

## Industrialization across Africa picks momentum with China's built industrial parks, free trade zones

See Page 2



*From Right to left, Alhaji Aminu Wali, former Nigeria's foreign minister who has also served as Nigerian ambassador to China; Chinese ambassador to Nigeria Dr. Zhou Pingjian; Mr. Charles Onunaiju, director of the centre for China Studies, (CCS) and cross section of participants including diplomats at a seminar to mark the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up held in Abuja, Nigeria on the 14th of December, 2018*

**Forum urge Nigeria to draw inspiration from China's reform, opening-up**

Page 10

**China-Africa cooperation to accelerate with foreign minister's new year visit**

Page 13

## Industrialization across Africa picks momentum with China's built industrial parks, free trade zones

Mastewal Tsegaye, a graduate of the Arba Minch University in Ethiopia, is among the many young Ethiopians working for Chinese companies in Ethiopia's industrial parks.

After failing to find a job related to her major for more than a year, Tsegaye was finally employed by the Huajian Shoe Factory in the Eastern Industrial Zone.

As African countries pursue industrialization, the Chinese-built industrial parks and free trade zones have been gaining momentum in the socio-economic drive of the continent, some significantly accelerating the process of industrialization and job creation.

### PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"The factory mainly produces women's shoes, which interested me," Tsegaye said.

Tsegaye said she is "very grateful" for the Chinese companies that provided her and other youths with jobs.

Located about 40 km south of Addis Ababa, the Eastern Industrial Zone (EIZ), built and operated by Chinese companies, is widely viewed as the benchmark for the development of industrial parks in Ethiopia.

Earlier this month, upon invitation by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir traveled to Ethiopia's western town of Jimma, where the three leaders inaugurated the Chinese-built Jimma Industrial Park, some 350 km west of capital Addis Ababa.

At the ceremony, Ahmed said the park would help with the industrialization process of Western Ethiopia and create a large number of jobs for young Ethiopians.

According to Ethiopia's Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC), the park, once fully operational, will create some 12,000 direct jobs for Ethiopians. The EIZ, Ethiopia's first industrial zone, has provided more than 10,000 jobs for local people.

Thanks to the industrialization efforts by industrial parks, Ethiopia's gross domestic product remained at a growth rate of about 10 percent between 2008 and 2017, creating an economic miracle on the African continent.

As Ethiopia envisions building 15 industrial parks in the coming few years, it is estimated that the parks alone will produce more than 150,000 direct jobs.

Meanwhile, free trade zones and industrial parks in Djibouti, Nigeria and South Africa also created jobs for local citizens and promoted the economic development of these countries.

### INDUSTRIAL PARKS BOOM IN ETHIOPIA

Being Africa's second most populous nation, Ethiopia has an abundant workforce. More than 70 percent of its 100 million population is estimated to be under the age of 30.

As the East African country is exploring ways to realize its demographic dividend while transforming its agriculture-dominated economy towards a manufacturing hub of Africa, China's development model of industrial parks has been considered as an option.

Currently, 15 industrial parks are in the pipeline across Ethiopia, most of which are being constructed by Chinese companies. Six of the industrial parks have officially gone operational in the past few years, attracting a large number



People working at a factory inside the Lekki Free Trade Zone in Nigeria.

of transnational companies from China, India, South Korea and other countries.

Ethiopia now exports shoes produced by Huajian to European and American markets, while many of the taxis on the streets of the Ethiopian capital and other cities are assembled by China's Lifan Motors.

The EIZ is Ethiopia's first industrial zone and has inspired the government to establish more such parks in the country.

"These industrial parks are vital elements of the infrastructure supporting the structural transformation in Ethiopia that can attract institutional investors," said Costantinos Bt. Costantinos, an economic advisor to the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Costantinos told reporters that industrial parks have been built in many countries which believe these parks will bring about employment opportunities and revenues.

"As IMF (International Monetary Fund) chief Christine Lagarde said at the Eastern Industrial Park in Addis, 'I saw the dynamism and enthusiasm of the people working there and the commitment of private investors to Ethiopia.' This is extremely encouraging," said Costantinos, who is also a professor of public policy at the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia.

### INDUSTRIAL PARKS, FREE TRADE ZONES TAKE ROOT IN AFRICA

Besides Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, Chinese-built industrial parks and free trade zones, which are key to attracting investors, have taken root in many other African countries.

The Chinese-built international free trade zone was inaugurated in July in Djibouti, a country with a population of nearly 1 million.

At the construction site of the free trade zone, a tall modern office building has been erected. Some 70,000 square meters of warehouses and 65,000 square meters of

storage yards have also been completed.

With a planned construction area of 48.2 square km, the free trade zone occupies one-tenth of the country's available land area and has attracted more than 20 companies that have decided to settle in the zone.

In the Western African nation of Nigeria, the construction of the Lekki Free Trade Zone is also in full swing. The free trade zone is invested, constructed and operated by the Lekki Free Trade Zone Development Company.

The zone incorporates, among others, oil and gas warehousing, furniture manufacturing, garment production, trade logistics, engineering construction services, industrial real estate, automobile assembly, steel structure processing and manufacturing, steel pipe production, daily necessities and other industries.

South Africa is an important platform for investors to enter the African market because it is one of the most developed countries in the region. In 2013, Chinese consumer electronics company Hisense and the China-Africa Development Fund teamed up to inject 383 million South African rand (about 33 million U.S. dollars) to build a home appliance industrial park in the Atlantis area, about 50 km west of Cape Town.

Latest statistics show that the TV sales market share of Hisense in South Africa has reached 25.1 percent, ranking first in the market. It is followed by refrigerator sales which account for 24.2 percent of the total market share. As of July 2018, its annual TV production capacity is about 400,000 units, while the refrigerator production capacity is about 400,000 units annually.

Ebrahim Rasool, chairman of South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) Western Cape campaign team, hailed Chinese investment in the park.

The mutually beneficial cooperation between China and South Africa in the park has impressed everyone, Rasool said.

## Villainizing China, Russia won't help America's interests in Africa, analysts say

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton recently rolled out the Trump administration's new Africa strategy. Analysts said that his speech, while stroking a hostile and competitive tone against countries like Russia and China, will not help the United States expand its business, political and military engagement with Africa.

Calling China and Russia's commercial cooperation with African nations "predatory practices," Bolton asserted that the two countries "stunt economic growth in Africa; threaten the financial independence of African nations; inhibit opportunities for U.S. investment; interfere with US military operations; and pose a significant threat to U.S. national security interests."

Darrell West, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said that Bolton's comments "reflect concern over China's investments in Africa and their possible impact on U.S. interests there."

Bolton "wants to increase American investment in Africa to counter China and Russia, and make sure the United States retains a foothold on that continent," he added, noting that the U.S. strategy will not be achievable if the Trump administration cannot convince U.S. businesses to invest there.

"Much of the needed investment is likely to come from private interests since Trump is interested in cutting U.S. foreign assistance," he explained.

The new strategy is faced with numerous challenges ahead, analysts said. Difficulties include legislative authority to back the plan up, inadequate details about its implementation, continuous conditional finance and assistance, and a persistent

emphasis on bilateral trade deals with African nations, which would put these countries, most developing or under-developed ones, in a disadvantage.

"The United States will no longer provide indiscriminate assistance across the entire continent," Bolton said. "Countries that repeatedly vote against the United States in international forums, or take action counter to U.S. interests, should not receive generous American foreign aid."

**"Can't we just engage Africa on its own merits and not make it part of the grand China competition chessboard?"**

Paul Mcleary, an Africa analyst, tweeted after the speech that "Bolton issues direct threat against African countries who don't adhere to U.S. policy goals."

U.S. President Donald Trump's attitude towards engagement with Africa has been clear. He has neither visited the continent since assuming office nor showcased enough respect for and knowledge about countries on it.

Trump reportedly called some African nations "shitholes," and made a highly controversial claim about the alleged white-owned farm seizures in South Africa, irritating many in Africa.

"The Trump administration has shown little or no serious interest in Africa and has gotten off to a rocky start in its relations," Johnnie Carson, a former assistant secretary

for African affairs during the Obama presidency, told the U.S. media. "Unveiling a new strategy may give the administration an opportunity for a course correction, but only if it begins to take Africa seriously."

But compared with others, hostility towards China and Russia in the Trump's foreign policy actions is the most worrisome, analysts argued.

Julian Hattem, another observer on African issues, noted that "from what I can

attached is more welcome and shows more respect for these countries.

Many U.S. analysts said that it would be more advisable for the Trump administration to stop indulging in unnecessary and undue hysteria regarding China or Russia, and that Africa is big enough to accommodate both China and U.S. engagements.

Judd Devermont, director of the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, told Reuters that he was disappointed that China had dominated Bolton's presentation, which already lacked details on U.S. plans.

"China loomed over everything, and loomed over really important issues on trade and investment, and transparency," he was quoted as saying. "We didn't get many details on what the 'Prosper Africa' approach looks like and how it would be resourced. Those should have been the headlines of the strategy."

Devermont recently said in the Congress that "some of the current uproar over Chinese investment in Africa is overblown and ill-informed," and many of China's infrastructure projects address desperate needs.

"The United States scores few points by talking down to African counterparts about the perils of Chinese engagement," he added.

Abraham Denmark, a former assistant secretary of defense now at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, tweeted that Bolton's approach on China is "particularly self-defeating" and it may drive more African nations toward Beijing.

"Can't we just engage Africa on its own merits and not make it part of the grand China competition chessboard?" he tweeted.

## Claim of takeover of Mombasa Port by China is pure propaganda - Kenyan President

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said the issue of takeover of the Mombasa Port by China is pure propaganda, praising the Asian country for offering financial packages that Kenya can afford.

In a televised interview with reporters at the coastal city of Mombasa on Friday night, Kenyatta said the country is ahead of the payment schedule for Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) loan and there is no cause of alarm.

China is opening their eyes and

meeting Kenya, and indeed the rest of Africa are at the point of need, Kenyatta remarked, stressing that China is offering financial packages that Kenya and other African countries can afford.

Commenting on Kenya's debt issue, Kenyatta said the issue is not about incurring debt; it is about the use of the debt.

When debt is talked about, it must be viewed in comparison with the gross domestic product (GDP), he said.

"I am confident that Kenya's debt is for infrastructure development that will

not only benefit the current generation but future generations too," he added.

There were recent reports alleging that Kenya had used Mombasa Port as a collateral to reach an SGR payment agreement with Chinese financial institutions.

This is an issue which does not exist, said Kenyatta.

Kenyatta said he was prepared to release to the public the contract signed between the Kenyan government and the Chinese government through the China Eximbank to end the speculation.

## President Buhari commissions new 15m passenger capacity terminal at Abuja airport

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has commissioned a new Terminal at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA), Abuja, reiterating the commitment of his administration to making policies that will sustain the development of Nigeria's infrastructure. The new terminal designed to handle 15 million passengers in a year is one of the four new terminal projects funded by China-Exim bank and the debt management office. Recall that President Buhari also commissioned a new terminal at the Port Harcourt International Airport in October 2018.

The President who spoke at the commissioning of the new terminal in Abuja enthuses: "With the commissioning of this Terminal, Nigeria is moving towards achieving and meeting global aviation standards in facilitation, passenger processing and service delivery in tandem with international best practices." The President also emphasizes that his Administration recognises aviation as a catalyst for economic growth and as such will continue to encourage and support the actualization of projects that will place Nigerian Airports amongst the best in the world.

The new Terminal at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja has 72 check-in counters, five baggage collection



President Muhammadu Buhari with some top government officials during the commissioning of new terminal building of Abuja International Airport on 20th December 2018

carousels, 28 immigration desks at arrival and 16 at departure, eight security screening points, eight passenger boarding bridges, walkway to link the FCT metro rail, additional apron for remote parking of aircraft and link way to domestic wing.

Senator Hadi Sirika, Minister of State for Aviation, who also spoke at the event says: "NAIA is very strategic to Nigeria not only because it is the gateway to the nation's capital but also because it is the second busiest airport in the

country and the fastest growing in passenger traffic in West and Central Africa, with an average growth rate of 8%, where the world average growth is 5.8%."

With the new terminals commissioned at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja and the Port Harcourt International Airport, the Minister says the third and fourth series of the project which are at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos and the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport

is near completion.

Engr. Saleh Dunoma Managing Director of Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), agrees with the Minister. Mr. Dunoma says: "Work is in progress in the remaining terminal which is in Lagos and Kano," adding that China Civil Engineering and Construction Company (CCECC), the Contractor of the projects is at work on the sites. He also hints that the new terminals would provide employment opportunities.

## China refutes U.S. official's smearing remarks on China-Africa cooperation

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson has refuted a U.S. official's smearing remarks on China-Africa cooperation.

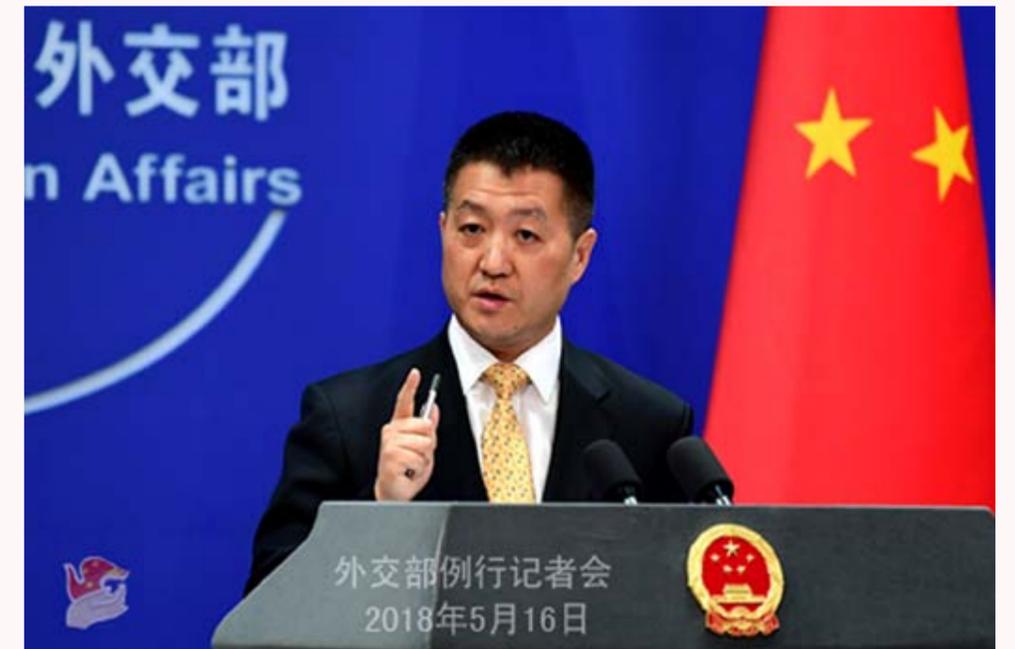
U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton rolled out the Trump administration's new Africa strategy recently, using a hostile and competitive tone against countries like Russia and China.

Calling the two countries' commercial cooperation with African nations "predatory practices," Bolton asserted that they "stunt economic growth in Africa, threaten the financial independence of African nations, inhibit opportunities for U.S. investment, interfere with U.S. military operations and pose a significant threat to U.S. national security interests."

In response, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang stressed, "What China cares about is African countries' needs, such as industrialization and agricultural modernization."

"In contrast, it is interesting to see from the remarks of some Americans that, besides its own interests and demands, the U.S. is concerned about China and Russia rather than Africa," Lu added.

He recalled that during the 2018 Beijing Summit of



Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Lu Kang

the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the General Debate of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, many African leaders articulated their countries' desire for development and appreciation of China's support.

As facilitating Africa's peace and development is the common responsibility of the international community, China has always adopted an open-minded attitude toward

Africa-related international cooperation, and believed that all parties' investments in the continent on the basis of respect should be welcome, Lu said.

"Meanwhile, cooperation should be carried out on the premise of Africa's will and needs and without any political strings attached and interference in internal affairs," he added.

The spokesperson reiterated that as mutually-beneficial cooperation moves

forward, China will continue to build relations with Africa based on sincerity, affinity and good faith, uphold justice and pursue shared interests.

China and Africa will jointly implement consensus reached by the leaders during the 2018 Beijing Summit of the FOCAC and further advance their comprehensive strategic partnership, Lu added.

## ...donates machinery to aid South Sudan's agricultural development

The Chinese government has donated 349 pieces of agricultural machinery to enable South Sudan reinvent and transform its agricultural sector amid food insecurity caused by five years of conflict.

He Xiangdong, Chinese ambassador to South Sudan said the machinery which include grain combine harvester, walking tractor, seeder, potato planter and potato harvester will help South Sudan to secure stability and prosperity in the wake of the recently signed revitalized peace agreement by the warring parties.

"With the signing of the revitalized agreement there is a huge opportunity

for the peace, stability and prosperity of South Sudan. Today, we are here to transfer 349 pieces of Chinese agricultural machinery to the ministry of agriculture and food security," said He in Juba, during the handover ceremony.

The Chinese government has already sent a five-member technical and engineering team to South Sudan who have trained about 14 local South Sudanese technicians over a 30-day period time who are expected to train their South Sudan colleagues in the assembly, operation and maintenance of the China-aided machinery.

Onyoti Adigo Nyikuac, South Sudanese Minister of Agriculture

and Food Security, lauded China for donating the machinery and also added that more South Sudanese are going to acquire technical skills from their Chinese counterparts as they aim to move away from subsistence farming to commercial farming.

"The problem in South Sudan is poverty and hunger. Now with the signing of the revitalized peace agreement all the people of South Sudan including the rebels will be focusing on agriculture which will be a step forward in alleviating poverty," said Onyoti.

He also urged the Chinese government to help them set up more agricultural innovation and research

institutions especially in the northern areas of Renk in Upper Nile and Bhar El Ghazal regions where Sorghum and rice growing activities are prominent.

Sophia Pal Gai, the South Sudan Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, said the Chinese government has not only given them the machinery but also the skills to develop the agricultural sector that still lags behind with the WFP estimating that only 4 percent of the vast land in South Sudan is under use.

Since the independence of South Sudan in 2011, the Chinese government has been continuously supporting the South Sudanese in agriculture and food security, said Gai.

## Chinese health experts train Ugandan counterparts on surgery

Chinese health experts have started a three-month training for Ugandan medical workers on laparoscopic surgery.

The program, carried out by the Chinese medical team at the China-Uganda Friendship Hospital and the China Jiangxi Corporation for International Economic and Technical Cooperation, offers training for 26 doctors, anaesthetists and nurses.

Ou Yuan, a Bio-medical engineer and one of the facilitators, said that the training is aimed at teaching health workers laparoscopic surgery, a modern surgical technique in which operations are performed through small incisions elsewhere in the body.

"This equipment (machine) has been lying here without being used. This is because many doctors, anesthesia and nurses didn't know how to use it," said Yuan.

"This training is very necessary. We need Ugandan doctors and nurses to know the operation and how to use the machines to offer services to the patient. We need to make everything better for the patient," he said.

Regina Mugisa, principal hospital administrator of the China-Uganda Friendship Hospital said the new medical



Chinese health experts have commenced a three-month training for Ugandan medical workers on laparoscopic surgery.

technology training will improve the health workers' efficiency to operate on patients.

"It's very important that our staff are trained in using this machine and technology. They will have the knowledge, know how to operate and use it," she said.

"We hope that any time we have an emergency, our doctors, nurses and other professionals are ready," she said.

Laparoscopic surgery is favored by patients and their medical attendants because of the smooth post-operative

## Burundi gets selfless assistance from China - Burundian FM

China provides selfless assistance to help with Burundi's development and its people's livelihood, the Burundian foreign minister said.

The establishment of the diplomatic ties 55 years ago launched the sincere cooperation between the two countries, Burundian Foreign Minister Ezechiel Nibigira said at a reception celebrating the 55th anniversary of bilateral ties.

Burundi and China have maintained a good relationship since then, which is reflected in exchanges at various levels such as in mutual support on international occasions and China's selfless assistance to the Burundian government to help with the development of Burundi and the improvement of Burundian people's livelihood, said Nibigira.

The central African country highly appreciates China's long term assistance to Burundi, he

added.

The friendly cooperation between the two countries has been continuously expanded and deepened, said Li Changlin, Chinese Ambassador to Burundi, adding that bilateral ties are at the best time in history.

The relationship between China and Burundi takes a leading position in relations between China and African countries, he said.

China doesn't set any precondition for its cooperation with Burundi and cares about the actual needs of the Burundian people, Li said, adding that China welcomes Burundi to get on board China's fast train of development.

Commemorative stamps marking the 55th anniversary were launched at the reception, featuring landmarks and cultures of the two countries.

The stamps represent the friendship between China and

Burundi and are the ambassadors of culture exchanges, said Bienvenue Irakoze, permanent secretary of Burundian Ministry of Youth, Posts and Information Technologies at the launching ceremony.

About

250 people attended the anniversary reception, where they enjoyed Kirundi song performed by the Confucius Institute at the University of Burundi, Chinese song performed by Burundian civil



Burundian Foreign Minister Ezechiel Nibigira

servants, as well as Burundian drum and dance performance.

China and Burundi established diplomatic ties on Dec. 21, 1963. A series of events have been held to celebrate the anniversary.

## Algeria, China mark 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties

Algeria and China celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic ties even as the North African nation issued a new postal stamp to mark this event.

Algerian Foreign Minister, Abdelkader Messahel, and newly Chinese Ambassador to Algeria, Li Lianhe, addressed at the ceremony organized by Algerian Foreign Ministry in the International Conferences Center in Algiers.

Messahel hailed in his speech "the vital contribution that China has brought to the Algerian revolution (1954-1962) to help it regain its independence."

"The unwavering support of China continued as it was the first country to recognize the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic (GPRA) a few weeks after its proclamation in Sept. 1958," he added.

Messahel further recalled that "a year after the independence of Algeria, China responded to the call of Algeria while rushing medical mission."

For his part, the Chinese ambassador said that he is proud to attend the ceremony after being appointed in his new post last week.

"This ceremony celebrates the strong and deep relationship

between our two countries, and I'm honoured to attend it, given that it is the first event for me here in Algeria since taking my duties as ambassador of China," said Li.

The Chinese diplomat further recalled the role played by Algeria to help China to retrieve its legitimate seat both at the UN General Assembly and the Security Council in 1971.

He concluded that "these strong bilateral relations have been founded by the old generation, as they grew up to reach the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which is a great achievement in the process of fruitful progress of bilateral ties."

Finally, the ceremony concluded with revealing a postage stamp issued by Algeria Post to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of



Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelkader Messahel addresses a reception celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between China and Algeria, in Algiers, Algeria, late last year.

bilateral ties between Algiers and Beijing.

The stamp was crafted by Algerian artist Al Meehta, which portrayed the massive contribution of Chinese workers in the development of Algeria.

China is Algeria's largest trade supplier for the fifth year in a row. In 2017, China's exports to Algeria were 8.3 billion U.S. dollars, representing 18.1 percent of the North African total imports.

Beijing and Algiers have raised their bilateral relations to a highest level, while signing in Feb. 2014 the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership on the occasion of the celebration of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties.

Algeria also joined the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China, which will contribute in boosting bilateral trade exchange to record levels, said experts.

## ...takes inspiration from Belt and Road Initiative to modernize transport logistics platforms

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative will prompt Algeria to increase and upgrade its transport logistics platforms to benefit from the expected growing traffic from global trade, said experts and authorities Saturday.

The initiative was in the center of discussions at the Third International Symposium on Trans Logistics, Transit and Storage of Goods opened Saturday in the Algerian capital city of Algiers.

Experts and authorities at the meeting agreed that the main challenges confronting Algeria after joining the initiative are speeding up the process of developing and modernizing transport logistics platforms and reducing transport costs of goods to make them more competitive in foreign markets.

In his opening notes at the conference,

Algerian Transport and Public Works Minister, Abdelghani Zalene, said that the Algerian government has engaged in building more transport logistics platforms, using the huge investments in infrastructures, equipment and human resources.

The government's strategy aims at interconnecting all transport logistics platforms together, to facilitate the transport of goods and ultimately reduce the transport costs from the current 35 percent to 15 percent by 2025, he added.

He further said that "we are glad to join the initiative, in which China will share its experience and know-hows with the African continent, including Algeria, as part of a global developing process."

For his part, Abdelaziz Saoudi, a senior official at the Highway

Management Company, hailed the Belt and Road Initiative as an "integrated approach gathering countries with a population of over 4 billion people, and over 60 percent of the world's GDP."

Saoudi noted that thanks to the initiative, Algeria has been constructing mega infrastructure projects that are expected to attract global containers traffic, including its 1,200-km East-West highway, the trans-Saharan road, the North-South highway, and the central mega port of El Hamdania in Tipaza province.

However, economist Abdelmalek Serrai suggested that the authorities need to "redouble efforts in building more transport logistics platforms and modernizing the existing ones in a bid to make them fit to attract maritime

containers traffic heading towards African countries, while offering modern logistics platforms, either railways or roads."

Director General of China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) in Algeria, He Huaidong, said that the Belt and Road Initiative offers opportunities for communities around the world to develop their economies through win-win processes.

He noted that CRBC has contributed, so far, to building mega infrastructure projects in several African countries that will help boost local economies, calling on Algeria and its bordering nations "to come together around a united strategy to facilitate the movement of goods and people across their borders, to benefit from the Belt and Road Initiative."

# Highlights of China's President Xi's speech at a conference making 40 years of reform and opening-up

President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at a grand gathering to celebrate the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up in Beijing on Tuesday. Here are the highlights:

## Reform and opening-up a great revolution

The reform and opening-up is a great revolution in the history of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation, said Xi.

It is the great revolution that propelled a quantum leap forward in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, Xi said.

Xi also said the reform and opening-up is a great reawakening of the Communist Party of China, nurturing great creativity in both theory and practice for the CPC.

## Reform, opening-up 'milestone' in Chinese national rejuvenation

Xi called the pursuit of reform and opening-up and socialism with Chinese characteristics a milestone in realizing the Chinese nation's rejuvenation.

The founding of the Communist Party of China and the founding of the People's Republic of China were also the milestones on the way toward the great national rejuvenation in the modern times, Xi said.

They represented three historic events taking place after the May Fourth Movement in 1919, according to Xi.

## China keeps improving people's well-being over past 40 years

China has lifted 740 million people out of poverty in the 40 years, reducing the poverty headcount ratio by 94.4 percentage points, Xi said.

The nation has built the world's largest social security system, with the basic old-age pension covering more than 900 million people and medical insurance covering over 1.3 billion people, Xi said.

The ratio of permanent urban residents in total population rose 40.6 percentage points to 58.52 percent during the period, he said.

"The country has maintained its social stability over a long period, making it one of the countries that provide the greatest sense of safety in the world," Xi said.

China has bid farewell to the problems that plagued its people for thousands of years, including hunger, shortage and poverty, Xi said.

## China's development promotes world peace, development

China's development over the past 40 years has effectively served the cause of world peace and development, Xi said.

China's development has provided successful experience and offered a bright prospect for other developing countries as they strive for modernization, representing a great contribution of the Chinese nation to the progress of human civilization, Xi said.

## Party leadership over all work

Xi stressed the Party's leadership over all work while calling for constantly enhancing and improving the Party's way of leadership.

The reform and opening-up in the past four decades has shown that leadership of the Party is the most essential attribute of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the greatest strength of this system, Xi said.

"It is by upholding the centralized, unified leadership of the Party that we have been able to achieve the historic transformation, usher in a new era of reform and opening-up, and embark on a new journey of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," he said.

On the question of ensuring leadership by the Party, a fundamental principle that bears on the future of the Party and the country, all Party members and all the people must maintain a high degree of self-consciousness in terms of thinking, political orientation, and actions, Xi said.

No success of reform and opening-

up comes easily. In the years to come, risks and challenges of all sorts are inevitable, he said.

"The Party must guide the overall situation and coordinate the work of all sides, remain committed to practicing scientific, democratic, and law-based governance...and see that China's ship of reform and opening up will break waves and sail on the right course," Xi said.

## Continuous efforts to deliver on people's

## aspirations for better life

The people-oriented approach must be adhered to and efforts should be made to keep delivering on the people's aspirations for a better life, Xi said.

The practices over the past 40 years have shown that seeking happiness for the Chinese people and striving for rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is the founding aspiration and mission of the Communist Party of China, and those of the

What has been achieved in economic, political, cultural, social and ecological fields must be shared among all the people, Xi said, stressing it must be ensured that the people have a stronger sense of fulfillment and greater happiness, and feel safer and more secure in a more direct and tangible manner.

## Upholding Marxism, advancing theories

## Enhancing China's composite strength

Xi called for continued efforts to take development as the top priority and enhance China's composite national strength.

## Improving system of socialism with Chinese characteristics

Continued efforts should be made to improve and develop the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics to harness and enhance the advantages of China's system, Xi said.

As the reform and opening-up in the past four decades has shown, the system is of fundamental and overarching significance for the long-term stability and development of all endeavors of the Party and the country, said Xi.

Xi also stressed that China should step up the building of a set of institutions that are well conceived, procedure-based and efficiently functioning to secure a more mature and established system of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

## China vows to open up wider to world

Xi underlined China's commitment to opening up wider to the world and promoting joint efforts to build a community with a shared future for humanity.

The practice of reform and opening-up over the past 40 years has shown that openness brings progress, while seclusion leads to backwardness, Xi said.

"China cannot develop itself in isolation from the world, and the world needs China for global prosperity," Xi said.

"Bearing in mind China's internal and international imperatives, we have stayed committed to the fundamental national policy

of opening-up, followed a proactive approach to opening up, and entered a new stage of comprehensive, multi-level and wide-ranging opening-up, thus creating a sound international environment and broader development space for China," he said.

## Rigorous Party governance

Continued efforts should be made to exercise full and rigorous governance over the Communist Party of China to strengthen its capacity to innovate, power to unite, and energy to fight, said Xi.

## Adhering to path of socialism with Chinese characteristics

All the theories and practice of the Communist Party of China in the past 40 years of reform and opening-up are based on the theme of upholding and advancing socialism with Chinese characteristics, he said.

There is no textbook of golden rules to follow for reform and development in China, a country with over 5,000 years of civilization and more than 1.3 billion people, Xi said.

"No one is in a position to dictate to the Chinese people what should or should not be done," he said.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics provides a broad pathway for China to advance with the times and steer the course of development today, Xi said.

"We will resolutely reform what should and can be reformed, and make no change where there should not and can not be any reform," he said.

## Balance between reform, development, stability

Xi stressed striking a balance between reform, development and stability by maintaining the worldview and methodology of dialectical and historical materialism.

Reform and opening-up remains norm throughout China's history

A review of the past several thousand years shows that reform and opening-up remains the norm throughout China's history, Xi said.

Since ancient times, China has seen numerous movements aimed at strengthening the nation through reform, and the Chinese nation has engaged in interactions and cultural exchanges with foreign nations in a confident and broad-minded manner, Xi said.

Such profound historical and cultural heritage has dictated that the Chinese nation will continue to embrace the future through reform and opening-up, according to Xi.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, attends a grand gathering to celebrate the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, late last year.

reform and opening-up endeavor, Xi said.

"In considering and introducing a policy, we must first and foremost ensure the backing, approval and endorsement of the people," he said.

The wishes the people express, the best practices they create, the rights they are entitled to and the role they play must be respected, said Xi, who demanded efforts to fully stimulate and unlock the people's creativity.

The practices over the past 40 years have shown that innovation is the lifeline of reform and opening-up, Xi said.

Xi called for efforts to base the Party's theory on reality and "answer the questions of our times and of the people" in a timely manner.

"We must update and popularize Marxism in the context of a modern day China, and make new breakthroughs in developing Marxism," Xi said.

# Forum urge Nigeria to draw inspiration from China's reform and opening-up

Local and international experts gathered at a forum to review the significance and implications of China's reform and opening-up process and draw inspirations from it.

Dozens of experts and Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria Zhou Pingjian attended the forum organized by the Center for China Studies in Abuja in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up policy.

Discussions focused on looking for right solutions to the development challenges faced by Nigeria and other African countries through drawing inspirations from China's economic development.

"We are simply reminding ourselves that if the Chinese could find the way that led them to increased prosperity, it is also possible for Africa," said Charles Onunaiju, director of the Center for China Studies.

"It is a reflection of what the Chinese have done in the last 40 years and we believe that the essential lesson is looking at ourselves in the mirror, finding our own way, taking the difficult decision and insisting on it, with all the sacrifices and challenges that come with it," Onunaiju said.

In his presentation, Mutiu Olasipo, a professor of public policy analysis, noted that China did everything possible within



*Cross section of participants at the seminar organized by Centre for China Studies in Abuja.*

its purview to look inwards and rediscover its renaissance.

Olasipo urged African leaders to initiate people-oriented policies and effectively implement them toward a brighter, rewarding future.

Sheriff Ghali Ibrahim, an assistant professor of political science and international relations at the University of Abuja, also said Africa, just like any other continent of the world,

has been strongly motivated by China's economic development.

Saying China's reform started from rural areas to cities, Aminu Wali, a former Nigerian foreign minister and a former Nigerian ambassador to China, noted the country has, over the past four decades, witnessed enormous economic and social progress with the implementation of its reform and opening-up policy.

In his remarks, Zhou, the Chinese ambassador, said that going forward, China will take an even more responsible approach, be even more open and inclusive and strive to achieve goals of even higher quality.

"By doing so, as it develops itself, China will make greater contributions to the common prosperity of the world," the envoy added.

## Africa has right, ability to choose partners

African countries and people have the right and ability to independently choose partners, and the international community should listen more to Africa's voice, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson has said when responding to a question about Rwandan president's remarks on Africa-China relations.

According to media reports, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said recently that

China's engagement in Africa is "a good thing," and that "China is active in Rwanda but not in an inappropriate way."

"In Rwanda, we know our capacity and which Chinese proposals we should accept, so as not to be overloaded with debt," said Kagame, who was in Vienna, Austria for the High-Level Europe-Africa Summit. "It depends on us Africans. Why wouldn't we know how to negotiate with China?"

Noting that China-Africa practical cooperation has yielded fruitful results in recent years, Spokesperson Hua Chunying said at a routine press briefing that Africans can feel the true feelings of Chinese toward them and the tangible benefits brought by bilateral cooperation.

"It is an indisputable fact that China-Africa cooperation has been sincerely welcomed by African countries and people, and has been positively

evaluated by the international community," Hua said.

The international community should listen more to Africa's voice, believe in its wisdom and respect its will when conducting cooperation with Africa, the spokesperson said, adding that it is doomed to get no consent from Africa to point fingers at Africa and China-Africa cooperation in disregard of facts or out of political purposes.

## Envoy calls for int'l help for West, Central Africa in combatting organized crime

A Chinese envoy to the United Nations has urged the international community to help West and Central African countries with capacity building so that they are better equipped to take the helm in tackling trans-national organized crime.

At a Security Council meeting on peace and security in Africa, Wu Haitao, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, said the criminal activities that transit through countries in West and Central Africa seriously undermine these countries' development and social stability and fuel crime, violence and terrorism.

"The international community should, while fully respecting their ownership, help them formulate anti-drug trafficking strategies, develop greater enforcement capacity, and effectively tackle the scourge and other forms of trans-national organized crime," he said.

Particularly, with regard to anti-drug trafficking, international cooperation should be scaled up on the basis of broad participation and shared responsibility, with a focus on clamping down on drug consumption market to curb drug production and trafficking at source.

Moreover, Wu called for strengthening coordination and cooperation between regional or subregional organizations and UN bodies to form synergy, adding that China applauds such cooperation in areas of combating drug trafficking with greater intensity, joint border control and joint



Wu Haitao, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN speaks at a UN meeting on law enforcement.

Furthermore, the Chinese envoy stressed the need to tackle the root causes of drug trafficking, noting that poverty and under-development provide a hotbed for drug trafficking and other forms of trans-national organized crime in West and Central Africa.

"We encourage the agencies based there to work closely together and hope

international partners honor their aid commitments without delay," he said,

adding that the focus should be placed on helping the regional countries with capacity building and infrastructure development, "so they are in a better position to seek self-reliant development and achieve sustainable development in West and Central Africa as early as possible."

## China-led infrastructure bank approves applications of six more countries

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has announced that its Board of Governors has approved the membership applications of six more countries, bringing AIIB's total approved members to 93.

The new group of approved members is comprised of Algeria, Ghana, Libya, Morocco, Serbia and Togo.

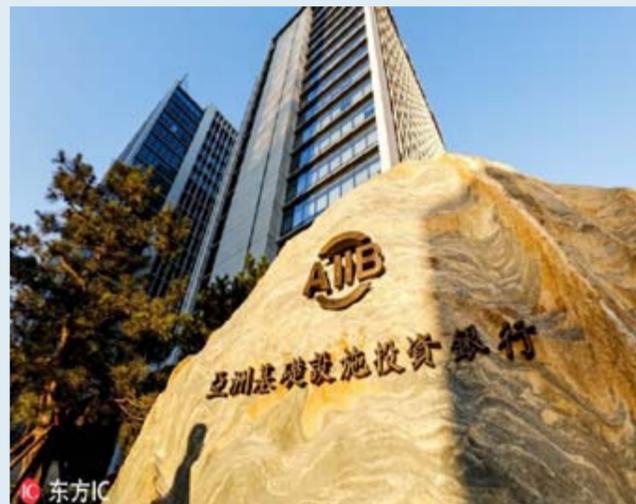
"Within three years, AIIB's membership has increased from the 57 founders to 93 approved members from almost every continent. This shows our member's commitment to multilateral cooperation and strengthens AIIB's role in the international financial

community," said AIIB Vice President and Corporate Secretary Sir Danny Alexander.

"The growing membership of the Bank in Europe and Africa also reflects the importance for growth and development of inter-regional connectivity, especially sustainable infrastructure that opens access to new markets in Asia and beyond."

The six prospective members will officially join AIIB once they complete the required domestic processes and deposit the first capital installment with the Bank. Shares allocated to the new prospective members come from AIIB's existing pool of unallocated shares.

AIIB said it expects to continue



Headquarters building of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Beijing

welcoming new members in the future.

## A Chinese-built school in Egypt becomes magnet for local parents

An Egyptian school, built by the Chinese government as a gift, has been a popular attraction for local Egyptian parents when they make school choice for their children.

The Free Egypt Experimental School, also known as the Chinese School, is located in Monufia province, 65 km northwest of the Egyptian capital Cairo.

Established in 2009 and became fully operational in 2013, the Chinese School is one of the two schools built by the Chinese government under an educational aid program for Egypt. The other one was located in the October 6 City on the outskirts of Cairo.

"It is one of the best schools in Egypt without exaggeration. It's fully equipped with interactive smart board, laptops, iPad, electronic books," Zahran Mohamed, manger of the school, told journalists.

The school gate is open to a vast sport yards surrounded by semi-circle buildings. Built on a space of 9,000 square meters, the school boasts a theatre, a library and multimedia labs.

Mohamed praised the Chinese builders for building the school with a design that allows sunshine and fresh air into all the classrooms equally.

The school, which comprises 34 classes with a population of 1,300 students, has been very attractive among local Egyptian parents, who

are in race to enroll their kids in the school that includes all classes from Kindergarten to high school, Mohamed said.

Despite its name and the builder, the school doesn't offer a Chinese language course, prompting the parents and school staff to call for help from China to teach Chinese as a second language at the school.

"How come a school that is well-known as a Chinese school teaches German and French languages while ignoring the language of the founders?" Mohamed asked.

While most of the governmental schools are highly crowded with students with nearly no spaces for activities, 60 percent of the Chinese School is turned into green land and sport courts, said Shadia Abdel Maqoud, a history teacher at the school.

The Chinese side was responsible for the maintenance of the school for one year until 2014, Maqoud highlighted.

"We need the Chinese side to come back and



Students study at the Free Egypt Experimental School built by the Chinese government as a gift in Monufia Province, Egypt, on Dec. 24, 2018.

take responsibility of the buildings and equipments in best condition," she said.

The school is a treasure that should be preserved for the coming generations, the teacher added, demanding the Chinese partners provide the school with materials and devices for teaching the Chinese language.

"The Chinese side gifted us with a perfect building, but their supervision on educational materials is also needed in coordination with the Egyptian Ministry of Education," Maqoud said.

"The students are very eager to learn about China," she said, adding that the school needs maps, books, and some

educational materials about Chinese history.

The Chinese language will open more doors for communication, cultural exchange, and better understanding with the Chinese, Maqoud added.

Ahlam Adel, a mother of two boys as students at the school, said her sons are very happy in the school.

"We are envied by our friends to enjoy all those facilities with only 1,300 Egyptian pounds (nearly 73 U.S. dollars) per year (for tuition fee)," said.

Adel added that her sons read many books about the history of China and really wish to learn the Chinese language.

## Huawei avails funds to construct low-cost houses in Namibia

Chinese company Huawei, together with Namibia's telecommunications provider MTC, is availing funds for the construction of 250 low-cost houses in Namibia.

The donation of 10 million Namibia dollars (722,000 U.S. dollars) to the Namibia Shack Dwellers Federations was announced at a gala dinner held on Monday evening in Windhoek at the 10-year partnership celebrations between MTC and Huawei.

Namibia's President Hage Geingob said at the event said that this partnership is indicative of the all-weather friendship shared between Namibia and China.

"It is also an example of the results of South-South cooperation, where two telecommunications partners have joined forces to bring world class technologies to Namibia while contributing to the wellbeing of society," he added.

Kian Chen, Managing Director of Huawei Namibia, said that rooted in Namibia for more than a decade, Huawei has been proactively fulfilling its corporate social responsibility for a long-term and sustainable value creation with our partners.

"We are grateful to be in this journey with MTC in facilitating the development of the local communities and result in win-win situations by enhancing ICT infrastructure with customers,

nurturing an ecosystem with industrial and academic partners, bridging digital divide by cultivating ICT talent, to contribute to the goal of shared prosperity," Kian added.

Speaking at the same occasion, MTC's Chief Human Capital and Corporate Affairs Officer Tim Ekandjo said a house is not a privilege but a societal necessity and its provision thereof does not have to continue being a challenge.

In the southwestern African nation, it is estimated that there are currently close to 300,000 people living in shack dwellings in informal settlements throughout the country.

## China-Africa cooperation to accelerate with foreign minister's new year visit

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Africa from the Jan. 2-6, in continuing a 29-year tradition of making Africa the first international trip by him and his predecessors in a new year.

The move reiterates the importance China has attached to its relations with Africa and to South-South cooperation and reaffirms China's commitment to common development and prosperity.

During his four-country tour, Wang, who is also Chinese State Councilor, will discuss with African leaders how to step up implementation of the action plan adopted at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Beijing Summit in September 2018.

China is proven to be a true friend and cooperation partner of Africa based on the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith.

China respects the choice of the African people to pursue their own development paths and has never imposed "prescriptions." And when faced with challenges and problems, China seeks solutions in an open and honest way and through consultations

with its African counterparts.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. China is ready to help when it is in true need for Africa. For decades in a row, China has sent medical teams to help Africans fight epidemics while dispatching agricultural experts and providing financial and technical support for infrastructure transformation and poverty reduction.

Notably, China was among the first to offer assistance as Ebola wreaked havoc in West Africa and great famine hit East Africa.

The 60 billion U.S. dollars in funds China pledged at the 2015 FOCAC Johannesburg Summit has been either delivered or arranged, and the 10 cooperation programs have brought huge benefits to local people.

With the extension of highway and railway networks and the building of airport terminals, sea ports and industrial parks across Africa in recent years, the continent's interconnectivity has been boosted and its industrial capacity unlocked.

In people-to-people exchanges, Chinese medical teams, cultural centers and the Confucius Institutes



*Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (R) meets with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, Jan. 3, 2019.*

have served as major platforms for communication to enhance mutual understanding. In addition, Chinese films and TV series were introduced into Africa and entertained locals.

The Chinese foreign minister's new year trip will see to implementation of the collaboration initiatives proposed at the 2018 FOCAC Beijing Summit, which cover

areas including industrialization, infrastructure, trade facilitation, green development, capacity building and health care.

The initiatives are expected to usher in a new stage of China-Africa cooperation in the next three years and beyond, as part of the efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

## ...reaffirms support to Africa's economic autonomy, sustainable development

China will support Africa to achieve economic autonomy and sustainable development, visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said.

The Chinese foreign minister made the remarks following a meeting with his Ethiopian counterpart Workneh Gebeyehu in Addis Ababa, capital of the East African country.

Wang reiterated that China-Africa cooperation has always been a model not only for South-South cooperation but also for international cooperation with Africa.

China is dedicated to helping Africa to develop and bringing benefits to the African people, the Chinese foreign minister said.

According to him, during the past few decades, China has helped Africa build more than 10,000 km of highways, more than 6,000 km of railways and hundreds of airports, ports and power stations.

Besides, many more hospitals, schools and other projects concerning people's livelihood have been built across many African countries with financial assistance from China, Wang said, adding that China has sent more than 20,000 medical workers to Africa who have treated more than 200 million local patients.

China has also invested heavily in manpower and material resources in order to

help Africa train thousands of professional and technical personnel in various fields, Wang said.

Noting that China's aid and cooperation to Africa has played an irreplaceable role in helping Africa's economic and social development and the improvements of the welfare of African people, Wang emphasized that China's efforts has been appreciated and welcomed by many African countries.

However, there remains rumors that financial problems including national debts which African countries face are the result of their cooperation with China.

While stressing that the allegations are untrue, Wang said such rumors are an attempt to discredit China's sincere support, to which the allegations have been refuted by many African countries.

He affirmed that the China-Africa cooperation will not be distracted by the rumors, adding that China is very much concerned about the difficulties.

China and Africa are close friends and good brothers who have shared weal and woes and China is willing to lend a helping hand to the African people to tide over difficult times.

China has always respected the needs of the African people and the interests of

African countries, Wang said, adding that the assistance and cooperation China offered have no political strings attached.

China sincerely upholds openness and transparency and strictly follows local laws and market rules of different countries. It never allows and will never tolerate any black-box operations and corrupt practices, the foreign minister stressed.

Wang further underscored the importance of enabling Africa to achieve economic autonomy and sustainable development as a solution to the debt problem across the continent.

China will step up efforts to implement the results of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and push forward the "eight major initiatives" that fits the urgent needs of African countries so as to further elevate the vitality of Africa's economy.

Wang also called on the international community to increase its attention and step up investment in Africa, urging all parties to work together to help the African continent.

He said helping the African continent is not only a continuous endeavor China has taken on as a comprehensive strategic partner of Africa, but also an obligation of other countries, especially the developed ones.

## Ethiopia to commission 6 Chinese-built industrial parks before end of July



*One of the industrial parks built by China Civil Engineering Corporation (CCECC), located in Ethiopia's southern city of Hawassa, some 275km south of the capital Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

Ethiopia plans to commission six industrial parks, which are constructed by Chinese firms, before the end of July next year, an Ethiopian official has said.

Speaking to journalists, Lelise Neme, CEO of Ethiopia Industrial Park Development Corporation (IPDC), said Kilinto, Dire Dawa, Bole Lemi 2, Bahir Dar, Arerti and Debre Birhan industrial parks are expected to be commissioned before the end of the current 2018/19 fiscal year.

Debre Birhan and Arerti industrial parks are being constructed by China Communications Construction

Company, while Dire Dawa and Bahir Dar industrial parks are being constructed by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation.

Kilinto and Bole Lemi 2 industrial parks are currently being constructed by China Tiesiju Civil Engineering Group and CGC Overseas Construction Group respectively.

"Ethiopia has invested around 1.3 billion U.S. dollars in the construction of around a dozen industrial parks, which it sees as a key strategy of achieving Ethiopia's industrial ambitions," said Neme.

"Ethiopia has so far built and commissioned five industrial parks and with the anticipated commissioning of six more industrial parks in 2018/19, Ethiopia's industrialization ambitions will receive a massive boost," Neme told Xinhua.

"Our industrial parks are facing energy supply shortages. To solve this problem IPDC is conducting studies on ways industrial parks can generate their own energy," she said.

Neme added Ethiopia is working to solve the logistics problems of firms, which have established factories in industrial

parks. With Ethiopia attracting large-scale investment in the export-oriented manufacturing sector, especially from Chinese firms, the country sees improving the efficiency and speed of the logistics sector as key to meeting national manufacturing revenue goals.

Ethiopia plans to increase the number of operational industrial parks from the current five to around 30 by 2025, as part of its efforts to make the country a light manufacturing hub and lower-middle-income economy in the same period.

## Tanzania launches tourism marketing drive in China

Tanzania has launched a marketing campaign in China to attract business travellers and tourists from the Asian giant.

Senior officials of the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB), Ministry of Tourism, the national airline and key tourism institutions visited China in December last year to market the country's attractions, banking on the much-awaited Air Tanzania flights to

Guangzhou via Bangkok and Mumbai. The officials visited Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Chengdu and Beijing.

In 2017, Tanzania received 30,000 Chinese tourists.

TTB has signed a memorandum of understanding with Touchroad International Holdings Group of China to market Tanzania's tourist attractions in key Chinese cities.

TTB chairman, Thomas Mihayo, said they expect about 10,000 tourists in Tanzania in 2019.

TTB has been participating in various tourism fairs and exhibitions in China to sell the country's tourist products, mainly wildlife, its Indian Ocean beaches and historical sites. The board is also marketing conference tourism as a new product.

China has cited eight African

countries as suitable tourist destinations for the Chinese, among them Tanzania.

The others are Kenya, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Zambia.

"Our major target is to see Tanzania attract Chinese tourists with more investments in high-end hotels," said Tourism Minister Dr Hamis Kigwangala.



A cross section of scholars with the former minister of foreign affairs, Alhaji Aminu (4th from Right) at the seminar to mark the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up organized by the Centre for China Studies held in Abuja Nigeria



Cross section of diplomats who attended the meeting



A cross section of the participants at the seminar



Chinese ambassador to Nigeria, Dr. Zhou Pingjian, Chairman of the occasion, ambassador Aminu Wali, Nigeria's former foreign minister at the event.



Some scholars who made presentations at the seminar.

# To keep China one

By Zhou pingjian

"China must be, will be reunified," said Chinese President Xi Jinping in his speech delivered on January 2 at a gathering in Beijing to commemorate the 40th anniversary of issuing Message to Compatriots in Taiwan.

"It is a historical conclusion drawn over the 70 years of the development of cross-Straits relations, and a must for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in the new era," he said.

Taiwan, lying off the southeastern coast of the Chinese mainland, is China's largest island and forms an integral whole with the mainland. Taiwan has belonged to China since ancient times.

On October 1, 1949, the Chinese people led by the Communist Party of China (CPC) won a great victory in the new democratic revolution and founded the People's Republic of China. The Kuomintang (KMT) ruling clique retreated from the mainland to entrench in China's Taiwan Province in confrontation with the Central Government with the support of foreign forces. This is the origin of the Taiwan issue.

Although the mainland and Taiwan have remained to be reunified since 1949, the Chinese territory and sovereignty have not been split. The two sides are in a state of political confrontation resulting from China's civil war in the mid- to late-1940s.

Since 1949, the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Chinese government and the Chinese people have always unwaveringly taken resolving the Taiwan question to realize China's complete reunification as a historic task.

The message to compatriots in Taiwan issued by Beijing on January 1, 1979, made clear the question of Taiwan is an internal affair and set out the fundamental policy of striving for peaceful reunification.

In his speech on January 2, 2019, President Xi outlined breakthroughs in cross-Straits relations over the past 70 years. Estrangement between the mainland and Taiwan was ended in line with the common will of compatriots across the Straits, and Taiwan compatriots have made great contributions to the reform and

opening-up in the mainland. The mainland and Taiwan reached the 1992 Consensus based on the one-China principle, and the political exchanges across the Straits have reached new heights. The basic principles of "peaceful reunification" and "one country, two systems" were established, and the basic policy of upholding "one country, two systems" and advancing the national reunification was laid out. More and more countries and peoples have understood and supported the cause of the reunification of China. Furthermore, over the 70 years, a series of major victories in the battles against "Taiwan independence" and separatists have been achieved.

According to President Xi, the historical and legal facts, that Taiwan is



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivering a speech on Taiwan recently

part of China and the two sides across Taiwan Straits belong to one and the same China, can never be altered by anyone or any force; the fact that compatriots across the Straits are all Chinese who share natural kinship and national identity can never be changed by anyone or any force; the peaceful and stable development of cross-Straits situations and the progress of cross-Straits relations are the tide of the time that can never be stopped by anyone or any force. He called on Chinese people across the Taiwan Straits as well as at home and abroad to work together for the Chinese nation's greater good and go with the tide of history, to jointly push forward the peaceful

development of the cross-Straits relations and advance the process toward the peaceful reunification of China.

The Taiwan question originated from national weakness and disorder, and will definitely end with national rejuvenation, President Xi said.

The principles of "peaceful reunification" and "one country, two systems" are the best approach to realizing national reunification. President Xi proposed that the mainland and Taiwan conduct democratic consultation on cross-Straits relations and the future of the nation, and establish institutional arrangement for peaceful development of cross-Straits relations. Political parties and all sectors on both sides of the Straits

no room for any form of separatist activities," he said.

The Taiwan question concerns China's core interests and the national bond of the Chinese people. China's reunification does not harm any country's legitimate interests, including their economic interests in Taiwan. It will only bring more development opportunities to other countries, inject more positive energy into the prosperity and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and make greater contributions to building a community with a shared future for humanity, to world peace and development, and to the cause of human progress.

Two years ago, a joint statement by the Government of China and the Government of Nigeria was signed in Abuja on January 11, 2017 by the visiting Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi and honorable minister of foreign affairs Geoffrey Onyeama. The Government of China and the Government of Nigeria reaffirmed their respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. According to the joint statement,

"The government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria reaffirms that the one China policy is at the core of its Strategic Partnership with China.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria recognizes that there is only one China in the world, that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. The Government of Federal Republic of Nigeria reiterates not to have any official relations or engage in any official contacts with Taiwan, and supports all efforts made by the Chinese Government to realize national reunification."

The Government of the People's Republic of China appreciates the above position and the measures taken accordingly by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. To keep China one is a task that must be done.

Dr.Zhou Pingjian, is the Chinese ambassador to Nigeria

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