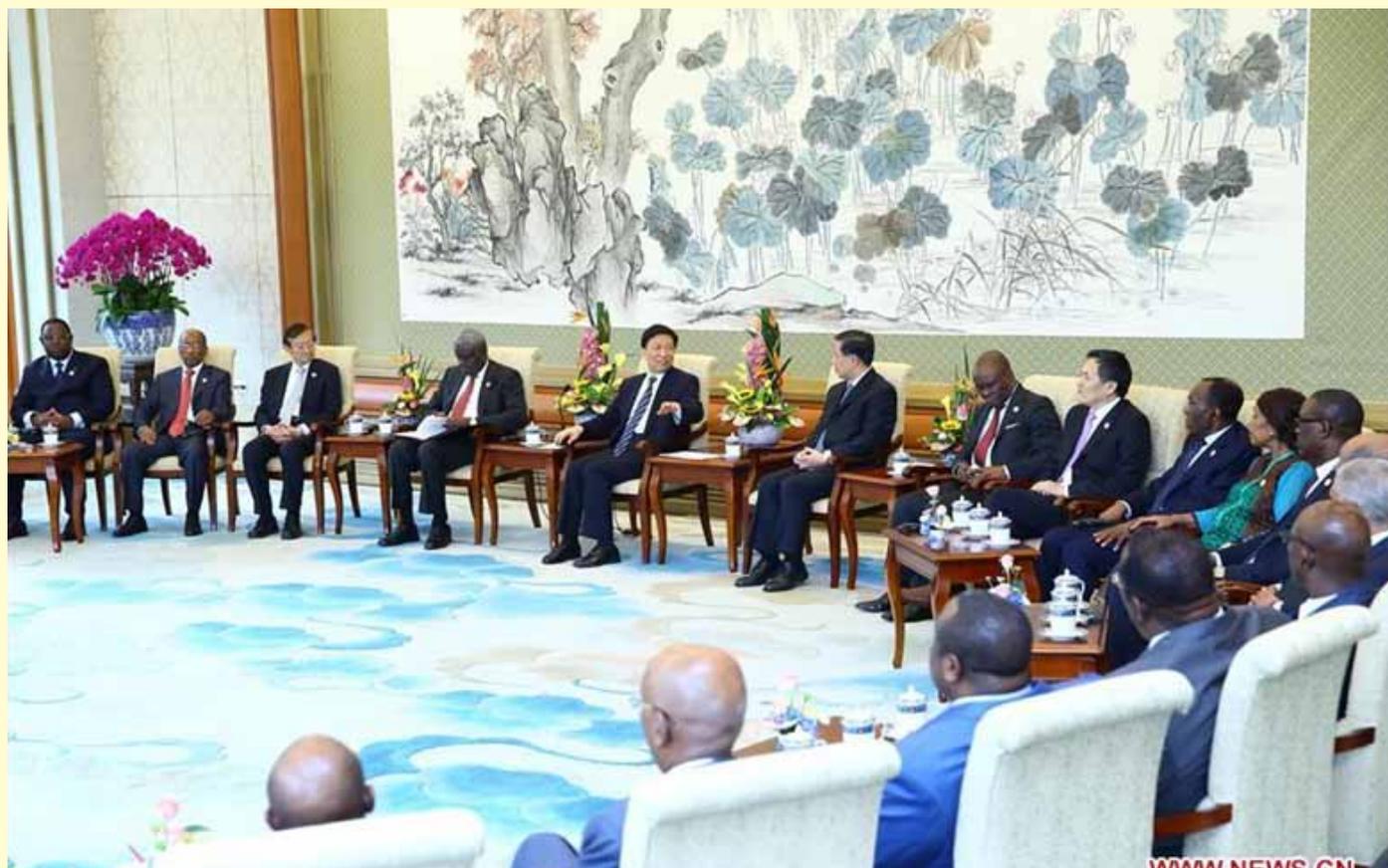


Chinese leader calls for solid steps to implement FOCAC Summit outcomes *See Pg 2*



Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao (5th L back) meets with heads of delegations from Africa attending a Sino-African coordinators' meeting on the implementation of actions resulting from the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Johannesburg of South Africa in Beijing, capital of China.

Nigeria flags off commercial operation on China-assisted rail project

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How Africa can Use the BRICS Bank to Bridge \$100 Billion Infrastructure Gap

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Chinese leader calls for solid steps to implement FOCAC Summit outcomes

Chinese President, Xi Jinping has sent a congratulatory letter to the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

December's Johannesburg Summit marked the beginning of a new era of win-win cooperation and common development between China and Africa, and was a milestone in the history of China-Africa relations, Xi said in the letter.

Over the past six months, China and Africa have worked together to overcome the negative impact of the sluggish world economy, reached consensus on how to implement the outcomes of the summit and achieved tangible results, showing the dynamic development of China-Africa cooperation, Xi said.

The coordinators' meeting in Beijing is an important step by China and Africa to implement the consensus of Chinese and African leaders and the outcomes of the FOCAC Summit, Xi said.

The meeting demonstrates to the world, once again, that no matter how the international landscape may change, China and Africa are committed to pursuing unity and cooperation, and that China's support for African peace and development will never change, Xi said.

The current weak performance of the world economy brings opportunities and challenges for the economic development of China and Africa, Xi said, adding that China and Africa must "stand shoulder to shoulder and march forward hand in hand."

Citing a Chinese saying, "the unity of two brothers gives them the strength to cut through metal," Xi expressed his hope that at the meeting the two sides will exchange views, compare notes,

build consensus and promote cooperation.

By pooling wisdom and strength and advancing their friendship and cooperation, China and Africa will make sure that the results of the summit will benefit their 2.4 billion people, Xi said.

Xi noted that China values relations with Africa and will continue to act on the principles of sincerity, practical results, affinity and good faith. China will uphold the values of friendship, justice and shared interests, take solid steps to implement the outcomes of the FOCAC Summit, and enrich and foster the China-Africa comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership.

State Councilor Yang Jiechi made a keynote speech at Friday's opening ceremony of the meeting.

Stressing that both sides want the Johannesburg Summit's outcomes to be implemented as soon as possible, Yang said China was delighted to see that over 30 African countries have established internal coordination mechanisms and designated ministerial-level coordinators to implement the outcomes.

China and Africa signed a number of cooperation agreements Thursday.

"Combined with those signed since last December, there have been 243 agreements worth 50.725 billion U.S. dollars, including 46 billion dollars of Chinese direct investment in and commercial loans to Africa, accounting for 91 percent of the total value of the agreements," Yang added.

In his speech, Yang said China and Africa must strengthen security cooperation.

"China will help African countries and the African Union build capacity for peacekeeping, maintaining stability and countering terrorism, and support African countries in enhancing law-

enforcement capacity from border control, army and police to customs and taxation," he said.

Yang also called for more cooperation in international affairs, including UN reform, climate change, food security, poverty reduction, development and other global issues.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi delivered a work report at the plenary session of the coordinators' meeting the same day.

Wang thanked all African countries for their open endorsement of China's position on the South China Sea issue, saying China "deeply appreciates such valuable political support."

Regarding the mutually beneficial cooperation, Wang said China is now deeply involved in Africa's industrialization and agricultural modernization with a focus on financing and investment cooperation.

The China-Africa Fund for Production Capacity Cooperation runs with an initial contribution of 10 billion dollars and the Special Loan for the Development of African SMEs has been bolstered with 5 billion dollars of additional funding, according to Wang.

"China also encourages provincial governments, including Guangdong and Jiangsu, to visit South Africa, Ethiopia and other key countries to explore investment opportunities for production capacity cooperation," said Wang.

Wang listed projects including the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway, Africa's first electrified railway and the Mombasa-Nairobi standard gauge railway as those are either operational soon or expected to be turned over next year.

In his report, Wang also highlighted people-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and Africa.

Nigeria flags off commercial operation on China-assisted rail project

Nigeria marked a symbolic progress of railway service last month, when its first completed standard gauge railway modernization project assisted by China, was open for commercial operation.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari flagged off the commercial operation of the rail service, linking the capital city Abuja and the northwestern state of Kaduna, following the smooth completion of the railway construction by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC).

The completed project is part of the railway modernization initiative by the West African country which aims at replacing the existing narrow gauge system with the wider standard gauge system, while allowing high-speed train operations on the railway network.

With nine stations and a design speed of 150 km per hour, the Abuja-Kaduna rail line covers a distance of 186.5 km.

Buhari said the train service will provide the much-needed alternative transport link between the nation's capital city and Kaduna State, a corridor of growing labor force which has a huge potential for industries and agricultural activities.

"We are on the threshold of presenting to Nigerians a standard gauge railway train service that will be safe, fast and reliable," the Nigerian leader said.

Transport Minister Rotimi Amaechi said



Chinese President Xi Jinping's wife Peng Liyuan, who is also the World Health Organization goodwill ambassador for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, attends the opening ceremony for "Love in the Sunshine"-- the 2016 China-Africa Children Summer Camp, at the Palace Museum in Beijing, capital of China.

the project, partly funded by the Export-Import Bank of China, is a significant milestone in the history of Nigeria.

According to him, the completion of this project and the commencement of its commercial operation is a turnaround in the country's

transport sector, particularly as it contributes to the development of the economy.

In an interview earlier with reporters, Yuan Li, the chairman of CCECC, said the completed rail line would ease the traffic congestion between Abuja and Kaduna.

China-built power grid shines hearts of grassroots in Egypt



Workers from China Electric Power Equipment and Technology Co. Ltd (CET) prepare a drone for stringing the wire between power grid towers across the Nile River at Beni Suef Governorate, Egypt, June 30, 2016. Along the Nile River, the Egypt EETC 500kV Transmission Lines Project (EETC Project), a cooperative one between China Electric Power Equipment and Technology Co. Ltd (CET) and Egypt is under construction. The over-650-million-dollar EETC Project, which covers almost the whole area of the Nile River delta, is the largest transmission lines project in Egypt's history

Besides the Nile River, a Chinese worker was working on a power grid tower at the height of over 100 meters. Instead of the breathtaking landscape, he had to focus on those high-voltage power lines and the swaying spot he was sitting on.

Along the river, the Egypt EETC 500kV Transmission Lines Project (EETC Project), a cooperative one between China Electric Power Equipment and Technology Co. Ltd (CET) and Egypt is under construction.

Echoing China's "Belt and Road" Initiative, which is to promote strategic cooperation with overseas markets in all fields, Chinese companies nowadays are searching for more opportunities in Egypt and helping to improve people's life there by investing in fields like energy, infrastructure, high-tech sector, etc.

"Thanks to the upgraded relations between China and Egypt and supports from both countries, it only took us several months to communicate the details of the project and then we signed the contract," Liu Guanghui, CET Middle East Chief Representative told Xinhua.

"As a subsidiary of State Grid Corporation of China, CET owns China's most advantageous technologies and most experienced workers in this field," he said, adding that "this is the first

time for CET to operate a project concerning people's livelihood in this most populous country in the region and we have attached our greatest importance on it."

Liu told Xinhua that the over-650-million-dollar EETC Project, which covers almost the whole area of the Nile River delta, is the largest transmission lines project in Egypt's history.

Considering Egypt's urgent demands on power, the project will play a key role to improve the country's power system and boost economic development after it is completed 18 months later.

"I came here with over 500 Chinese colleagues in January," Bai Lu, a 29-year-old Chinese worker, who manages the fieldwork team, told Xinhua.

"The width of the river beside us is about 600 meters, we firstly built the towers and then our staffs climbed on them to string the lines," he said so to introduce the crossing river towers.

"In the heat of summer, Chinese staffers have to spend two hours to climb over 100 meters to the top of the tower every time they need to work on the lines," the young worker added.

Bai Lu also told Xinhua that his team is cooperating with Egyptian workers on the project. For most parts of the project, Egyptians help with the basic construction and the Chinese staffers focus on the project design, tower work and the

most dangerous and high-tech parts of the grid construction.

"We have successfully made some technological breakthroughs in this area of river banks and large deserts. After finishing the news towers and the transmission lines, we will also help upgrade some parts of the old grid," another young worker with a safety hat named Li Yongli said.

Sitting under the tower, Li and others were enjoying their most precious relaxing time at noon.

Normally, the land surface temperature can be as high as over 50 degree Celsius, making aerial work really tough and risky.

Most of the Chinese workers would like to call their family far away or chat with each other beside the beautiful views during the hottest hours of a day.

"The tower is 175 meters high and 400 tons weight. To finish the project on schedule, every day we start to work from 3 a.m. till sunset, with three hours off at noon," Li told Xinhua.

"With better transmission efficiency and larger coverage, the new project, with other power stations also under construction, will for sure improve the power supply in Egypt," the Chinese young man said with a pride smile.

"Every tower is related to the life of all of the family here, I'm glad that we can make some change to the life of people," he added.

Egypt Keen to Revive Tourism By Luring More Chinese

Egypt has seen promising growth in the number of Chinese tourists this year, yet the country is exerting more efforts to increase the number in the near future, Egyptian Tourism Minister Yehia Rashed has said.

The number of Chinese visitors to Egypt increased from 65,000 to 135,000 in 2015, and the tourism ministry has been targeting to greatly multiply the number in 2016 amid recession in Western tourists, given the distinguished ties and the growing partnership between the most populous Arab country and the most populous country in the world.

"The growth is promising. However, we're still far away from the targets we want to achieve. We certainly appreciate and value the Chinese tourists coming to Egypt. I think we don't have enough share out of that market," the minister said, stressing that his ministry is working on all of the strategies to attract more Chinese tourists.

Rashed explained that his ministry is currently working on all relevant mechanisms, including airline shares, development of the marketing and the advertising strategies and others "to increase the volume that we generate from the Chinese market."

Egypt has been suffering a sharp decline in the tourism sector over the past few years due to political turmoil. The situation further deteriorated due to the Russian plane crash in Sinai that killed over 200 in October last year, an Italian student's death from torture in Cairo in early February and a tragic fall of an EgyptAir flight in May that killed all 66 people on board.

Tourism is one of the main sources of national income and foreign currency reserves in Egypt, with about 4 million Egyptians working in the industry.

In 2010, it brought the country about 13 billion U.S. dollars as over 14.7 million tourists visited Egypt. The number of visitors kept falling until it reached 9.3 million in 2015 with 6.1 billion dollars in revenues.

The Egyptian tourism minister argued that the attack on tourism is not restricted to Egypt, citing some recent terror and violent acts in Munich, Nice, the United States and others, stressing his country's massive efforts to fight against terrorism in and outside its territories. "We need global cooperation to make the world much safer," he said.

Many Russian and Western tourists listened to the travel advisories of their governments to avoid Egypt for safety reasons, yet Egypt is noticeably achieving more security and stability as testified by most foreigners visiting the country.

"The message is that Egypt is where the history started," Rashed said, adding that he has talked to many Chinese living in Egypt, and "they all feel very comfortable and safe to live, walk in the streets and drive here, which is a testimony that Egypt is evidently safe."

Egypt launched last month the first Afro-Chinese Arts and Folklore Festival in the capital Cairo under the auspices of the tourism ministry, featuring various kinds of arts and performances from 17 countries including Egypt, China, Morocco, Algeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, South Sudan and others.

The minister said that tourism is a very cultural embedded industry, boasting that Egypt has one-third of the antiquities of the world "besides the largest beaches on the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea that are so attractive to all visitors including the Chinese."

"I certainly believe that this festival comes on time, and we really need to work together to make it more popular to bedazzle people outside Egypt and urge them to visit the country," Rashed said, describing the festival as a proof of Egypt's safety and "an additional value" to visiting the country.

Guangdong cardiovascular institute wraps up second Ghana mission



Photo taken on July 13, 2016 shows recovered cardiac patients posing for a group photo with Chinese surgeon Huang Jinsong (2nd L) at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) in Kumasi, Ghana. Cardio experts from the Guangdong Academy of Medical Science's Cardio Institute have wrapped up their second medical mission to Ghana to offer treatment to patients with severe conditions. The team, with support from local counterparts, performed successful surgeries on four patients and implanted pacemakers on five others at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) in Kumasi.

Cardio experts from the Guangdong Academy of Medical Science's Cardio Institute have wrapped up their second medical mission to Ghana to offer treatment to patients with severe conditions.

The team, with support from local counterparts, performed successful surgeries on four patients and implanted pacemakers on five others at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) in Kumasi, Ghana's second biggest city.

The 15-member team carried out successful surgeries for ten cardiac patients at KATH during its first visit to Africa in December, last year.

The Chief Executive Officer of KATH, Dr. Joseph Akpaloo, thanked the Chinese team for its continued assistance to the hospital which, he said, aimed to have a longstanding relationship with the Chinese side.

"So, we thank the Chinese government for allowing them to come and for helping them to do everything and we hope that the collaboration will continue from time to time," he told Xinhua in a recent interview.

"You can see that there are complicated cases which they have never seen at their

place because late reporting to hospital has led to complications. But thank God there hasn't been any deaths so far though before operation they thought things would be difficult," he said.

The Guangdong Cardiovascular Institute is to set up a cardio risk research centre at the KATH which is the nation's second referral facility to support the treatment of heart diseases.

The research will help to identify risk factors of heart or blood vessel diseases in communities and provide timely support and treatment systems, according to Dr Isaac Kofi Owusu, a consultant Cardiologist at the hospital.

He said the centre would help identify the actual causes, risk factors and come out with appropriate strategies to address some of them.

The Chinese team also donated medical consumables, cardio medication and equipment valued at 200,000 U.S. dollars to the Cardio Unit of KATH.

The Chinese side has pledged to bring advanced technical know-how to Ghana and help train more local staff to carry out surgeries.

Plateau state Signs Six MoU's with China

The Plateau State Government has signed six agreements with China's National One Belt One Road Fund Management Co., Ltd.

This followed President Muhammadu Buhari and Governor Simon Bako Lalong's visit to China earlier this year.

The first agreement is on cooperation between the Plateau State and the company while others are on Tourism, Education, Water Resources and Energy, Agriculture and Urban development.

Nigeria's ambassador to China, Olusola Onadipe, witnessed the signing of the agreements.

The Chairman, Plateau Investment and Property Development Company (PIPC), Ezekiel Gomos said the State government was targeting 7,500 housing units in the area of urban development with a proposed housing unit of 4,500 in the northern senatorial zone and 1,500 in each of the central and southern zones of the state

China calls for respect for Burundi's sovereignty on sending UN police

Burundi's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity must be respected, said a Chinese envoy here on Friday, regarding plans by the United Nations to send police to the African country.

Liu Jieyi, China's permanent representative to the UN, made the appeal at a Security Council meeting, where a resolution was approved to send UN police to Burundi to monitor the country's security situation.

Among the 15 council members, 11 voted in favor. China, Angola, Egypt and Venezuela abstained.

The resolution authorized the deployment of up to 228 police to Burundi for an initial period of a year.

However, the government of Burundi has said it would only accept no more than 50 UN police officers.

Liu said the deployment of the UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions should be carried out on the basis of full consultation with the country concerned.

He said the resolution has no clear reference to UN principles, so China has to abstain.

"China urges the parties concerned to proceed with caution on the question of sending police to Burundi, consult fully with the Burundian government and reach an agreement beforehand," he added.

Burundi plunged into bloody chaos from April 2015 when the country's President Pierre Nkurunziza announced his intention to vie for the presidency for a third five-year-term.

More than 500 people in Burundi have been killed and over 500,000 people fled to neighboring countries, mostly Tanzania, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), since the chaos started.

African hairstyles dazzle in China



A Chinese woman in an elegant African hairstyle

Unlike her peers in Beijing, hairdresser Ruth Wanu Waweru from Kenya tends not to cut, dye or perm hair.

Instead, she braids her clients' locks.

Ruth has been working for a hair salon in Beijing for just over a year. Her bosses, a couple from the Democratic Republic of Congo, opened Paulma Afro Hair Care in the city's bustling Sanlitun area in 2012 and another branch in Shanghai in 2013.

They primarily cater to the African community, but are getting more and more local customers, as Chinese discover more diversified fashions. Ruth has braided the hair of women from Africa, China, and also the United States, Russia and Japan in Beijing.

At Paulma, African-style braiding is priced between 100 yuan (15 U.S. dollars) and 1,500 yuan.

"The hair texture of African people is different from Asians'. Our hair is very dry, making braiding it

a convenient choice," Ruth said, stroking her own braids.

"It is more difficult to braid hair for Chinese clients, as their hair is more smooth, thus more likely to become loose."

Braiding hair for a client can take as long as eight hours, but Ruth, with eight years of professional experience in her home country, is confident with her craft.

"If I braid African hair, I do it dry. But for Chinese hair, I wet it with some water."

"Many Chinese young people are now very into fashion stuff like African braids," said Xia Fan, who owns two hairdressing shops in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province.

Xia started to learn African braiding three years ago. He sees big market potential for such hairstyles in China.

"Just a few years ago, very few Chinese people knew about braids, but now we have dreadlocks, twist-

ing, two steps and feathers," Xia said, referring to other more esoteric hairstyles.

Ruth got her job in Beijing through a recruitment website. Her boss found her resume online and contacted her when she was still in Kenya.

She did not have to hesitate, setting out as soon as she had her working visa.

"If you find a good job in a country far away, will you accept it?" Ruth asked with a laugh. "Of course you do! It's a chance!"

Ruth's braiding skills earn her about 5,000 yuan a month, much higher than her salary in Kenya.

She has also accumulated about 150 regular patrons in China.

Leo Li, secretary-general of Tsinghua-BMGF China Africa Project, believes the popularity of African hairstyles in China is a result of more exchanges between China and Africa, combined with the influence of American pop culture.

African countries could learn from China's development practices —Experts

The Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has urged Tanzanian business firms to participate in China's 2016 Guangdong 21st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo.

Godfrey Simbeye, TPSF Executive Director, said the Chinese Expo will provide a golden chance for Tanzanian businesses to showcase and explore new business opportunities.

He said similar to the Dar es

Salaam International Trade Fair, the annual 21st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo will take place on October 27 in Dongguan city in southern China's Guangdong Province, where exhibitors will be given four days' hotel accommodation and free transport between hotel and the venue of exhibitions.

"This is a golden chance for Tanzania's small, medium and big firms to learn the best practices from other

exhibitors across the world," said Simbeye.

He said Tanzanian enterprises could also use the event to get new markets for their products as well as establish partnership contracts with other investors.

"This will enable our country to have an opportunity to exhibit business opportunities of investment, economic and trade cooperation among countries," he said.

ZTE Completes U.S.\$37 Million Telecoms Project in Ethiopia

ZTE, a Chinese telecoms giant, has completed a 37-million-dollar contract, installing a 1,234km optical ground wire, also known as OPGW lines. The contract was signed between ZTE and Ethiopian Electric Power three years ago, in May 2013.

The lines, which combine cables for grounding and communications, was stretched from the northern part of the country to Addis Abeba. It connects sub-stations, such as Meqelle, Ashegoda, Bahir Dar, Alamata and Addis Abeba.

This OPGW cable basically protects cables from lightning strikes. The project was part of a national grid infrastructure development improvement project. Back then, ZTE was awarded the contract to construct Lot One and Lot Two of the project. The transmission lines carry 132 and 230kv of electricity, which also facilitate communications.

Rwanda Government, Chinese Firm Sign Partnership Deal to Promote ICT



Josephine Nyiranzeyimana exchanging the signed MoU with her Chinese counterpart Liu Fei. / Julius Bizimungu.

The Ministry of Youth and ICT has signed a memorandum of understanding with China ComServices International, a Chinese integrated information and communication technology firm, as part of the efforts to promote the implementation of ICT projects.

“We are committed to the advancement of ICT to help improve lives of Rwandans by using and leveraging the possibilities it presents. We are, therefore, looking at the information superhighway as a backbone to enabling communication that will further promote Rwanda’s flagship project, Kigali Innovation Village,” said Josephine Nyiranzeyimana, the principal technologist

in charge of private sector development at the ICT Ministry.

Under the agreement, a community innovation hub, and a data centre with high capacity and information security in Rwanda, among other solutions and services. The deal is also part of efforts to construct an information superhighway in East Africa; a high capacity fibre optic network interconnecting regional capital cities.

Liu Fei, the firm’s chief technology officer, said development of ICT supports other sectors like manufacturing.

“We believe in ICT development, not only because it ensures informatisation and industrialisation, but also as a way to

reduce the digital divide, strengthen the national power, enhance international influence, as well as guarantee national security and drive growth,” he said.

He said the firm was impressed by Rwanda’s support for ICT innovation. “We wish to be part of this story that inspiring great innovations. Last year, China announced the China-Africa partnership on information superhighway programme. There is the Smart Africa programme spearheaded by Rwanda. So, we want to devote efforts to these projects.” China Comservice, which is part of China Telecom Corporation, is one of the largest telecom infrastructure service providers.

1000 Young South Africans for Training in ICT in China

Government and Huawei have signed an agreement that will see 1000 young South Africans trained in information and communications technology (ICT) in China over the next five years.

“The cooperation on capacity building is aimed at sharing information, expertise, experience and technical assistance among the different structures operating in the field of telecommunications,” Telecommunications and Postal Services Minister Siyabonga Cwele said.

Addressing the signing ceremony on Tuesday in Johannesburg, Minister Cwele said the youth will be trained in areas including telecommunication network security and optimisation as well as telecommunication administration.

Other areas of training comprise new technology for satellite navigation, the next generation network construction, cloud computing and big data network construction.

“This is expected to help enhance the department’s strategies to implement our programmes,

including the rollout of broadband and lowering the cost to communicate,” he said.

Another programme that is expected to benefit from this cooperation is the department’s e-Strategy, which will provide the framework for how South Africa will include youth, women, people with disabilities and small and medium sized business in the ICT sector.

Minister Cwele said the ICT talent training component of the agreement is expected to help the department promote ICT literacy and awareness in the country.

He urged the youth, who will be participating in the training in China, to use the opportunity wisely.

“They must view it as a window into the future and must come back and develop ICT solutions that will answer some South African challenges,” Minister Cwele said.

Innovation centre to create ICT jobs

The Minister also launched an innovation centre that will create 40 permanent jobs in addition

to the 1 200 people already employed by Huawei in South Africa.

“This innovation centre is a R72 million customer experience centre that boasts cutting edge technologies and infrastructure such as 4.5G and 5G wireless communication technologies.

“It also brings to life the fourth industrial revolution by showcasing the Internet of Things with solutions for smart homes and safe cities,” Minister Cwele said.

The Internet of Things (IoT) is the network of physical devices, vehicles, buildings and other items embedded with electronics, software, sensors, actuators, and network connectivity that enable these objects to collect and exchange data.

Minister Cwele said the Huawei centre provides an opportunity for governments on the continent to consider standards that can be set for gadgets that can be used on future mobile networks and for entrepreneurs to spot opportunities to develop gadgets and applications that will run over these networks.

China evacuates embassy staff, citizens from conflict-hit South Sudan

Major General Su Guanghui, acting director of the Peacekeeping Affairs Office of the Chinese Defense Ministry, and his delegation who arrived Saturday morning in Juba evacuated 17 embassy staff, 12 members of the Chinese medical team and 20 people from Chinese companies.

The relieved team from the conflict-hit country aboard a special plane organized by the authorities in Beijing was received by Chinese Ambassador to Uganda Zhao Yali at Entebbe International Airport, about 40 kilometers south of the capital Kampala, on their way home.

"I felt proud, relieved and safe when I boarded the special

plane organized by the Chinese government. I thank our government for organizing and sending this plane to evacuate us," Jiang Feiyun, deputy leader of the Chinese medical team in Juba, told Xinhua in Entebbe.

The evacuation is part of the emergency measures the Chinese government is taking to protect its citizens in the recent fighting between government troops of President Salva Kiir and forces loyal to Vice President Riek Machar in Juba.

Two Chinese peacekeepers under the UN Mission in South Sudan were killed and four others injured on last Sunday evening as the fighting between government and anti-government forces continued.



Chinese people evacuating from South Sudan arrive at Entebbe International Airport in Entebbe, about 40 kilometers south of Uganda's capital Kampala, July 16, 2016. China on Saturday evacuated some of its embassy staff members and citizens trapped in the recent fightings in Juba, capital of South Sudan.

Ghanaian cardiac doctor hones skill in China, vows to save more lives

China's dream of providing quality and affordable cardiac surgery for Ghanaians and helping to house a cardiac center in the northern belt is progressing gradually.

Dr Yaw Adu-Boakye, a Physician Specialist in Cardiology at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), is among a bevy of medical practitioners who have received skills training in China and are now applying the acquired knowledge to save lives in their homeland.

Adu-Boakye, who has completed the first part of a one-year training he is undergoing at the Guangdong General Hospital's Cardiovascular Institute, is among a team from the famous institute who are currently conducting surgeries at the KATH in Kumasi, Ghana's second largest commercial city.

Sponsored training for Ghanaian medical workers in China's Guangdong Province is to enhance the capacity of the surgeons to respond to cardiac cases across the mid and northern part of the country.

For Adu-Boakye, the training he is receiving in China to become a

specialist in pacemaker and Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI), a non-surgical technique for treating obstructive coronary artery disease, would help get Ghana's cardio interventions to pull-off.

His immediate plan after his return to Ghana is to be actively involved with other experts to kick-start vibrant pacemaker programs locally, with the support of the local cardiac team at KATH.

"Currently I have the skill for the pacemaker and I am doing the PCI and I am hoping that after I have done that and return, I am going to start this in Ghana and somebody else might get an opportunity to do another area which probably I didn't do and then we can pull forces together and I am sure we will be able to get to where we want to get to," Adu-Boakye told Xinhua in an interview.

"And indeed that is why I am back here, after the six months training, I am now coming to put my skill acquisition to work here. So what I will say is that people should look at KATH as the hub of pacemaker interventions in Ghana because we

are beginning it here," said Adu-Boakye, who described his skill acquisition in China as enormous and his Chinese colleagues "very receptive and accepting."

Professor Lin Chunying, a Consultant Cardiologist and a leading member of the 12-member Chinese delegation to KATH from July 6 to 24, hopes that more Ghanaian doctors will get further training in China to enhance their service delivery.

She was sad to learn that some machines donated to KATH had to lie idle because of the absence of experts. "But now you have the skill and the machines so it is no problem for you now. So in the future the patients do not need to go to Accra to do pacemaker; they can do it in Kumasi," she told Xinhua.

Dr Huang Jinsong, a senior Consultant Cardiac Surgeon believes with the right support, Ghanaian doctors can save more lives in Ghana.

Guangdong Cardiovascular Institute is also helping to build a cardiac center at KATH and the process is advancing.

Chinese-built airport terminal inaugurated in Namibia

The new terminal building of the Walvis Bay International Airport was inaugurated by Namibian President Hage Geingob late last month.

The airport's new terminal was built by Chinese construction company New Era Investments at a cost of about 95 million Namibian dollars (8 million U.S. dollars) and will now be able to handle a sustained passenger flow of 200 passengers per hour catering for 1 million passengers per annum.

The Walvis Bay International Airport is the busiest airport at Namibia's coastline, with primary clients being from holiday travellers, mining, fishing industries.

Africa backs China's approach to South China Sea dispute

Many African countries have recently voiced their support to China over the Philippine-initiated arbitration on the South China Sea dispute, calling for parties involved to resolve disputes through friendly negotiations and consultations.

The Philippines filed a compulsory arbitration against China at The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in 2013.

China maintains that the tribunal has no jurisdiction over the case, which is in essence about territorial sovereignty and maritime delimitation. China, therefore, has made it clear it will not accept or get involved in those proceedings.

As the PCA is about to announce its decision on Tuesday, African governments and officials on different occasions called for the international community to respect efforts made by China and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region in safeguarding peace and stability.

The Kenyan Foreign Ministry said the government believed that any disputes over the South China Sea should be peacefully resolved through consultations and negotiations in accordance with bilateral agreements and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, an agreement signed by China and member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2002.

The Zimbabwean Foreign Ministry made a similar statement, saying: "This is the only way in which a resolution can be found to this problem, which affects a number of countries in the

region."

African nations believe that territorial issues are beyond the scope of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as China has excluded maritime delimitation from compulsory arbitration in a declaration in 2006 in accordance with Article 298 of UNCLOS.

The Kenyan government said it respects China's declaration of "optional exception in light of Article 298 of UNCLOS."

In an interview with Xinhua, Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Samura Kamara emphasized the need for all parties to "exercise respect for the rights of each other as sovereign states and contracting states of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea."

He urged international judicial institutions or arbitral tribunals to fully respect declarations of optional exception made by each country under Article 298 of the UNCLOS.

He affirmed that Sierra Leone is behind China in looking forward to a "mutually respectful solution among the parties that are involved in the South China Sea."

The South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation said it has noted with concern the recent trend in the global arena to politicize the situation pertaining to the South China Sea.

"South Africa supports the position that the sovereign states that are directly concerned should resolve their relevant disputes through direct consultations and negotiations, on the basis



Mr Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of the Peoples Republic of China

of respecting historical facts and in accordance with international law, as well as to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea," it said in a statement.

"South Africa believes that the international community should support all efforts aimed at safeguarding peace and stability in the South China Sea," it added.

Other African countries, including Angola, Malawi, Guinea Bissau, Tanzania, Zambia, Mauritania, Cameroon, Ethiopia, have also voiced support for China's position of dealing with the South China Sea disputes between the directly concerned parties through peaceful negotiations.

China's sovereignty, maritime rights in South China Sea part of post-WWII int'l order

China's sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea are part of the international order established after the Second World War, Chinese ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming has said.

"China's relevant claims have never exceeded the scope of the current international order; in this sense, China's rejection of the arbitration is to uphold the post-war international order," Liu said in a speech at the British think-tank Chatham House on Monday.

"It is to prevent the Convention from being politically hijacked; it is to protect the authoritativeness and the integrity of international law, including the Convention," he stressed.

Liu noted that the arbitration unilaterally initiated by the Philippines is "illegal in jurisdictional, procedural or substantive terms," and that "it

has been nothing but an illegal political farce."

The tribunal has no right of jurisdiction over issues of territorial sovereignty and maritime delimitation, its arbitral proceedings are against the rules of UNCLOS, and its ruling is "an aberration from the fundamental purposes of the Convention," Liu said.

"The obvious bias of the tribunal has solved no problem or dispute," he told his audience. "Rather, it created problems and intensified disputes. The arbitration thus has no substantive justice."

He added that the arbitration has "zero possibility" to become a "watershed" in the developments in the South China Sea, "nor will it be allowed to disturb the overall peace and stability the region now enjoys."

The arbitration ruling will by no means affect China's ter-

ritorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, the diplomat said.

The arbitration ruling will by no means affect China's commitment to peaceful solution through bilateral negotiations and consultations, he continued.

"The momentum of cooperation between China and ASEAN has not been changed by the arbitration, either," Liu said.

The ambassador called on the new Philippine government to "consider the overall interests of China-Philippine relations and the common interests of both countries" and "come back to the track of dialogue and consultations."

He stated that "we are opposed to certain countries' 'gunboat policy' under the pretext of 'protecting the freedom of navigation and overflight' and 'maintaining regional

peace'."

"We are opposed to them taking advantage of the arbitration to hype up or create tensions in the South China Sea," he said. "The South China Sea must not become an arena for some big power from outside the region to flex their muscles."

According to Liu, the South China Sea issue is left over from the history, but at the same time it concerns real interests of today, with geopolitics involved.

"Resolving this issue will take time, patience and the mutual understanding and respect between countries concerned."

"For a solution to be fundamental and enduring, it has to be peaceful, it has to go through equal-footed consultation and negotiation between countries directly concerned, it has to be based on respecting historical facts and international law," concluded the envoy.

... As Kerry says U.S. does not take position on competing sovereignty claims to land features of South China Sea

The U.S. does not take a position on the competing sovereignty claims to the land features of South China Sea, said U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday.

Kerry and the Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay held a joint press conference at the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs.

Tanzania, China Cooperation Hailed

Tanzania is among the three pilot countries set for China-Africa industrial capacity cooperation following the framework agreement on industrial capacity cooperation that was initiated in April, 2015.

According to the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Lu Youqing, relevant stakeholders from China and Tanzania have met several times and achieved general consensus. "The two sides have upgraded the coordination mechanism and identified a group of priority projects.

Regular meetings have been held between the two sides to implement the outcome of the Johannesburg Summit of China-Africa Cooperation Forum," said Dr Youqing.

The Chinese ambassador was speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the international seminar on China-Africa industrial capacity cooperation. According to him, at present, major cooperation projects between China and Tanzania had made encouraging progress, including the projects of Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) Revitalization, Kinyerezi III Natural Gas Power Plant and Dar es Salaam to Arusha Power Transmission Line.

Others are projects invested by private companies from China, such as oil-pressing mill, ceramics factory, cement plant, steel rolling mill and cassava processing plant.

On the occasion of rapid development of the China-Africa and China-Tanzania Industrial Capacity Cooperation, the Chinese ambassador said the seminar would bear fruits on the China-Africa Industrial Capacity Cooperation.

"The seminar reveals valuable academic meaning and urgent practical significance with the experts and scholars from Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa and China joining each other to pool wisdom and discuss on development," he said.

In her remarks, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, East Africa and Regional Cooperation, Dr Susan Kolimba, expressed her appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its continued commitment in providing assistance and partnership in various areas of development.

"Tanzania reiterates its commitment to partnering with China, particularly under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) framework. China's decision to choose Tanzania as one of the model countries for industrial transfer and cooperation in Africa is a testimony of our all weather friendship.



Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce, Mr Qian Keming; Minister of Budget and National Planning, Sen. Udoma Udo Udoma; Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Zainab Ahmad; Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, and Minister of Agriculture, Chief Audu Ogbeh, at the 6th Session of China and Nigeria Trade And Technical Cooperation Joint Commission in Abuja,

China's Support for Nigeria's Digital Switch Excites Minister

The Nigeria Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, has welcomed China's decision to support Nigeria in its quest to actualise the transition from Analogue to Digital broadcasting.

He was responding to comments by the Vice-President of the StarTimes Group of China, Ms. Zhao Yueqin, who led a delegation of the company on a courtesy visit to his office in Abuja.

In a statement by his office last night, he said Nigeria was irrevocably committed to meeting the June 2017 Digital Switch Over deadline in order to protect broadcast signals from interference and also to unlock the creative potentials of Nigerians in technology and content development.

"The process of digitalization is unstoppable and irreversible; it's not a matter of choice. If we do not follow the world to digitalise and meet the June 2017 target, it means that our telephones, televisions and radios will not be free

from interference. As a matter of fact, planet earth today does not know

the extent of the dividends of digitalisation and how far it will go.

"Digitalisation is going to affect the way we perceive and understand broadcasting. It will act as a catalyst to unleash the creative potentials of our youths. It will also provide the

panacea to piracy. It will create so much possibility that will enable Africa leapfrog and join the next generation of technology," Mohammed said.

He said his ministry would also borrow a leaf from China, particularly in the area of national re-orientation, having realized that Chinese economic boom and development were underpinned by the discipline of its citizens, their patriotism and dedication.

"This ministry is going to start a campaign very soon to promote national rebirth and value re-orientation, because unless we change

our ways and we are able to bring back discipline, integrity and values, the change we are talking about will not take place," he said.

Mohammed, who expressed delight that the strategic partnership between Nigeria and China is waxing stronger in various sectors, said the trade volume between the two countries had jumped from \$6.9 billion in 2009 to over \$14 billion in 2015.

He, however, stressed the need to correct the trade imbalance between the two countries by encouraging Chinese investors to set up factories in labour-intensive sectors in Nigeria and also canvassed for the abolition of the five per cent tax levied on agricultural products entering China from Nigeria.

In her remarks earlier, Zhao, expressed China's willingness to assist Nigeria to realise the digital switch over.

She stated the commitment of China to ensuring that every household in Nigeria has access to digital television signals.

Tanzania-Zambia railway shows signs of improvement

The Board of Directors of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA) said the railway firm has started showing signs of improvement, a communique said.

The communique, issued after the 108th meeting of the Board of Directors, the Zambian capital, said the railway firm raised its annual performance from 87,000 tons of freight in the financial year 2014/2015 to 130,000 tons in the financial year 2015/2016, which translated into revenues of 13.50 mil-

lion U.S. dollars for the year ending June 30, 2016.

The communique further noted that there were improvements in both the inter-state and commuter passenger train operations, which were now not only running on time but also operating cost-effectively in some units.

"In this regard, while commended for the improvements so far, the management was urged not to relent but to go further and apply more efforts to eliminate all losses in all units and aim

to attain the break-even point in all operations," the communique added.

The Board has since proposed management's plans for a projected 381,000 tons of freight and 2,280,000 interstate and commuter passengers to be transported in the financial year 2016/2017.

The 1,860-kilometer railway line, built with the assistance of the Chinese government in the 1970s, runs from the Zambian town of Kapiri Mposhi to the Port of Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania.

African, Chinese companies ink 17-billion-USD deals

Companies from China and Africa signed 39 deals worth around 17 billion U.S. dollars in Beijing, last month.

The deals, involving financial institutions and enterprises, were signed on the eve of a meeting on delivering the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

More than 400 participants from government agencies, financial institutions, business associations and enterprises attended the Seminar on China-Africa Business Cooperation and Signing Ceremony in Beijing on Thursday.

The seminar was hosted by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), which is a supporting event for the Coordinators' Meeting of the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC.

During the seminar, participants exchanged views on industrial capacity cooperation, trade and investment facilitation and financial cooperation.

Chinese and African companies spanning the sectors of infrastructure, processing and manufacturing, finance, investment, energy, chemicals, agriculture, pharmaceutical and ICT, reached consensus for future cooperation.

Jiang Weixin, chairman of the CCPIT, said the development strategies of Africa and China were highly compatible, and the two sides have many advantages.

In the future, the CCPIT will work with its African counterparts to enhance communication, strengthen policy coordination, and organize more trade and investment events to boost China-Africa trade ties, said Jiang.

Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao had a group



Chinese and African representatives attend a signing ceremony during the Seminar on China-Africa Business Cooperation in Beijing, capital of China.

meeting with the African delegates.

Hailing the success of the Johannesburg summit, Li called on China and the African countries to enhance mutual trust, promote pragmatic cooperation, expand people-to-people exchanges and improve coordination on global affairs.

State Councilor Yang Jiechi held separate meetings with the foreign minister of Chad, Moussa Faki Mahamat; Sudanese Presidential Assistant Al-Jaz; and Gambian Foreign Minister Neneh MacDouall-Gaye, exchanging views on China's ties with their

respective countries as well as Africa as a whole.

At the summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) last December in Johannesburg, South Africa, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced ten major China-Africa cooperation plans for the next three years, backed by 60 billion U.S. dollars, including interest free loans and preferential policies.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with his counterparts from Mali, Madagascar, Comoros and Democratic Republic of Congo.

China-Ghana make a strong case for Africa's industrialization

Speakers at the just ended Ghana-China Investment Forum have called for the creation of an enabling environment for Chinese industrial concerns to relocate manufacturing plants to Ghana and the West African sub-region.

China's Ambassador to Ghana Sun Baohong pointed out that Ghana and China needed first to strengthen exchanges of ideas, especially since China had, after years of exploration and practice, found a development path that conformed to its national conditions.

"While creating world-renowned development miracle, China has also formed and accumulated abundant advanced ideas on development. China is ready to enhance exchanges of experiences on governance with Ghana to learn from each other, jointly build up our capacity," she noted.

She said as Ghana strived for industrialization and agricultural modernization to transform the economy to add value to its products, China was willing under the framework of FOCAC to support the West African country to reach those goals.

"China is willing to, under the framework of FOCAC, focus more on the requirements of Ghana, explore multiple ways of cooperation, make full use of the tool of investment, vigor-

ously participate in Ghana's industrialization, agricultural modernization," she added.

President John Dramani Mahama and his Chinese counterpart, President Xi Jinping, held a bilateral meeting at the Johannesburg Summit of FOCAC in December 2015, pledging to consolidate bilateral traditional friendship.

Bilateral trade between Ghana and China in 2015 grew to 6.6 billion U.S. dollars, up 18.2 percent on year-on-year basis and ranked sixth in that part of Africa. China's non-financial direct investment inflows into Ghana hit 174 million U.S. dollars.

Commending China for locating the West African office of the China Africa Development Fund (CADFUND) in Ghana, Vice-President of Ghana, Kwesi Bekoe Amisshah-Arthur, noted that after receiving investments into the extractive sector over the decades, Ghana was now looking to attracting investments into the agro-industrial sector.

"We have introduced an industrial policy to encourage the growth, diversification, upgrading and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector."

He argued that Ghana could do better than placing sixth among African countries in their trade with China while placing fourth in investment from China.

More Chinese tourists visit S. Africa

With the relaxation of issuing visas through tour operators, the number of Chinese tourists visiting South Africa increased by 50 percent in May this year, compared to the same period in 2015, according to data obtained by Xinhua on Friday.

Meanwhile, the number of tourists from India surged 37 percent, the South African Department of Tourism said.

This came after the South African government relaxed visa rules since the beginning of this year, abandoning strict regulations requiring tourists to apply visas in person.

"Those markets (in China and India) will recover quite quickly, I think, and will continue to grow," Von Aulock of the Department of Tourism said.

But the tourism industry is still concerned about regulations requiring travelling children to present unabridged birth certificates.

The requirements for the unabridged birth certificates remain vague enough to deter some families, said Mmatsetsi Ramawela, CEO of the Tourism Business Council of SA.

Events such as the 21st International AIDS Conference in Durban earlier this month have helped increase the number of visitors, and concerns about terrorist attacks in Europe also diverted tourists to the southern hemisphere, Ramawela added.

Tourists are returning to SA's game parks, beaches and vineyards, as a weaker rand and easing of visa rules make holidays cheaper and more accessible, he said.

The number of visitors to SA from outside the continent increased 19 percent in the first five months of this year, the Department of Tourism said.

SA's tourism boom represents a rare note of optimism in the country whose unemployment rate is hovering around 27 percent.

Envoy hails deepening political trust between China, Sierra Leone



Sierra Leone's President Ernest Koroma presents gold medal awards to the representative of Chinese medical team Wang Yaoping at the State House in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Chinese Ambassador to Sierra Leone Zhao Yanbo has hailed the “deepening political trust” between China and the West African Country.

Speaking to Xinhua in an exclusive interview on the eve of the 45th anniversary of China-Sierra Leone diplomatic relations, the Chinese ambassador pointed out that China and Sierra Leone have always supported each other, both “regionally and internationally.”

“Political trust is the rudder that keeps the ship of China-Sierra Leone relations on its right direction,” said the ambassador.

The two countries have engaged in robust trade and business cooperation, injecting inexhaustible vigor into bilateral relations, said Zhao, citing that bilateral trade in 2014 hit a record of 1.8 billion U.S. dollars.

The ambassador also described booming people-to-people exchanges as a “solid anchor” in the two countries’ re-

lationship.

On China’s input in the country’s post-Ebola recovery program, Zhao noted that it was China that galvanized the international support for Sierra Leone in the peak of the Ebola crisis and gave the assurance that “China will firmly stand with Sierra Leone in its post Ebola era.”

Zhao also noted that both countries have agreed to intensify cooperation in the five major fields of health care, mining, production capacity and agriculture and fishery.

He said Sierra Leone would stand to benefit from the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit held in South Africa in December last year when Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a 60 billion U.S. dollars funding to support China-Africa cooperation.

Currently, China funded or aided projects are already on the ground, he said, citing an example that the Shandong Iron and Steel Group has overcome many dif-

iculties by taking over the African Minerals Ltd operations in Tonkolili district, and has helped to create revenue and jobs for average Sierra Leoneans.

In the health sector, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention has sent a team to facilitate the progress of the construction of the West African Tropical Disease Research and Treatment Center in Jui and an office building to house the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

These moves will enhance the country’s public health system and strengthen the capacity of prevention and control of various infections like zika and yellow fever, according to the ambassador.

Other projects supported by China like the Mamamah International Airport and the Freetown-Rokel river water supply project will also contribute to the country’s post-Ebola recovery program, he added.

China and Sierra Leone established diplomatic relations on July 29, 1971.

Kenya-China defense cooperation helps boost security

Kenya has strengthened defense cooperation with China to help boost the war against pressing security challenges like piracy and terrorism, a Kenyan senior official said.

Cabinet Secretary for defense Raychelle Omamo said strategic cooperation between Kenya and Chinese defense forces has improved security and stability in the east and horn of Africa region.

“China and Kenya continue to enhance cordial defense cooperation to enable the two countries play a more significant role in addressing global terrorism,” Omamo said at an occasion to mark the 89th anniversary since the founding of Chinese People’s Liberation Army at the Chinese Embassy in Nairobi.

Omamo said Kenya has prioritized defense cooperation with China as part of a strategy to promote peace and stability in the region.

Kenya has strengthened military cooperation with China in critical areas like intelligence sharing and training to boost the war against terrorism and piracy along the Indian Ocean coastline.

Omamo noted that China’s support has revitalized the capacity of Kenyan defense forces to respond to homegrown and external security threats.

She added that Kenya will also partner with key bilateral allies to promote peace in trouble spots like South Sudan.

Qiu Yi, the Defense Attache at the Chinese Embassy, said Beijing has deployed peacekeepers to African nations to help bolster peace.

“So far, 2,400 Chinese military troops are serving with UN peacekeeping missions in seven African operation areas including Mali and South Sudan,” said Qiu.

Envoy calls for aid to combat terrorism in Africa

It is imperative for the international community to vigorously help Africa respond to terrorism challenge and realize lasting peace, said a Chinese envoy to the United Nations.

Liu Jieyi, China’s permanent representative to the UN, made the appeal at a Security Council debate on peace-building.

Liu said the international community should follow a uniformed standard when it comes

to counter terrorism, support the counter-terrorism effort in Africa and resolutely combat terrorist activities regardless of their targets and means.

The United Nations should help African countries to enhance counter-terrorism capacity building and prioritize this endeavor, he added.

At the debate, the UN Security Council adopted a presidential statement on peace-

building in Africa in which it recognizes the critical role of the African Union (AU) in sustaining peace in Africa.

Liu said the AU and relevant sub-regional organizations have an in-depth knowledge of countries in the region and their peace-building needs, so it can support AU peace-building initiative including post-conflict reconstruction and development policy from a regional perspective.

China promises more aid to Africa

China will gradually increase aid to Africa, a Ministry of Commerce (MOC) official has said, in Beijing.

"China's aid to Africa has been carried out in accordance with China's capabilities. The aid to Africa accounts for a limited proportion of China's gross domestic product," said Shu Luomei, an official with the MOC Department of Western Asian and African Affairs.

Since 2000, China has helped Africa build more than 120 educational facilities, nearly 40 irrigation projects to support agricultural production, and over 70 medical facilities.

Shu's remarks at a press conference came earlier before a Sino-African coordinators' meeting on the implementation of actions resulting from the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in December 2015.

At the Johannesburg Summit, China announced 10 major plans for China-Africa cooperation over the next three years, backed by a package of 60 billion U.S. dollars.

Of the financial package, 10 billion dollars was allocated to a China-Africa industrial capacity cooperation fund, which will mainly invest in manufacturing, hi-tech, agriculture, energy, infrastructure construction and finance in African countries.

The package also includes 5 billion dollars of free aid and interest-free loans, 35 billion dollars of preferential loans and export credit on more favorable terms and 5 billion dollars of additional capital for the China-Africa Development Fund and the Special Loan for the Development of African small and medium-sized enterprises.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) greets President Buhari of Nigeria

"The MOC, for its part, will push forward these projects in an orderly manner and in accordance with the schedule," Shu told reporters.

Since 2012, China has provided African countries with over 20 billion dollars in loans to support infrastructure, investment, small- and medium-sized enterprises, agriculture and manufac-

turing.

Shu said Sino-African economic cooperation has diversified in the past few years and expanded to more fields including trade, infrastructure, industrial investment, finance, logistics and regional aviation.

"China's investment in Africa is a highlight of Sino-African economic

and trade cooperation in the past years. It is set to bring Sino-African economic ties to a new level in the years to come," she said.

MOC data showed that China's non-financial outbound investment in Africa jumped 10 percent year on year in the first half of 2016 to more than 1.3 billion U.S. dollars.

Chinese Embassy Gives Financial Aid to Needy Children

The Chinese embassy in Algeria last month gave financial aid to the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC) to help Algerian children from needy families on the occasion of the feast of Eid el Fitr.

The Chinese Embassy Charge d'affaires Hi Hong Yang handed the check to the CRA president, Saida Benhabiles.

Hong Yan stressed that "with this gesture of solidarity and brotherhood, China wanted to thank the Algerian Government and the people for friendship and support they have always expressed to her country."

Stressing the bilateral relations between Algeria and

China date back in the 1950s, she hailed President of the Republic, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, for "the leading role he played in the return of China to the United Nations."

She added that her country continues to "benefit from Algeria support in all fields of bilateral cooperation on the international stage."

Saida Benhabiles, President of CRA recalled that China has also "backed" Algerians during the war of national liberation, especially the refugees.

Regarding this donation from Chinese embassy in Algeria, Benhabiles said that 1,250 children from needy families, notably in the very remote areas will benefit from this aid.

Africa-China-U.S. cooperation can effectively fight maritime piracy

Cooperation among China, the United States and Africa can effectively fight maritime piracy in Africa, a UN senior official has said.

General Secretary special representative Mohamed Ibn Chambas made the remarks on the sidelines of the two-day meeting which held last month, in Lome, Capital of Togo.

About thirty diplomats and experts from Africa, China and the United States discussed collective strategies to address maritime security, protect the blue economy in the Gulf of Guinea and promote peace in the Sahel region.

The first day of trilateral consultation among Africa, China and the United States has laid the ground for further cooperation on fight against maritime piracy in Africa, he said.

"China and U.S., two world powers and members of the UN security coun-

cil, have close partnership with African continent," he said.

"If these two powers can cooperate with the African continent, especially in the field of maritime security, then Africa will benefit from their expertise as well as of their technology in the fight against piracy."

Chambas, also chief of UN Bureau for West-Africa and Sahel, said that African continent needs strategic partners to address maritime security challenge it is facing.

He also underscored that China and the United States can mount a tangible fight against illicit trafficking conducted by sea toward the African continent.

"These trafficking, involving narcotics, firearms and petroleum are likely to destabilize African countries and hinder their development, as they nurture violence and instability," he said.



On July 20, 2016, Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Ming met with Head of Economic Affairs of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) Hagos Ghebrehiwet of Eritrea, who was in China to attend the 1st meeting of China-Eritrea Joint Economic and Trade Commission. Both sides exchanged views on China-Eritrea relations, implementation of the outcomes from the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, and other issues of common concern.



Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari (c) sits in a passenger coach at a train station in suburban Abuja, on July 26, 2016. Nigeria marked a symbolic progress of railway service on Tuesday when its first completed standard gauge railway modernization project assisted by China, was open for commercial operation. With nine stations and a design speed of 150 km per hour, the Abuja-Kaduna rail line covers a distance of 186.5



Scholars, representatives of gov't departments, and Chinese Charge d'Affaires, Mr Jian Qin met at the Centre for China Studies (CCS) conference room in Abuja to brainstorm on the assessment of the implementation process of the Johannesburg FOCAC summit decision, last month.



Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Liu Xianfa (L) and Chief Executive of Kenya's CFC Stanbic Bank Philip Odera attend the launching ceremony at the headquarters of CFC Stanbic Bank in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, July 13, 2016. Kenya's CFC Stanbic Bank on Wednesday became the first bank in the country to avail the Chinese currency, yuan, at its branches to facilitate trade between China and Kenya.

For Nigeria's China-assisted rail transport, a new day beckons

For decades, Nigerians had dreamt of a crisp transport system, built around the railway technology like in developed countries for mass movement. The dream has been fulfilled now, with last Monday's official inauguration and flag-off of commercial services of the Abuja-Kaduna railway project by President Muhammadu Buhari.

Last month, a delegation of the Federal Government led by the Minister of Transport, Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi undertook a test-ride of the train service from Idu Main Station to Kubwa in Abuja and thereafter returned a verdict of success on the project. Amaechi said the completion of the project, which had suffered years of hiccups, is a mark of full commitment by the present government towards the revival of the transport sector in Nigeria.

The Abuja-Kaduna railway project is already a leap in efforts towards revitalizing the national economy. Aside the capacity to open space for generation of more employment opportunities, the tendency to save costs for different categories of Nigerians on mass movement within the Abuja-Kaduna geographical sphere is unquantifiable.

With the project, it would be easy henceforth, for Nigerians to live in Kaduna and yet, work in Abuja. Civil servants in this category no longer need to worry about the huge costs they often incur on transportation, worsened these days by the increase in the price of fuel. The opportunity to take cheap train while they shuttle repeatedly between Abuja and Kaduna has the tendency to encourage family bonding with little need for population redistribution.

Over the years Nigerians have had harrowing experiences on long stretch movements owing to poor road network. All along, only a few are predisposed to the option of air travels. With the near collapse of the railway system, the country had longed for succour. That, in any case, prompted successive governments to vote huge sums of money for reviving the railway sector.

Nonetheless, past efforts in this regard failed to offer tangible results until now that hope begins to blossom with President Buhari's initiatives.

The determination by the President to put Nigeria back on the track with effective transportation system, recently took him to China where he re-negotiated deals on modernisation of the Nigerian railway agenda.

Efforts towards modernizing the Nigerian railway system had commenced in October 2006. An agreement was signed between Nigeria and the CCECC of China for construction of a standard gauge Lagos-Kaduna rail line, costing \$8.3 billion. The project, well packaged was for upgrade of the entire rail system to standard gauge, covering a 25-year period. The project included the Port Harcourt-Kano line and the additional, Lagos-Calabar line (East-West).

The contractor, CCECC immediately started work with the ground-breaking ceremony performed by former President Olusegun Obasanjo at Kajola in



Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari (c) sits in a passenger coach at a train station in suburban Abuja.

November, 2006. However, Obasanjo left in May 2007 only to bungle the counterpart funding agreement in which Nigeria was to pay the sum of \$2bn to the contractor. His government only paid the sum of \$250m as at the time he left.

On assumption of office, late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua discovered that the contract did not follow due process amid report that the project was also inflated. Yar'Adua visited China, re-negotiated and re-scoped the entire project. Nigeria and China agreed to first, get the services back with the rehabilitation of the existing narrow gauge lines.

The project was segmented. The completion date for rehabilitation of Lagos-Kano and Port Harcourt-Maiduguri lines was December 2011. While this was going on, a Chinese delegation came to Nigeria to commence on-site assessment of the first phase of the now segmented standard gauge Abuja-Kaduna line in July 2008 and to finalise it in 2009. Unfortunately, the death of Yar'Adua stalled progress on the project.

Contract for the Abuja-Kaduna standard rail project was awarded in 2010 under the government of former President Goodluck Jonathan. Indeed, the actual construction did not start till 2011. It is an \$874 million project with an Exim Bank China facility of \$500 million. Nigeria was expected to pay the balance of the total sum. The Project was scheduled for completion in 2014.

But the Jonathan administration like the previous ones, reneged on counterpart funding. That necessitated an extension of completion period.

Under Jonathan's government, almost all capital projects inherited suffered poor funding or non-funding despite their strategic importance to the economy, and in spite of the huge revenue from sale of crude oil all through his regime.

Although the government of former President Jonathan did not initiate the modernisation of the Nigerian Railway system, his government was on the

threshold of earning the credit of completion. That was never to be. The alleged short-sightedness and indeed, large-scale corruption the regime is now noted for combined to rub it of such a glory.

Now, history beckons on President Buhari to take the credit of re-negotiating and completing all outstanding railway projects conceived years back. He had hardly settled down in office in 2015 when he made the outstanding payment, which had stalled work on Abuja-Kaduna railway projects.

In another breath, President Buhari is putting integrity to the fore on rescuing the modernisation of the abandoned Lagos-Ibadan dual track standard gauge line. The contract was awarded in 2012 with 2015 set as date of completion. The Federal Executive Council on July 18th, 2012 approved the sum of \$1.457 billion as the project contract sum on 36 months completion period. The project was abandoned by the government of former President Jonathan after it doled out the sum of N13 billion from the 2012-2013 and 2014 budgets. Nonetheless, there was nothing to show for all the efforts.

President Buhari had renegotiated and agreed with contractors on the commencement of the project including that of the East-West line (Lagos-Benin-Onitsha, Port Harcourt-Calabar) at a reduced sum of \$11.117 billion. His government had saved the sum of \$800 billion for Nigeria through that singular project.

Within the next two years, all things being equal, the Lagos-Ibadan dual rail project would have been completed. Again, President Buhari will open it up for commercial operations. That project, as conceived, will re-define the economic environment of the southwest for good. It would assist in eliminating the long years of trauma that travellers on Lagos-Ibadan dual carriage way have been undergoing. In essence, the people of the south-west would have no other government to applaud than that of President Buhari who is about to make it happen.