The China Monitor

Issue 33

China’s Peacekeeping Presence in Africa

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Front Cover: Associated Press

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Editorial

Over the past decade, Africa has made great progress in reducing the number of civil or international conflicts on the continents. The end of the Cold War in the early nineties, the advent of a democratic and stable South Africa and the increased role in conflict resolution of the African Union have all laid the foundation for a more peaceful Africa.

Despite this progress, Africa is often still viewed as a conflict-ridden continent. I believe this stereotype is to a large extent obsolete. Africa’s most rapidly growing states are those which are now categorized as post-conflict economies – Angola, DRC and Mozambique. They are benefiting from more stable political systems and the buoyant commodity markets, largely driven by China.

High intensity conflicts in Africa continue only in Sudan, Somalia and Chad. Low intensity conflict exists in northern Uganda, eastern DRC, Algeria, the Niger Delta and Zimbabwe. China is a commercial actor in all of these states, primarily in the extractive industries sector. As China’s footprint on the continent increases so will the expectation that it must engage politically on issues relating to peace and security.

Beijing has already dispatched peace-keeping forces to a number of African states. Politically this trend will be watched very carefully by international and African observers. China’s foreign policy toward Africa is evolving in line with its greater commercial presence and the changing African continent itself.

Dr Martyn J. Davies
Executive Director, Centre for Chinese Studies
Policy Watch

China: Africa’s New Peacekeeper

By Garth Shelton

Associate Professor of International Relations, University of Witwatersrand

On 27 August 2007, a Chinese general was appointed to lead a United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission for the first time. General Zhao Jingmin took control of the UN mission in Western Sahara, confirming China’s status as an important participant in UN peacekeeping operations. Since 1992, China has contributed almost 9,000 peacekeepers to UN peacekeeping missions. Currently, China deploys 1,975 People’s Liberation Army (PLA) troops and civilian police officers to 13 of the 17 ongoing UN peacekeeping operations (UNPKO). In global terms, China is now ranked 11th among the 119 troop contributing nations to UNPKOs and is the leading contributor among the UN Security Council’s five permanent members (P-5). Almost 75% of China’s peacekeepers are deployed in Africa, confirming Beijing’s willingness to participate directly in building peace and stability on the continent. China contributes only 3% of the UN’s peacekeeping budget, but this represents a massive 170% increase since 2000, signalling Beijing’s longer term intention to increase its commitment to peacekeeping.

Through peacekeeping, China is able to build its image as a “responsible great power” (fuzeren de daguo) and play an expanding role in advancing global peace and stability. However, given its own history of external interference and invasion, China has been sceptical about peacekeeping and UN humanitarian intervention. During the 1980s, China paid little attention to UNPKOs, but since the early 1990s a more activist policy has emerged. An expanded role in UN peacekeeping complements China’s “peaceful rise” and efforts to promote a “harmonious world” (hexie shijie). The need for stable markets in Africa and a positive trade environment, along with China’s growing responsibility as a leading global power underpins Beijing’s increasing commitment to UNPKOs. Given China’s significant military capacity, in terms of personnel numbers and the urgent need to build peace in Africa, a positive synergy is evident. China is in a position to escalate UNPKO involvement in Africa and thereby make a decisive contribution to advancing stability on the continent. China currently deploys 1,300 peacekeepers in Africa, involved in seven missions: the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC), the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, (UNMEE), the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and the UN Mission in Cote d’Ivoire (UNOCI). Previously, China was involved in seven UN peacekeeping missions in Africa, providing a foundation for the training and
development of future peacekeepers. The PLA now has two dedicated peacekeeping training facilities at Nanjing (Jiangsu province) and Langfang (Hebei) intended to train and prepare troops for a range of peacekeeping tasks and missions.

China’s evolving foreign policy shows a new commitment to advancing global security co-operation in a number of areas. China has played an active and constructive role in promoting nuclear non-proliferation on the Korean peninsula. Beijing has worked through the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) and the ASEAN Regional Security Policy Conference to advance stability in the Asian region. At the same time, active security dialogues are being pursued with Russia, Japan, South Korea and the Central Asian countries. China’s commitment to African peacekeeping should be viewed within this context, as China works towards making a positive contribution to global security. Thus China is increasingly viewed as a constructive partner, which can use its influence for positive outcomes in conflict situations. During a visit to Africa in 2006, Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing specifically pledged Beijing’s support for an expanded UN role in addressing African conflicts, while he promised increased Chinese involvement in UNPKOs. Given the reluctance of the US and other Western powers to become involved in African conflicts, China’s willingness to increase its commitment is to be strongly welcomed.

While China’s support for peacekeeping is on the rise, Beijing’s contributions are based on a strong respect for state sovereignty and the principle of non-interference. China thus seeks to advance peacekeeping in strict accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. China is also seeking to strengthen the role of the UN Security Council in authorising, managing and terminating peacekeeping operations. China opposes premature deployment, which could result in high casualties and has encouraged the UN to focus on the eradication of the causes of conflict, rather than conflict containment.

China is now well positioned to take on the role as the key UN sanctioned peacekeeping contributor in Africa and thereby significantly advance peace and stability on the continent. Africa should welcome China’s efforts and seek to build a closer dialogue with Beijing on security issues. Other factors which would strengthen the process include training of African peacekeepers in China, greater use of Chinese military equipment in PKOs, expanded links with Chinese military communications systems, increased joint Africa-Chinese peacekeeping deployments and an enhanced role for the African Union (AU) in co-operating with Chinese peacekeeping efforts. A more positive response from Africa along with a formal security dialogue with Beijing could open the way for China to become a leading peacekeeper in Africa.

Garth Shelton is an Associate Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.
Commentary

China’s Role in Peacekeeping in Africa

By Ian Taylor

Professor of International Relations, St. Andrews University

One way in which China is projecting itself as a responsible great power (fuzeren de daguo) and playing a positive role on the continent is with regard to Beijing’s increasing involvement and contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs) in Africa. Formerly, Beijing was highly sceptical of United Nations peace efforts, primarily because of the way the Chinese leadership perceived how the UN was utilised at the time of the Korean War, to legitimise and sanction what was seen as an aggressive military intervention. In addition, outside of the UN for many years and thus incapable of having any influence, China’s position on peace operations was understandably suspicious. Consequently, even after Beijing took up its UN seat the position on peace operations remained guarded and China refused to contribute to peace budgets for many years (even though as a member of the Security Council it had a responsibility to do so).

But in recent years there has been a real sea of change in China’s attitude to peace operations and Beijing has emerged as a significant contributor. Measured against some of the “traditional” contributors to peace operations such as Pakistan or Bangladesh, China’s contributions remain thus far somewhat limited. But compared to the other Security Council members, China puts way more blue helmets on the ground and is currently either the largest or second largest Permanent Security Council member to contribute troops to UNPKOs (the ranking varies from month to month with France). This is a major development in China’s diplomacy and has positive implications for a continent such as Africa, which is often beset with conflict. That a Security Council member is now taking its responsibilities as a peacekeeper seriously somewhat puts to shame the reluctance of other great powers to get involved.

There are certain limitations to these developments however. China still resolutely opposes actions perceived as interfering in the domestic affairs of other states and will only agree to a peace operation if the host government concurs. There is still a suspicion in Beijing that interventions carried out in the name of “humanitarianism” have been motivated by interests other than charity or international solidarity and that the United States in particular attempts to utilize the UN as a means to project its own interests and policies. Thus China remains sceptical about certain calls for action and closely interrogates the claims made when advancing demands for intervention.
There is a positive aspect for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in engaging in UN peace operations. By taking part in such operations, Chinese troops and the PLA in general stand to benefit in terms of training and experience, whilst not having to expend significant resources from the annual budget. This helps facilitate—albeit in small way—the modernization of the PLA whilst enabling military cadres to test equipment and techniques in the field. Furthermore, as China’s role in global affairs increases, participation in UNPKOs feeds into a wider policy aim of projecting China as a responsible power. This arguably stems from China’s fears about a hostile response to its growth as a major power and the possible harm this may do to its relationships with the United States and the European Union.

In Africa, where there has been concern over some aspects of China’s role (in Sudan for example), taking a more hands-on approach to conflict resolution and peace operations arguably also helps China reverse some of this negativity and allows China to cast itself as a nation that is intimately concerned about peace and the welfare of Africans and is—unlike the United States, for example—willing to put its troops on the frontline in furtherance of this stance. Overall, involvement in peace operations in Africa gels with China’s broader foreign policy goal on the continent, namely to be seen as an “all-weather friend”. Consequently, Beijing’s involvement in peace operations in Africa in the future is likely to develop as and when Beijing is comfortable with such missions. This will be connected to China’s position on state sovereignty. Interestingly, Beijing will increasingly have to contend with the impulses generated by a rising China and expectations of it to play a greater and greater role in international affairs and the goal of seeking to control any evolution in the definition of sovereignty, which threatens to be outside of China’s control. Managing the debate and delimiting discussions of what sovereignty is and when it might be transgressed is central to Beijing’s position on intervention and peacekeeping.

Beijing has clearly shifted its foreign policy to one that is arguably more mature and that permits limited peace operations. China’s policies have evolved from outright rejection (1970s), to reluctant participation (1980s) to prolonged involvement in UNPKOs. Where one might contest China’s stance, is in the insistence that the consent of the hosting state is required in each and every occasion, for a UNPKO to be considered legitimate by Beijing. This is potentially problematic given the nature of the state in a number of African countries. However, China’s policies are constantly evolving and how Beijing manages its future participation in peace operations in Africa will be of significant importance for the continent.
It appears that China’s emerging role in peace operation is part of a pragmatic reorientation and reassessment of Beijing’s political interests by policymakers, who are now more concerned with looking like a responsible great power and less of a developing country bent on protecting state sovereignty at all costs. What is certainly true is that Chinese blue helmets are here to stay on the continent.

Prof Ian Taylor has recently released a book titled “China’s New Role in Africa”. To order, please consult the following link:

http://www.rienner.com/title/China_s_New_Role_in_Africa

Ian Taylor is a Professor of International Relations at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He is also Professor Extraordinary in Political Science at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa and Visiting Lecturer to the Faculty of Development Studies at Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda.
Business Briefs

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

Environmental guidelines for firms investing abroad China is drafting environmental guidelines for companies investing in or providing economic aid to overseas countries. The work is being undertaken by the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning (CAEP), in cooperation with the Global Environmental Institute (GEI) and the University of International Business and Economics. In April, several companies, including China Mobile, Haier Group, and China International Marine Containers, joined "Caring for Climate", a voluntary UN initiative to combat global climate change. Liu Meng, director of UN Global Compact China Office said that these companies’ participation suggests that China's business sector is catching up with its international counterparts on climate issues.

China up 7 spots on ease of doing business ranking Reforms helped China rise to 83 from 90 in the "Doing Business 2009" ranking by the World Bank. The country's reforms made it easier to access credit, pay taxes and enforce contracts, said the report, the sixth in the annual series released by the WB and its private sector arm - the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The rankings were based on 10 indicators of business regulation that tracked the time and cost to meet government requirements in business start-up, operation, trade, taxation and closure.

China may cut its dollar holdings China, which holds a fifth of its currency reserves in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac debt, may cut the portion held in US dollars, according to China International Capital Corp (CICC), one of the nation's biggest investment banks. The US government this week seized control of the two mortgage-finance companies, which account for almost half of the home-loan market in the world's biggest economy, to prevent defaults from crippling them. According to CICC Chief Economist Ha Jiming, China holds up to US$ 400 billion in the two firms' debt and held US$ 447.5 billion in US agency bonds as of June 2008. China is likely to reduce the portion of reserves in dollar assets from the current 60 % by purchasing more non-dollar assets with new reserves, he said.

China Industrial Output Growth Is Slowest in 6 Years China's industrial production grew at the slowest pace in six years on weaker export demand and factory shutdowns for the Olympics, increasing the likelihood the government will stimulate the economy. Today's figure adds to weaker inflation and trade in signalling that the expansion of the world's fourth-biggest economy may keep slowing, as growth falters in the U.S., Europe and Japan. China's policy makers have already loosened loan quotas, restrictions on how much banks can lend and raised export-tax rebates for garments and textiles. According to domestic economists and news media reports, officials are working on a plan for as much as 400 billion Yuan (US$ 58 billion) of spending and tax cuts.
**Chinese firms try to block Coke's juice company takeover**
A group of Chinese drinks makers are to submit plans to the government they hope will block Coca-Cola's takeover of China Huiyuan Juice Group. The consortium's proposals include breaking up Huiyuan and selling it to different Chinese firms or purchasing it with a yuan-denominated fund set up by domestic companies. Another proposal would see the government giving the green light to the merger but retain the name and then sell it on to Chinese companies.

**China Creates Antitrust Commission**
China's government launched a high-level commission to oversee enforcement of its new antitrust legislation. The formation of the commission was provided for by the new Antimonopoly Law, which took effect on the 1st of August 2008. Its main job is to coordinate the work of the three agencies responsible for carrying out antitrust policy and it is already facing a test from Coca-Cola's bid to buy China Huiyan Juice Group Ltd for US$ 2.4 billion. The commission's reaction to the recent bid is being closely monitored abroad, as foreign companies are watching to see whether China will permit a major foreign takeover, when Chinese companies are themselves increasingly active in acquiring businesses in other countries.

**China sees slowdown in investment growth for textile industry**
China saw a slowdown in investment growth for the textile industry over the first seven months of this year, due partly to export slowdown and enthusiasm dampened by low profitability among manufacturers, according to sources in China National Textile and Apparel Council. Analysts with the leading textile information provider Web Textiles, Chinese textile manufacturers take only 10 % of the profit, while the remaining 90 % is shared by brand owners, wholesalers, distributors and retailers.

**China's defence spending growing, but USA still top**
China is among the world's fastest-growing military spenders and will become an even bigger player in coming years, according to analysts from Jane's Information Group. But no country is poised to challenge the United States as the world's biggest defence market. The U.S. defence budget of almost US$ 700 billion a year is almost nine times that of the next-biggest spender, Britain. A report compiled last month for Jane's Industry Quarterly said China currently ranks fourth in the world in defence spending, with a budget of US$ 58 billion in 2008. This figure is estimated to rise to US$ 360 billion by 2020, if current growth continues.

**China to make foreign firms reveal secret info**
The Chinese government plans to introduce a new system requiring foreign firms to disclose secret information about digital household appliances and other products starting from May 2009. The envisaged system is likely to target products such as IC cards, digital copiers and possibly flat-panel TVs. Critics worry that such a system risks seeing the intellectual property of foreign firms passed onto their Chinese competitors.

**China earthquake fund US$ 180 billion short**
China's Sichuan province has about a quarter of the money it needs to rebuild after a devastating earthquake in May that left 90,000 people dead or missing and destroyed much of its infrastructure. Only US$ 3.9 billion of US$ 8.7 billion in domestic and foreign donations have so far reached quake-hit areas. According to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, 4.5 million
homes, 31,700 miles of highways and 3,400 miles of railways must be rebuilt to return the province to how it was before the earthquake.

**China Life enters Top 10 in property business**

China Life P&C Insurance Company, Ltd. raked in 3.36 billion Yuan of premiums in the first eight months of 2008, entering the top 10 ranking for four consecutive months. The result unveils enormous growth potential for the one-year-old company. China Life Group and its listing unit China Life Insurance Co. Ltd. have invested an additional 3 billion Yuan in the property sector thereby increasing the registered capital of the property insurance unit to 4 billion Yuan.

**China's Gold Industry Report**

China overtook South Africa to become the world's largest gold producer in 2007, but a large part of the country is still unexplored, says "China Gold Report 2008". As per the report, China has a strong position in the gold industry in terms of consumption too. Gold demand in the country (Greater China) grew by around 24% in 2007, surpassing the US to become the world's second largest market for gold jewellery.

**List of nations banning Chinese milk products grows**

More than a dozen governments in Asia, Africa and Europe have either banned or recalled Chinese dairy products since the scandal broke. At least 53,000 children have been sickened from ingesting milk tainted with melamine. Four children have died, while nearly 13,000 others remain hospitalized. A spokesman for the World Health Organization said that there have been no reports outside China and Hong Kong of infants getting sick from Chinese milk products.

**Chinese banks limit interest-rate swaps with overseas companies**

Chinese banks said they've cut approvals for traders to enter into interest-rate swap agreements with international finance companies to avoid losses as credit markets collapse. Citibank (China) Co. and JP Morgan Chase (China) Co. are the only two U.S. banks licensed for interest-rate swap transactions in China, according to a list of 62 financial companies posted by the National Interbank Funding Center.

**Three Chinese banks report US$ 297 million Lehman debt**

As the U.S. financial crisis unravels; China’s three top commercial banks have reported their levels of exposure through bonds issued by investment bank Lehman Brothers. The fourth largest investment bank in the United States, Lehman Brothers, filed for bankruptcy when efforts to find a buyer failed.

**China likely to realize all anti poverty goals by 2015**

China’s Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei said that China has met the goals of halving poverty and achieving universal primary education ahead of schedule and that the country is likely to realize all Millenium Development Goals by 2015.

**Chavez Signs Energy Deals with China**

Currently on a business trip in China, Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez has signed numerous deals on energy co-operation with China. Included is a three-fold rise in oil exports from Venezuela to China. The move with China is part of Chavez's efforts to break his country’s dependence on the United States.

*Sourced from: Xinhua, China Daily, Reuters, Financial Times, Bloomberg, Wall-Street Journal, AFP, Mail and Guardian.*
China and Africa

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

China’s ZTE to build mobile phone plant in Ethiopia
Two Ethiopian companies will work with Chinese telecoms gear maker ZTE Corp to build the African nation's first mobile phone assembly plant. The US$ 5.2 million facility in the northern town of Bhar Dar will be able to produce more than 3,000 handsets a day once it is up and running in 18 months time, Janora Technology, one of the two Ethiopian firms, said in a statement. The other local company is the Organisation for the Rehabilitation and Development of Amhara Region (TIRET).

Pacts signed with 3 nations
China signed agreements on economic and technological cooperation with Niger, Guinea Bissau and Bangladesh on Tuesday 16th of September, as the final diplomatic gathering of the summer coincided with the end of the Beijing Paralympics. President Hu Jintao met with the president of Guinea-Bissau Tuesday afternoon, while Premier Wen Jiabao held separate talks with his counterparts from Niger and Bangladesh in the morning. Each meeting was followed by a signing ceremony.

Nigerian House Committee to Probe US$ 35 Billion Railway Contract
The House of Representatives yesterday mandated its Committee on Land Transport to investigate the award and execution of contracts for the modernisation of the railway system, during the former President Olusegun Obasanjo’s administration. The committee’s assignment followed the award of a US$ 35 billion contract to a Chinese firm, China Engineering Construction Company (CCECC), to improve the rail system of transportation in the country without commensurate results.

Angola: China’s CITIC invests in construction of Luanda satellite city
The China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC) has started construction of a real estate project worth US$ 3.535 billion. The project aims to transform a rural area on the outskirts of the Angolan capital of Luanda into a satellite city, the company’s chief executive told Chinese news agency Xinhua. When the project is finished in 2011, Chang said, the new city would have 710 buildings with over 20,000 apartments, 246 shops, 24 childcare facilities, 17 primary and secondary schools, as well as power plants, water treatment and supply plants and other facilities.

Ghanaian government and local partners to raise funds for western railway line
The Ghanaian government is forming a partnership with the Ghana Manganese Company and the Ghana Bauxite Company, in order to raise US$ 100 million dollars to begin rehabilitation works on the Western Railway line. The Chinese First Survey Design Institute was tasked to conduct the feasibility study in July last year with funding from the Chinese government. Professor Ameyaw-Akumfi said a Ghanaian team was in China to review the draft and the government would negotiate with the Chinese government for support, once the report was finalised. China had expressed willingness to assist Ghana with this project in 2004.
Nigeria: Zamfara to Build a 19 Billion Naira Power Plant
The Zamfara State Government is to build a hydro power plant that would generate 100 megawatts of electricity at the cost of N 19.2 billion, Governor Mamuda Aliyu Shinkafi has said. The contract was awarded to the China Geo-Engineering and is to be completed within two and a half years. It will be financed by the China Import-Export Bank with a guarantee from Sofitel Capital Corporation of the United States and Intercontinental Bank.

Angola: Chinese company to build bridge linking Cabinda to the rest of Angola
The study for drawing up the construction project for the bridge linking the province of Cabinda to the rest of Angola is due for completion this month. The bridge will stretch 20 kilometres over the Zaire River and over land in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The project, which is expected to cost US$ 2.55 billion, is scheduled for conclusion in October 2008.

Sasol, China’s Shenhua to study 80,000 bpd plant
South Africa’s Sasol and China’s Shenhua plan a feasibility study for 80,000 barrels per day coal-to-liquids plant and have backing from the governor of the Chinese region where it would be built. China has ordered the suspension of all but two coal-to-oil projects as it strives to curb excess investment in the sector and ease tight coal supply. One of the two exceptions is the project involving Sasol and Shenhua Ningxia Coal Group.

Zambia gets US$ 39 million equipment from China
China has handed to Zambia, 207 items of earth-moving equipment worth US$ 39 million that will be used to improve the road sector in Zambia. The loan is part of the US$ 5 billion project the Chinese government pledged to Zambia at the last China-Africa summit in November 2006. Among the equipment were motor graders, wheel loaders, tipper trucks, rollers, load birds, excavators and bulldozers, which would be distributed to all of Zambia’s nine provinces.

Ghana: Bui Dam Deal Sealed
China has committed itself to providing US$ 1 billion in loans and grants towards seven agreements covering education, health and the construction of the Bui dam in Ghana. In addition there will be more areas of technical cooperation, which will be decided later by the two countries. Five of the agreements were signed between the Ghanaian government and the Chinese government and the remaining two were signed between Exim Bank of China and the Ghanain government.

China Africa Development Fund grants US$ 90 million investment in Africa
The China-Africa Development Fund (CAD Fund) has funded six investment projects involving more than US$ 90 million since it was established in June last year, said a CAD Fund executive on Monday. The fund focuses on investments in agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, natural resource exploration and industrial parks in African countries, in order to enhance local sustained development. The fund started operation on June 26, 2007, with the first-stage capital of US$ 1 billion contributed by China Development Bank. The fund has so far established strategic relations with more than 10 major enterprises in China with a view to fully promoting business cooperation with African countries.

Chinese artists to tour South Africa
The Chinese Chongqing Artistic Troupe is expected to tour South Africa as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Africa and China. The Chongqing Artistic Troupe, which comes from the city of Chongqing in China, is comprised of a combination of acrobatic, folk traditional and opera
performers. As part of the cultural exchange programme between the two countries, Minister of Arts and Culture, Pallo Jordan invited the dance company to celebrate the theme of "Our Dance, Our Heritage" during Heritage Month.

Guinea Bissau's New Administrative Building built with Chinese aid Guinea Bissau's new government administration building is the next building to be erected in the capital with development cooperation from China. The complex will be built in Bra, near the outskirts of Bissau, under the scope of an agreement between the two governments, signed on 20th February; the building is made up of three two-storey areas which will house 13 government departments. Chinese support in the construction of the new facilities is part of the objective of improving the functioning of Guinea's public institutions, a country that has one of the lowest human development index (HDI) rankings in the world.

Chinese firm to build Rakai free trade zone Paradise International Investment Ltd (China) is to invest US$ 1.5 billion in Lake Victoria Free Trade Zone to be known as Ssesamirembe Eco-City in Rakai district. Companies operating in this zone will be exempt from paying income custom, corporate income and value added taxes. Key projects include International Airport, Airport City, Lake Port City and Barges/Container Ships, Lake Victoria Casino Hotels, International China-Africa Friendship University and an international finance centre.

Malawi and China sign design contracts Malawi and the People's Republic of China have signed design contracts for the Karonga-Chitipa road in northern Malawi and the new parliament building situated in the capital city. These projects had been abandoned by a Taiwanese contractor following the cutting of ties between Lilongwe and Taipei in December 2007. The two projects will cost the Chinese Government over US$ 100 million over a period of two years.

Nigeria Reps Task China on Exports to Country The House of Representatives has called on the Chinese government to ensure standardisation of the quality of the products brought into Nigeria and called for an effective strategy to ensure balance of trade between the two countries. Speaker of the House Dimeji Bankole, who made the request yesterday, while receiving the delegation of the foreign affairs committee of the Chinese parliament, said the nation is worried about the flurry of substandard products from China.

First Confucius Institute in Nigeria officially unveiled On March 7, the first Confucius Institute in Nigeria was officially inaugurated at Nnamdi Azikiwe University in the southern state of Anambra. Jian Weiming, Cultural diplomatic officer from the Chinese Embassy in Nigeria, attended the opening ceremony. He stated that language was a bridge for cultural exchange, and that Nigeria's Confucius Institute would become a window for better understanding China. Currently, the Confucius Institute in Nnamdi Azikiwe University has approximately 100 students, and the school has opened both certificate courses and two-year Chinese teaching courses.

Resources to push 2008 Sino-Africa trade past US$ 100 billion Bilateral trade between China and Africa will exceed US$ 100 billion in 2008, two years earlier than expected thanks to burgeoning shipments of natural resources to China. Nineteen African countries recorded more than US$ 500 million in trade with China in the first half of the year, an increase of five countries compared to the same period last year. Despite its increasing
importance to Africa, Sino-African trade only accounted for 4.3% of China's first-half foreign trade.

The first Chinese school in Egypt  The Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Fayza Abul-Naga and Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Fu Ziying signed a protocol to establish the first Chinese school in Egypt. The school, which is built by a Chinese grant worth US$ 3.75 million, is the first Chinese school in the Middle East and the African continent, and is to teach the Chinese language and history.

China, West Africa initiate trade forum for stronger economic ties  Nearly 500 business leaders of China and West African countries on Tuesday gathered in Beijing to seek ways to further their economic cooperation. China and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) opened their first-ever economic and trade forum in September. The forum focused on investments in infrastructure, exploitation of natural resources, agriculture, banking and other services.

Nigeria Kano Based Network Provider and Chinese Firm in US$ 102 Million Deal  A Kano based network service provider Megatech Engineering Limited and a Chinese company ZTE yesterday signed a network service contract worth US$ 102 million. The contract, which is aimed at providing CDMA services to Megatech Company, is expected to be completed by January 2009. The Chairman of Megatech Engineering limited Dr. Aliyu Abubakar said that two banks, Sky bank and First Inland Bank had already indicated their interest in the contract.

Chinese company rebuilds Angolan railway line between Lobito and Luau  China Ferrovia announced a US$ 1.8 billion investment project that would reconstruct a portion of the Benguela railroad that has been out of service for over twenty years. The project is due to start this year and would involve 3,000 Angolan workers and 1,500 Chinese workers. Reconstruction of the railroad is expected to drive development in the central and eastern regions of the country, as well as strengthen regional integration, as the railroad passes through three countries Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mozambique’s Frelimo and CCP Agree to Joint Cadre Training  Mozambique’s ruling Frelimo Party and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have agreed to cooperate in cadre training and exchanges of experience. The Memorandum of Agreement is valid for four years and states that the two are to exchange experiences and bring closer cooperation in terms of cadre training. Every two years, a Frelimo delegation is to visit China and a CCP Chinese will visit Mozambique.

Chinese firm to spend US$ 400 million on Zambian power project  Sino Hydro of China will spend US$ 400 million to expand the Kariba North Bank power station. Under the deal, 85% of the money will be provided by Exim Bank of China. Sino Hydro chairman Huang Boadong said on state-run ZNBC radio that the expansion of the Kariba North Bank power station would comprise installation of two generators with a total capacity of 360 megawatts of power. Huang said the project which was initially expected to last four years could be concluded six months ahead of schedule.

Sourced from: Business Times, Xinhua, All Africa, China Daily, Macquhub, Southern Times, Reuters, China Daily, Bua News, Xinhua, AFP, Reuters, Xinhua, Angop
The China Forum - Recent Events


The China Quarterly and the China Institute at the University of Alberta Special Issue Workshop- 25th-27th September 2008


UNCTAD World Investment Report 2008

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently released its World Investment Report 2008 titled “Transnational Corporations and the Infrastructure Challenge”. Hayley Herman, Research Manager at the Centre for Chinese Studies, and Johanna Jansson, Senior Analyst at the Centre for Chinese Studies, contributed towards the 2008 publication. The Report is available from the following link:

Annual Meeting of the New Champions, World Economic Forum - 27th - 28th September

Dr. Martyn Davies, Executive Director at the Centre for Chinese Studies, attended the 2008 Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Tianjin, China from 27th – 28th September 2008. This World Economic Forum event provides a platform for global leaders to meet with peers to define an agenda of growth, using fresh ideas, innovative business models and new technologies.