

Dear Reader,

The attitude of African states and societies towards counterparts in China varies much in line with the experiences made. This edition of African East-Asian Affairs – The China Monitor takes a closer look at Sino-Mozambican interactions, highlighting different facets of the relationship between China and one of Africa's 54 states.

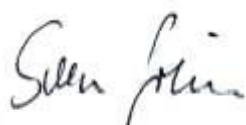
Our first contribution is on state-to-state relations between Mozambique and China. The contribution by Jorge Njal – who currently lives in Jinhua, Zhejiang province of China – is on state-to-state and party-to-party relations that assist in organising big events such as the All Africa Games in 2011. States are not only working for the basic needs of their population; they also want to project an image in order to foster a national identity and to attract attention by investors. Yet, the question will have to be asked if the money was wisely invested in a big event or what else could have been done with it. This is rather a question towards the Mozambican elites, less so towards the Chinese state.

Our second contribution, by Mafalda Piçarra, focuses on the Chinese investments in and trade with agricultural and forestry produce of Mozambique. While particularly the second aspect concerns enterprises and individuals – who should not be mistaken as identical to the Chinese state – the article also indicates challenges coming with illicit activities and high levels of corruption. To use a phrase from climate change negotiations: responsibilities are common, but differentiated. In a globalised world, this is also true for development prospects.

This month of June also sees the Rio+20 conference – or Johannesburg+10, if you want – and thus reminds us of the principle of sustainability in our actions. In the last month, the CCS hosted a workshop in Stellenbosch on environmental sustainability in China and in Africa. Thanks to the experts around the table, we had excellent discussions with Chinese and African colleagues, hoping to also feed into the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), as we highlighted last month. Our mini-series of policy briefings on FOCAC has now been published and with them, we hope to provide useful background to a number of stakeholders.

As per usual, you can also find commentaries by CCS staff in the latter section of this AEAA, spanning a broad range of topics, from (supposedly?) existing tensions between communism and capitalism in China, to labour issues in development that need to be considered in industrialisation. Our third commentary looks into new rules in censorship of China's internet services.

We hope you enjoy the read!



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