

Dear Reader,

Discussion about Chinese investment very often limits itself to the areas that are capital intensive and thus can refer to impressive figures with regard to financial volume. Indeed, the resource-seeking drive for investment in Africa is strong, not least so for Chinese investments. There is, however, more to China-Africa relations than an exclusive look at big numbers would suggest. This issue of *African East Asian Affairs | The China Monitor* is dedicated to the next layer of interests in Chinese investments in Africa.

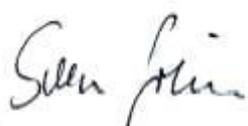
The contributions to this issue of AEAA are on investments in agriculture, a culturally and politically very sensitive area of investment – with repercussions for food security in Africa, too. There is a hefty debate on the topic – with not (yet) too many examples of successful investments in this area by Chinese enterprises, as Philippe Asanzi argues based on field work he conducted in DRC. Secondly, the investment in the financial sector was explored by Vanessa Eidt and she argues that economic motives prevail over political ones with a strong business drive in the acquisition of Standard Bank shares by Chinese ICBC. As a third contribution, CCS research fellow Dr Daouda Cissé has looked into one of the growth markets on the African continent: telecommunication. He argues that Chinese companies are making some inroads in this market, not least so with tailor-made offers – and, not to forget: backing by the Chinese government.

As you can see with this issue of *AEAA | The China Monitor*, our publication is evolving further. We are increasing the overall weight of the publication – literally, with the insertion of a third article. In the electronic age, this should not be a physical burden for you to carry; it will, however, hopefully increase the intellectual stimulus.

I am particularly pleased that the articles of this month are all based on empirical research in African countries and thereby perfectly fit our ambition to explore Sino-African relations. I can just encourage colleagues from the African continent, China, and elsewhere, who have pieces to share that elaborate on Chinese developments and the relationship between the Middle Kingdom and the Continent. We will continue to publish a selection of our monthly commentaries in AEAA. These commentaries and other news items can also be found on our webpage (www.sun.ac.za/ccs).

We do receive comments on our editions, their topics, their layout, and points of views taken by authors in these publications. This is much appreciated! If you have any feedback on this or other publications of the CCS, please don't hesitate to let us know (via ccsinfo@sun.ac.za). We are looking forward to your comments!

Yours sincerely,



Dr Sven Grimm
Director

