

## Editorial

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the new look version of African East-Asian Affairs, The China Monitor. As you can see, we have moved towards a generic cover page. While this means that we 'lose' the nice cover images, it also illustrates our move towards a more professional and more academic journal-type publication that we aspire to provide with the African East-Asian Affairs.

Ultimately, we aspire to develop the journal further to provide a platform for academic discussion on China, its global role and, more specifically, China-African relations from the African continent. China has become a major partner of many African states and therefore its internal developments and policies towards African countries is of major importance. One of the key developments in recent years was the mutual interaction and direct engagement between Africa and China; this is a precondition for mutual understanding. From an African perspective, one can be fascinated by China's rise or be a critic of Chinese business and other engagement - whatever the perspective, China is and will remain relevant for the African continent.

This relationship is not an exclusive engagement, neither for China nor for Africa. There are obviously numerous other interested parties who we also encourage to contribute to our publication. While we do like to stimulate debate, our major aim is a balanced and in-depth picture of China, fundamentally rooted in academic standards and analysis.

We are convinced that the increased interest in China and its relations with Africa merits this new quarterly publication. We will want to offer a range of topics, but might also have thematic issues in the future. If you want to contribute, please send an abstract or your full article (with Harvard citation style, please) to us and we will get in touch.

Dr Sven Grimm,  
*Director of the Centre for Chinese Studies*  
*Stellenbosch, August 2012*