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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 services, executive education, teaching, training, and culture.

Dear Reader,

The Weekly China Briefing is compiled by the Centre for Chinese Studies at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. It monitors key developments in China-Africa commerce and development.

Regards,

The Centre for Chinese Studies Research Team

Air China profit jumps 60% on travel rebound, hedging gains



International Air Transport Association Chief Executive Officer Giovanni Bisignani talks about the outlook for the global airline industry. International passenger demand rose 9.2% in July from a year earlier and international scheduled freight traffic increased 22.7%, according to IATA, which represents 230 airlines carrying 93% of international traffic. Bisignani speaks from Sydney with Bloomberg's Susan Li. Air China Ltd., the world's largest carrier by market value, boosted first-half profit 60% on surging travel demand and fuel-hedging gains [Read more.](#)

China shares mixed on energy sector losses



Chinese shares were mixed recently as heavyweight energy companies dragged the main Shanghai benchmark lower but losses were limited by generally strong earnings reports for the first half. "China's market remains relatively bullish on strong interim earnings reports. They are sending the message that the economy is managing well under the government's control, and investors are keen to make some money after several months of losses," said Xu Guangfu, a market strategist at Xiangcai Securities, in Shanghai [Read more.](#)

China invests in Zambia hydropower projects



China's Export and Import Bank (EXIM) and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) have agreed to lend Zambia's state-owned power utility Zesco Ltd US\$430m to raise the capacity of the Kariba North Bank hydropower station by 360MW. EXIM would lend US\$315m and DBSA would provide the balance of US\$115m. Energy Minister Kenneth Konga said the funds would enable the extension to Kariba to be completed by 2012 [Read more.](#)

China backs fight against Somali piracy in light of international law



China recently voiced its support to the efforts to counter Somali piracy in accordance with international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions. The statement came as Li Baodong, the Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations, was taking the floor at an open Security Council meeting on piracy off the Somali coast. The 15-nation Council began the meeting recently to discuss a report by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on how to prosecute and imprison Somali pirates [Read more.](#)

South Africa's Standard Bank to work with China Rail



South Africa's Standard Bank Group said recently it has signed memorandum of understanding with China Railway Group to cooperate on funding for rail and infrastructure projects in Africa. Bloomberg News reported recently that China Railway is in talks with South Africa's government to build a US\$30 billion high-speed rail network, citing the chairman of the firm. Standard Bank said in an e-mailed statement that its agreement with the firm "does not relate to any specific project at present" [Read more.](#)

South Africa and China sign comprehensive strategic partnership



China and South Africa have signed a "comprehensive strategic partnership" during South African President Jacob Zuma's first state visit to China. The economic future for China, South Africa and Africa in general is bright, says the South African President. Zuma defended China's surging investment in Africa, saying China was making an important contribution and helping African governments. "Chinese assistance in infrastructure development in some of the less developed parts of Africa is certainly making an important contribution to future African development," Zuma said [Read more.](#)

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