reluctant to impose sanctions that would put them at risk. That's true as far as it goes.



China's foreign exchange reserves hit US\$2.4 trillion

A Bloomberg news report citing information on the Bank of China website said the country's reserves rose 23% to US\$2.4 trillion, making it the world's largest.

In September 2009, the Chinese Ambassador to Ghana, Yu Wenzhe said China's foreign reserves had reached US\$1,950 billion. He indicated that it rose from a mere US\$1.577 billion in 1978 to US\$1,950 billion in 2008 to rank first in the world, adding that the "opening up policy" adopted by China accelerated its socio-economic development.

China property prices surge highlighting growing bubble risk

China's property prices rose at the fastest pace in 18 months in December, highlighting the government's struggle to rein in speculation while maintaining economic growth. Residential and commercial real-estate prices in 70 cities climbed 7.8% from a year earlier, the National Development and Reform Commission said on its Web site today. That topped a 5.7% gain in November. The increases signal the risk that asset bubbles may hamper the recovery of the world's fastest-growing major economy and stoke discontent among workers unable to afford homes. Premier Wen Jiabao pledged to stabilize property prices, crack down on speculation and keep housing affordable, adding that tools may include taxes, "differentiated interest rates" and land regulations.



SABMiller volumes miss estimates as China growth slows

SABMiller Plc, the world's second-biggest brewer, posted beer volumes that missed analysts' estimates as China's worst snowstorms in 50 years kept

drinkers at home and South African consumers reined in spending. Volume growth in China slowed to 6% from the first half's 15% as "heavy snow and rain" damped demand for beer, SABMiller said. Volumes in South Africa, where the brewer gets 21% of annual operating profit, slipped 4% as company's market share declined "marginally," it said.

China remains poor Although the news from China, that the Asian giant may be about to take over from

German as the world's largest exporter, is undoubtedly significant it is important not to get carried away. It is easy to forget that China is still a poor country. Even taking figures at purchasing power parity—taking into account low prices in China—America's income per head is about eight times that of China. On the same basis China is ranked at about the same level as Angola and Egypt. The only reason China's absolute level of GDP is so high is because of its vast population.

China depending more on imported oil

China's oil dependency reached alarming levels last year with imports accounting for 52% of total consumption, reported China Business News, citing Zhang Xiaoqiang, vice-minister of the National Development and Reform Commission. Importing more than 50% is a globally recognized level for an energy security alert. The country's oil imports in 2010 are expected to grow 5% from a year earlier, and the proportion of imported oil consumed may further rise to 54% this year, said Lin Boqiang, director of the China Center for Energy Economics Research at Xiamen University.



China's GDP rose 8.7% in 2009

China's economy grew 8.7% in 2009; recent government data showed, surpassing the 8% target Beijing had set early last year, when some economists were warning that growth might reach only 5%. Growth in the fourth quarter of 2009 hit 10.7% from a year earlier, reflecting the recent recovery in global trade and a continued surge in domestic property and infrastructure. In 2008, China had growth of 9.6%.

China runs into a global wall

Google's threat to leave China rather than be complicit any longer in censoring the internet may be the most emphatic sign that the threshold of international corporate and governmental tolerance for China's bending of the rules of conduct has been crossed. "As China gets more powerful, it will face pushback from the rest of the world," John Lee of the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, told DNA Sunday. "The advances China has made so far in gaining acceptance in the region and in the world will be a lot harder to replicate."



Sourced from: WSJ.com, Washington Post, China Daily.com, Bloomberg, Macau Daily, DNA India, Ghana Business News, Fundstrategy.co.uk, New York Times, VOA News, Google, Business Week, Business Daily Africa, Steel Guru, India Times, Xinhua, Defence Web

China and Africa

The latest updates on China's involvement on the African continent.



China, India, Brazil and South Africa prepare for post-Copenhagen meeting One month after the Copenhagen climate, environment ministers from the so-called BASIC countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China – will meet at

the end of January in New Delhi. No formal agenda has been set, but observers expect the emerging geopolitical alliance between the four large developing countries who brokered the final "deal" with the US in Denmark will define a common position on emission reductions and climate aid money, and seek ways to convince other countries to sign up to the Copenhagen accord that emerged last month.

China views Ethiopia as major trading partner in Africa China views Ethiopia as its major economic and trading partner in Africa, said Minister of Commerce Chen Deming in Addis Ababa recently. The bilateral trade volume reached a historical high of US\$1.376 billion during the first 11 months of last year, up 12.4% over the same period of the previous year, said Chen, adding that China's imports from Ethiopia during that period rose 202% to over US\$200 million. During his talks with Sufian Ahmed, Ethiopia's minister of finance and economic development, the Chinese minister said China's investment in Ethiopia had accumulated to US\$138 million in areas like textile, daily necessities, machinery, glass, building materials and leather.



Chinese FM calls for strengthening of new Sino-African strategic partnership Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, who is on a five-nation African trip, is calling for the strengthening of the new Sino-African partnership

"characterized by equality and mutual respect on the political front, a win-win economic cooperation and reciprocal cultural exchanges." "Let us deepen the new and strategic Sino-African cooperation through reinforcing our cooperation which should be characterized by equality and mutual respect on the political front, a win-win economic cooperation and reciprocal cultural exchanges," Yang said.

Chinese Government donates US\$9 million to Sierra Leone The Chinese government has donated US\$9.5million to Sierra Leone under the Technical Assistance for ongoing Projects in the country. This disclosure was made recently by the Chinese Foreign

Minister Yang Jiechi on his visit to Sierra Leone. The Foreign Minister who is on a five nation tour in Africa said China attaches great importance to Africa, that is why he chose Africa to start his visit at the beginning of the year. He said China has ongoing projects in the country and they want to complete them on time as well as do an excellent job.

Nigeria to strike oil supply deal with China Nigeria and China are working to close a deal on long term crude oil supply and purchase agreement just days after diplomatic row ensued between Nigerian and American governments. Nigeria's relationship with the United States went frosty when the American government included Nigeria in its black book of countries associated with terrorism after a failed attempt to bomb an America bound passenger plane bearing 290 people on board. Nigeria exports over 50% of its total crude oil output to the United States even though the Obama administration has not minced words on its determination to wean United States of foreign oil.



Head of CCP to visit Africa Wang Jiarui, head of the Chinese Communist Party's International Department, will visit six African countries at the end of January, sparking speculation that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il may not visit China as some have rumored. Given his position, Wang is most likely to be responsible for organizing the reception of Kim in the event that he visits China. Wang will lead a party delegation for a visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Senegal, Benin, the Central African Republic and Djibouti, the department said.

Mozambique to promote tourism potential in Chinese market Mozambique aims to publicise its attractions in the Chinese tourism market "as soon as possible", tourism sector sources in Maputo have announced. To that end, the National Tourism Institute (Inatur) should sign an agreement in the next few days with the Chinese company Shanghai Regent Network Technology Co. Ltd. The company is to represent Mozambique in the Chinese market in the area of public relations for tourism operators, travel agencies and businessmen, an Inatur source told reporters.



Moroccan PM says willing to push forward relations with China

Moroccan Prime Minister Abbas el Fassi said recently that his country is willing to further the bilateral relations with China. During his meeting with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in the capital of Rabat, Fassi said that Morocco cherishes the friendly cooperative relations with China, and is willing to foster bilateral cooperation in various fields to push forward the bilateral relations. Yang said that Chinese government highly values the implementation of the follow-up actions of the fourth ministerial meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), and is willing to work together with Morocco and other FOCAC member countries to fulfill the tasks.



China to implement "eight new measures" to help Africa

China will lose no time in implementing the "eight new measures" to strengthen China-Africa cooperation in the next three years, said China's Minister of Commerce Chen

Deming on a recent visit to Addis Ababa. The fourth ministerial meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation was held in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Nov. 8-9. At the meeting, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced eight new measures the Chinese government will take to strengthen China-Africa cooperation in the next three years.

Mozambique and China sign financing agreements

Mozambique and China have signed two agreements in Maputo, according to Mozambican sources. The first agreement concerns a Chinese donation of US\$7.35 million to finance projects still to be determined by the two countries while the second agreement involves a US\$14.7 million credit to be granted by China for additional financing of construction of the National Stadium. The two agreements were signed by Mozambican Finance Minister Manuel Chang and by Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming.



China injects US\$39 million into Zambia TAZARA operations

The Chinese government has given the financially crippled Tanzania-Zambia Railways Authority (TAZARA) US\$39 million interest-free loan to revive its

operations, Communication and Transport Minister Geoffrey Lungwangwa has said. Professor Lungwangwa said part of the funds, apart from reviving operations, would be for the procurement of six new locomotive engines, four wagons and the repairing of 120 wagons. Prof Lungwangwa said the funds would also be used to repair the railway line and the purchase of new equipment for the workshop aimed at bringing about efficiency in the company's operations.

Rand falls most among major currencies on China's policy change

The world's fastest-growing major economy is leading a global economic rebound, which has boosted demand for raw materials from South Africa. China raised the proportion of deposits that banks must set aside by 50 basis points as reserves to cool the world's fastest-growing major economy because a credit boom threatens to stoke inflation and create asset bubbles. "China is looking at tightening up its lending and that has a knock-on effect on growth expectations," George Glynos, managing director of Econometrix Treasury Management, a bond and currency adviser, said in a telephone interview in Johannesburg.

China recommends Ghana as safe tourist destination

The Chinese Government has recommended Ghana as one of the safest tourism and business destinations in Africa for its citizens. The recommendation is in line with a national policy in China by which the government gives its official consent, taking into consideration the safety and security of its citizens, the business environment, political stability, peculiarity of attractions and the bilateral relations between China and the targeted destination before any tourism initiatives and investments by the country. Quoting recent figures, he said Ghana had recently emerged as an attractive destination for Chinese tourists. For instance, 8,639 Chinese tourists visited Ghana in 2007.



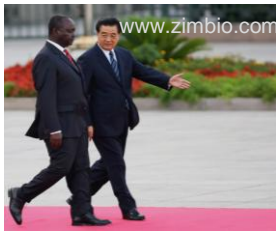
China to double trade & investment levels with Ethiopia

China has opened a new trade window with Ethiopia, announcing a series of new measures aimed at bolstering industrial investments and encouraging Chinese firms to set up industrial parks in the East African nation. Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming, at the head of his country's delegation to Ethiopia, said that his country was willing to support and encourage businesses to invest and set up industrial plants in Ethiopia and invest in sugar development and other processing industries.

Kusile Mining in US\$134.5 million deal to sell Chinese equipment

Kusile Mining has entered into an agreement to become the new assembly and distribution agent of heavy duty mining equipment on behalf of Chinese manufacturer Sany International. Between now and 2013, Kusile has to sell 50 machines and achieve sales revenue of US\$134.5 million. The Witbank-based company will initially supply continuous miners, road headers and shuttle cars and will compete with the industry dominant companies - Joy Mining Machinery and Sandvik - for the South African coal mining market.





Senior Chinese party official meets Central African President on ties A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) met with Central African Republic President Francois Bozize on efforts to enhance ties between

their two nations, according to reports from capital Bangui. China, as the biggest developing nation, extended assistance to the Central African Republic in times of hardship, Bozize said during talks with Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee.

Senior Chinese party official meets Benin's president on co-operation A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) met with Benin's President Boni Yayi on efforts to strengthen cooperation between the two nations, according to reports from its city Cotonou.

The visit of the delegation led by Wang is an important one during Benin-Chinese intercourse in recent years, said Yayi, adding that the visit reflects the further political cooperation between the two countries. Wang, who arrived in Cotonou for a two-day visit after visiting the Central African Republic, also attended an opening ceremony of a China-donated agricultural demonstration center and visited the Chinese trade development center.



Chinese commerce minister proposes four-points on Sino-Tanzanian cooperation Chinese Minister of Commerce Chen Deming proposed four-point measures to further develop Sino-Tanzanian economic and trade

cooperation. Chen made the proposal during his meeting with Tanzanian Minister of Industry and Trade Mary Nagu, noting that the bilateral economic and trade cooperation is currently developing rapidly with China's imports from Tanzania up 46.7% in the first 11 months in 2009 and total Chinese direct investments in the east African country exceeding US\$ 200 million.

Chinese Commerce Minister holds talk with AU on China-Africa ties A Chinese delegation, led by Commerce Minister Chen Deming, on a state visit to Ethiopia, has held discussions with African Union (AU) officials in Addis Ababa on ways of enhancing relations between Africa and China. An agreement was signed between the AU and the Chinese government to enable the AU to obtain US\$20 million from China to be used for the construction of the AU headquarters. Chen AU Commission Deputy Chairman Erastus Muwencha signed the agreement.

MTN Ghana & China's Huawei deploy UMTS900 network - claim a first for Africa MTN Ghana and Chinese equipment maker Huawei have reportedly

deployed a UMTS900 platform on the cellco's network, claiming a first for the African continent. The 900MHz platform will be used for voice, video and data-based services and is based on Huawei's fourth-generation 3900-Series Node B, which the vendor claims combines advanced technology with high efficiency to boost operators' productivity.

Zambia's Copper production to reach 720 000 tons in 2010

Standard Chartered Bank says Zambia's copper output this year is set to exceed the peak of 720,000 tons recorded in the 1960s when the country was the fourth largest world copper producer. The production estimate is against 644,000 metric tons projected for last year. Speaking during an economic forum in Lusaka, Standard Chartered Bank Africa regional head of research Razia Khan said Zambia has continued to register good growth in the last couple of years.



China promises technical and financial help to Tanzania and Zambia

The Chinese government has pledged financial and technical assistance to stimulate business and develop the railways and harbour sectors in Tanzania and Zambia. The far eastern country has also expended US\$ 35 billion in loans and grants to be issued in the next three years. An agreement signed recently between the two countries indicated that China will extend to Tanzania US\$ 33.5 billion loan and US\$ 1.95 billion grant. The Chinese minister for Trade, Mr Chen Deming, told Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda recently that experts would arrive in the country before June this year.

China may send observers for Sudan's April election

China, the international power with the largest economic stake in Sudan, may send a delegation to monitor the nationwide elections scheduled for April 2010. The upcoming voting is meant to be Sudan's first free and fair elections since General Omar Al Bashir took power on June 30, 1989. Abdalla Ahmed Abdalla, Deputy Chairman of the National Election Commission, met recently with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Li Chengwen. They discussed "preparations for arrival of a Chinese delegation to participate in the monitoring of the coming elections in Sudan," according to the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA).



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Prof. Scarlett Cornelissen
Interim Director: CCS

The China Forum - Recent Events

Education delegation from Chinese Embassy in Pretoria visits the CCS– 25th January 2010. Mr Wei Yanggen, First Secretary: Education at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of South Africa paid a visit to the CCS on the 25th of January. He was accompanied by representatives from educational and exchange associations in China. Discussions were held about collaboration between the CCS and the Embassy in the educational sphere.

CCS Director meets delegation from Tsinghua University – 20th January 2010 Prof Scarlett Cornelissen, Interim Director of the CCS met a delegation from the School of Public Policy & Management at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Tsinghua is one of China's leading tertiary institutions. The meeting cemented strong relationships that the CCS had built with Tsinghua over the years.

A message from the Interim Director: The CCS in 2010

Stellenbosch University is committed to build on the achievements of the CCS and to advance it into the premier academic centre devoted to the production of substantive research on China-Africa relations within the context of a rapidly changing international environment. The profile of the CCS as a major hub for academic exchange and research will be enhanced.

This strategic vision will drive the activities of the CCS in 2010. Through the building out of research programmes dedicated to the cultivation of deeper knowledge of China's role in specific sectors in Africa; exploration of the related political and economic impacts on the continent; and expansion of academic dissemination and training, the Centre will enhance its position as a resource nucleus for the research, government, business and NGO communities.

[The full message can be viewed on our website: www.ccs.org.za]

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