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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 unveils agricultural cooperation proposals



Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu recently put forward proposals to step up agricultural cooperation with Africa. Addressing the closing ceremony of a China-Africa agriculture forum, Hui proposed enhanced exchanges among agricultural departments, improved Sino-African agricultural cooperation mechanisms, and high-profile talks to set out the methods, key areas and plans for cooperation. He called for strengthened agricultural technological cooperation, an expansion of trade in primary products and more cooperation among agricultural enterprises. [Read more](#)

Zambia secures loan for mobile hospitals



China has given Zambia a US\$53 million loan to build mobile hospitals to serve rural communities, following a visit by a top Chinese official. Dai Bingguo, a member of China's State Council, or cabinet, also said China would provide US\$4.4 million to existing projects, including a new stadium, housing for civil servants and new government complex. "China will continue to provide assistance to Zambia and we shall give a grant of US\$4.4 million to be used to the already agreed projects and US\$53 million concessional loan for mobile hospitals," Dai Bingguo said. [Read more.](#)

Zuma to charm China



South Africa will push for expansion of both trade and direct investment when President Jacob Zuma visits China later this month in one leg of a worldwide tour to expand ties with the world's biggest economies. Zuma, currently in Russia, is on a diplomatic blitz of the four biggest emerging markets, also known as the BRICs - Brazil, Russia, India and China. South Africa aspires to become the fifth member of the grouping. [Read more.](#)

Mugabe thanks China for steadfast support



Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe recently thanked China for its steadfast support as he visited the World Expo in Shanghai and called for help in reviving his country's shattered economy. Mugabe expressed his deep gratitude to Beijing and called for deeper cooperation, at a time when his country is struggling with a decade of acute food shortages. China is not a party to international sanctions on Mugabe, who is the subject of a Western travel ban and asset freeze. [Read more](#)

China stress tests help banks as bubble risks grow



China's planned stress tests may help the nation's banks weather a possible slump in asset prices after lending surged to record levels, according to Fitch Ratings. The China Banking Regulatory Commission has told lenders to conduct stress tests to gauge the impact of residential property prices falling as much as 60%, a person with knowledge of the matter said. The move underscores concerns that last year's record US\$1.4 trillion of loans may have fueled a bubble in property prices, which rose 11.4% in June from a year earlier. [Read more.](#)

China will keep rapidly urbanizing for "some time yet"



China will continue its policy of rapid urbanization for "some time yet," as it was crucial for economic restructuring as well as stable and relatively fast economic growth, a government official said recently. Peng Sen, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission, made the remarks at a conference in Haikou, capital of the southern Hainan Province, adding that 46.6% of China's population lived in urban areas by 2009.

[Read more.](#)

Contact Us

Centre for Chinese Studies
Stellenbosch University

PO Box 3538
Matieland
Stellenbosch
7602
South Africa

T +27 21 808 2840
F +27 21 808 2841
E ccsinfo@sun.ac.za
W www.sun.ac.za/ccs

Follow us on Twitter
CCS_STELL