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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

China and Rio Tinto complete Guinea mining deal



Mining giant Rio Tinto has completed a deal with Chinese firm Chalco to enter a joint venture in West Africa. The agreement follows a Memorandum of Understanding between Rio and Chalco's parent company Chinalco in March. The venture will develop Rio's Simandou iron ore project in Guinea. Rio's ties with Beijing became strained when four of its workers in China were arrested last year, suspected of commercial espionage and taking bribes. [Read more](#)

South Africa signs police agreement with China



As part of efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between South Africa and China, SA Police Deputy Minister Fikile Mbalula recently signed a police co-operation agreement with his Chinese counterpart, Chen Zhimin. In a statement the ministries outlined various ways of consolidating and exchanging intelligence information on drug trafficking, illegal immigration, money laundering, arms smuggling and trafficking of women and children. [Read more](#)

Ecobank signs pact with Bank of China



Ecobank Ghana recently signed a partnership agreement with the Bank of China (BOC) to facilitate international trade projects and investments between Africa and Asia. Speaking at the signing ceremony in Accra, an BOC spokesperson said the pact would allow the bank to cater more pointedly to their clients in Africa using Ecobank platform, while it also enables Ecobank to grow its China business. The initiative, would be extended across all Ecobank outlets in the Sub-region and beyond, as well as other subsidiaries. [Read more](#)

Brazil and China to finance core projects in Nigeria



The governments of Brazil and China have agreed to finance some core projects in Nigeria, Nigerian Vice President Namadi Sambo has said. Sambo made this known recently in Abuja while addressing a meeting on 'Funding Priority Infrastructure'. He stated that the Brazilian government had indicated its interest to invest in the country's power sector, especially the Mambilla Power Project, while China said it would invest in the nation's rail system. [Read more](#)

China's Geely completes Volvo purchase



China's Geely recently completed its purchase of Ford Motor Co's Volvo unit, marking China's biggest acquisition of a foreign car maker and reflecting the nation's rapid rise in the auto world. Zhejiang Geely, parent of Hong Kong-listed Geely Automobile said it paid US\$1.3 billion in cash and issued a US\$ 200 million loan note to Ford. That represents US\$300 million less than the earlier headline of US\$1.8 billion, but Ford said it would get a further "true-up" payment later in the year. [Read more](#)

China plans 'Straddling Bus'



Instead of spending millions to widen roads, the Shenzhen Huashi Future Parking Equipment company is developing a '3D Express Coach' (also called a 'three-dimensional fast bus') that will allow cars less than 2 meters high to travel underneath the upper level carrying passengers. China Hush, which has nicknamed the project 'Straddling Bus' said the model looks like a subway or light-rail train. Powered by electricity and solar energy, the bus can speed up to 60 km/h carrying 1200-1400 passengers at a time without blocking other vehicles' way. [Read more](#)

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