



PROPOSED SUMMIT ON

CHINA-AFRICA ECONOMIC & TRADE RELATIONS

TOPIC:
CHINA-AFRICA CO-OPERATION:
WHO REALLY BENEFITS?

Venue: Transcorp Hilton, Abuja
Date: April 26 - 27, 2016

www.africatoday.org

INTRODUCTION

Following the December 2015 Johannesburg conference on China-Africa Co-operation, there can be no more denying the fact that China has become big in Africa and massively involved in several developmental strides and projects many countries across the continent are making and undertaking. Just like the rest of the world, Africa can no longer ignore China. It has become, by far, Africa's biggest trading partner, exchanging about \$160 billion worth of goods yearly. There are many Chinese companies operating and working on several projects on the continent, especially in the areas of

construction, infrastructural development, telecommunications, transport, agriculture, petrochemicals including mining. Reports say over one million Chinese, mostly labourers and traders, have made Africa their home within the past decade. However, despite the obvious economic gains for Africa, a lot of criticism trails China-Africa Co-operation, with imperialism the major claim. A former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Lamido Sanusi, puts it this way: Africa is opening itself up to a “new form of imperialism”.

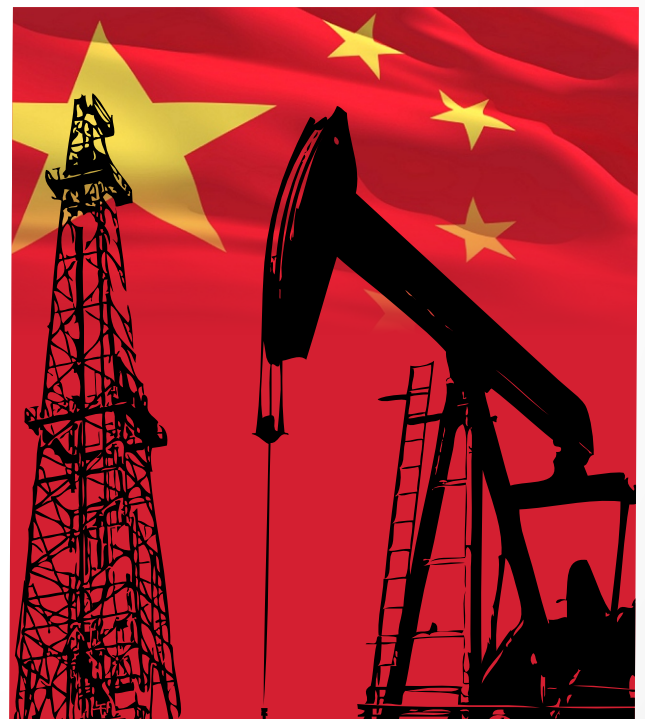


REASON FOR THE CONFERENCE

China's second largest source of crude imports is Africa. Its largest African suppliers are Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, the Republic of Congo, and Sudan. Smaller exporters include Algeria, Chad, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, and Libya. China's top five African trading partners are Angola, South Africa, Sudan, Nigeria, and Egypt. While the majority of Africa's exports to China are in oil, it also exports iron ore, metals, and other commodities, as well as a small amount of food and agricultural products. At the same time, China exports a range of machinery including transportation and communications equipment, and electronics to Africa.

In its quest to secure an economic foothold in Africa, China engages in a form of commercial diplomacy that most other countries can't match. It pitches vast trade, aid, and investment deals on frequent trips to resource-rich countries, and retains an almost unparalleled ability to provide low-cost financing and cheap labour for infrastructure projects. It provides low-interest loans to countries with low credit ratings, and in turn receives favourable rights to develop oil and mining projects. In addition,

gets major deals in construction and infrastructure development. China, including its state-owned banks, say it will provide \$1 trillion in financing to Africa by 2025, much of which will go toward infrastructure, including transnational highways, railways, and airports. China has a two-pronged approach to its economic relations to Africa: offering resource-backed development loans to oil and mineral-rich nations like Angola, and developing special trade and economic cooperation zones in several states, including Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Zambia.



CONTENTIOUS ISSUES IN THE CO-OPERATION

LABOUR

Local workers fault Chinese companies for maintaining unfair labour practices thus debunking China's official stance that says Chinese investments in Africa is a “win-win” situation for both sides. In Nigeria and Zambia, local workers have protested against Chinese companies over poor wages and labour practices. Some other countries have also voiced concern over China's continued use of Chinese labour on its projects (more than one million Chinese citizens now reside in Africa) as against local workforce.

EXPLOITATION

China exploits African resources without building up local African economies and developing skills. It does this by exporting Africa's primary goods and importing manufactured ones without transferring skills. In 2011, late President of Zambia Michael Sata won the presidency largely by tapping into anti-Chinese resentments.

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

China is known not to be safety and environment conscious especially in the areas of mining and petrochemicals. Grievances range from poor compliance with safety and environmental standards to unfair business practices and flouting of local laws.

CORRUPTION

Chinese companies underbid local firms and influence tenders board decisions in various African countries. International observers say China's willingness to pay bribes - as documented by Transparency International's 2010 Bride Payers Index report - and to attach few prerequisites for aid undermines both local and international efforts to implement good governance and macroeconomic reforms on the continent.

SECURITY

China spies on its friends especially through cyber-sphere. Almost all telecommunication contracts on the continent are handled by Chinese firms like ZTE and Huawei, both supported by Chinese banks, which are known to be fronts for the Chinese government.



CONTENTIOUS ISSUES IN THE CO-OPERATION

FAKE PRODUCTS

Despite China having the free run of most African countries, it is continually fingered as the major culprit in importing fake and substandard products into the continent. Its importation of fake, substandard and cheap textile products killed the Nigerian textile industry. Chinese citizens have been arrested in various African countries including Ghana and Nigeria as being the brains behind massive production of counterfeit audio and video DVDs. Substandard mobile phones produced in China are also prevalent in Africa.



INDIFFERENCE TO LOCAL POPULACE/ISSUES

China's foreign policy is based on state-to-state relations, practicing non-interference in local issues and politics. It closes its eyes on the gulf between African rulers and their people and human rights violations in many African countries where it has secure lucrative deals. It has few political ambitions, cooperating with democracies as well as authoritarian governments.



THE SUMMIT

No doubt, Chinese investment and economic presence has helped spur high economic growth on the continent. But in view of these above-mentioned contentious issues, is it not about time for Africa to re-access and take a critical look at China's role in Africa? The Summit will therefore try to:

- Assess the benefits or otherwise of Sino-Africa ties over the years
- Query if it makes good economic sense to allow China easy access of Africa's resources?
- Compare Africa doing business with the West and China
- Enlighten ordinary citizens and business people about China and its African economic policies



Sir Vincent "Vince" Cable:

British politician who was United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from 2010 to 2015 and the Member of Parliament for Twickenham from 1997 to 2015 election. Sir Cable is currently a Professor in Practice at the London School of Economics. He studied Economics at the prestigious University of Cambridge and the University of Glasgow, before becoming an Economic Advisor to the Government of Kenya between 1966 and 1968 and to the Commonwealth Secretary-General in the 1970s and 1980s. From 1968 to 1974 he

lectured in Economics at Glasgow University. Later, he served as Chief Economist for Shell from 1995 to 1997. In the 1970s Sir Cable was active in the Labour Party, becoming a Labour Councillor in Glasgow. In 1982 he joined the Social Democratic Party - which later joined with the Liberal Party to form the Liberal Democrats - and he unsuccessfully stood for Parliament in the general elections of 1970, 1983, 1987 and 1992 before being elected as the MP for Twickenham in 1997. Sir Cable became the Liberal Democrats Treasury Spokesman in June 2003, and was elected Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats in March 2006, becoming Acting Leader for two months in 2007 following Sir Menzies Campbell's resignation until the election of Nick Clegg. He resigned from both of these positions in May 2010 after becoming Business Secretary. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II on 27 August 2015.

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DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Howard W. French:

The author of the world-acclaimed book *China's Second Continent: How a Million Migrants are Building a New Empire in Africa*. He is a professor at the renowned Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in the United States. A journalist, author, and expert in foreign affairs, he was most recently a senior foreign correspondent with the prestigious *New York Times*. French taught in university in the Ivory Coast in the 1980s before

becoming a reporter. He has reported extensively on the political affairs of Western and Central Africa. These reports were the basis for the book *A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy and Hope of Africa*. French has also reported on the political and social affairs in China, where he covered on the growth of civil society, government crackdown of dissent in the Dongzhou protests of 2005, and the Sichuan earthquake of 2008. His most recent work for *The New York Times* is centered on China where he was the paper's Shanghai bureau chief. French was *New York Times* bureau chief for the Caribbean and Central America from 1990 to 1994; he covered Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and numerous other countries. From 1994 to 1998, French covered West and Central Africa for the *Times*, reporting on wars in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Central Africa, with particular attention to the fall of the longtime dictator of Zaire Mobutu Sese Seko. From 1998 to 2003, French was Tokyo Bureau Chief for the *Times*, covering Japan and the Koreans. In addition to covering China as Shanghai Bureau Chief for the *Times*, French worked as a weekly columnist on regional affairs for *The International Herald Tribune*.

DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Yun Sun:

A nonresident fellow in the Africa Growth Initiative, at the prestigious Washington DC-based Think-tank, The Brookings Institution. Yun Sun is a world-renowned expert on China's relations with Africa and U.S.-China cooperation on the continent. She is also a senior associate with the East Asia Program at the Stimson Center in Washington DC. Her expertise is in Chinese foreign policy, U.S.-China relations and China's relations with

neighboring countries and authoritarian regimes. From 2011 to early 2014, she was a visiting fellow at The Brookings Institution, jointly appointed by the Foreign Policy Program and the Global Development Program, where she focused on Chinese national security decision-making processes and China-Africa

relations. From 2008 to 2011, Yun was the China Analyst for the International Crisis Group based in Beijing, specializing on China's foreign policy towards conflict countries and the developing world. Prior to ICG, she worked on U.S.-Asia relations in Washington DC for five years.

OPENING REMARKS AND OFFICIAL OPENING



Professor Yemi Osinbajo,
Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Mohammed Badaru Abubakar:

He was a key player in the Nigerian business sector prior to his assumption of office as the Executive Governor of Jigawa State in May 29, 2015. He was the president of the influential Nigeria Chambers of Commerce Industry Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA). He had also served as an Auditor with the Audit Department of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Kano State from 1987 to 1991 when he resigned to establish his own business outfit Talamiz Nigeria Limited. He holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Accountancy from the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He attended the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru,

Jos, and he is a Member of the National Institute (MNI). Governor Abubakar is a recipient of the Nigerian national honour of Member of the Order of the Niger (MON).

DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Mr. Babatunde Fashola :

Nigeria's Minister of Power, Works and Housing. Mr. Fashola was also the immediate past Governor of Lagos State.



Dr. Okechukwu Enelema :

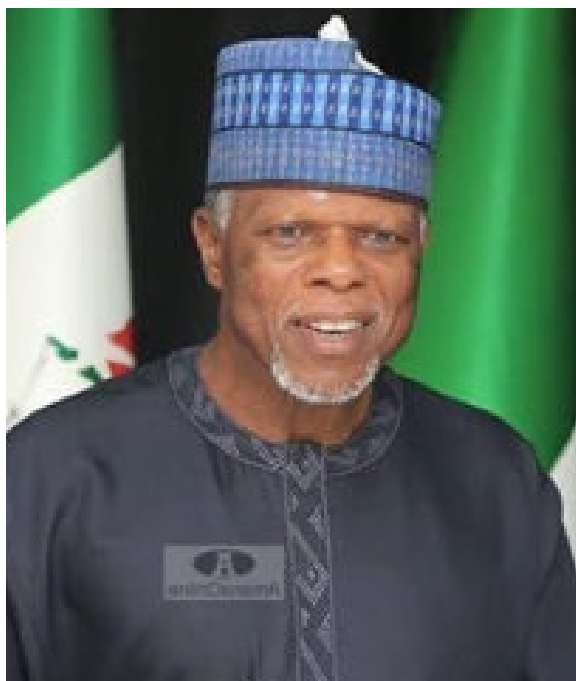
Nigeria's Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment.



Senator Udoma Udo Udoma:

Nigeria's Minister of Budget and National Planning.

DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Hammed Ibrahim Ali:

A retired Nigerian Army Colonel and current Comptroller General of The Nigeria Customs Service. He was appointed to the Comptroller-General position by President Muhammadu Buhari on August 27, 2015. Col. Ali served as Military Administrator of Kaduna State, Nigeria (August 1996 - August 1998) during the military regime of General Sani Abacha. After his retirement from the military, he became Secretary of the Arewa Consultative Forum, a northern Nigeria lobbying group, and a supporter of Major General Muhammadu Buhari in his bid to run for president. He is a close ally of President Buhari

who has entrusted him to clean up the Nigeria Custom Service with the objective of collecting more revenue for the country.

OTHER DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS EXPECTED

- Comptroller General of the Nigeria Custom Service
- President, Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria
- Chinese Ambassador/Representative of the Chinese embassy

CONFERENCE CHAIR AND CHIEF HOST



Kayode Soyinka:

A renowned journalist and publisher, is the Publisher and CEO of the Africa Today Group. He is in his 39th year in the newspaper industry having started his eventful journalism career as a cub-reporter with the Daily Sketch in Ibadan in 1976. During the past 39 years, he was for 17 years (1978-1995) a foreign correspondent based in London. During this period he worked as London Correspondent for the Sketch and Concord newspapers, and was General Editor of Africa Now, published by the legendary editor Peter Enahoro. He was also for 10 years the London Bureau Chief for Newswatch. During his years as a London correspondent, he achieved a reputation as a versatile investigative journalist, breaking several important

stories. He also covered several international conferences and summits of world leaders in Europe, the USA, Africa and the Commonwealth. **Kayode Soyinka is particularly famous for being the survivor of the letter-bomb blast of October 19, 1986, in Lagos, which, under the General Ibrahim Babangida regime, killed the seasoned journalist and pioneer Editor-in-Chief of Newswatch, Dele Giwa.** Soyinka, in 1995, drew upon his wide experience and contacts to start Africa Today. In its 21st year, the pan-African news magazine is now one of Africa's most influential news magazines on newsstands in over 90 countries around the world. The group also publishes two sector-specific quarterlies – Africa Oil and Gas Today and Africa Telecoms Today. Soyinka is the Founder/Publisher and Editor-in-Chief. He is also the author of Diplomatic Baggage: Mossad & Nigeria - The Dikko Story, an analysis of the 1984 kidnap of Nigerian former exiled politician, Dr Umaru Dikko, which he says was the most sensational event of Nigerian interest in his long London career. Educated at the famous Baptist Boys' High School (BBHS), Abeokuta, he has a

degree in International Relations (1987); and an MA in International Journalism from The City University London (1989). He was in 1979 made an Honorary Harry Brittain Fellow of the Commonwealth Press Union (CPU); a Visiting Scholar at Wolfson College, Cambridge University (1990); and a 21st Century Trust Fellow (1991). He is one of the longest-serving members of The Round Table Moot - the Commonwealth Think-Tank that also serves as the Editorial Board of the Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs. Founded in 1910, The Round Table is Britain's oldest international affairs journal. Soyinka was in 2014 elected as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Round Table. He was also one-time (for three years) Chairperson of the London Management Committee of the Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA). He was also a trustee of the Commonwealth Journalists Association, and represented the CJA from 1990-1993 on the board of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI). He was also a three-time governorship aspirant in Ogun State under the Alliance for Democracy (AD) in 2003, the Action Congress (AC) in 2007, and Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) in 2011. Soyinka is a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ogun State.



Kayode Soyinka with President Muhammadu Buhari. With them at the Aso Rock Villa is Sir Sonny Ramphal, former Commonwealth Secretary-General (middle), Sir Ronald Sanders, Ambassador to Washington for Antigua and Barbuda (first left), and Ambassador Bulus Lolo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs Abuja (right).

LIST OF PROPOSED SPONSORS/PARTNERS

- Federal Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment
- Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing
- Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning
- Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Jigawa State Government
- Nigeria LNG
- Access Bank PLC
- ECOBANK
- Guarantee Trust Bank
- First Bank of Nigeria

EXPECTED GUESTS

- Ambassadors and High Commissioners
- Trade/Economic counsellors of High Commissions and Embassies
- State governments doing business with Chinese companies
- Representatives of companies doing business with Chinese companies
- Local Chinese companies operating in the country
- Business people
- General Public

For more information: www.africatoday.org

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