

THE LEADERSHIP

MWALIMU JULIUS NYERERE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL MAGAZINE

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No. 01



China's Image in African Perspective

Inaugural Message

It is with profound pleasure, humility and anticipation that we celebrate the launch of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School Magazine (MJNLS) with this inaugural issue. This is a product of joint efforts between the School and China's Contemporary World Magazine. It will have a special focus on Southern Africa and thus the name Contemporary World Southern Africa.

On behalf of Contemporary World Southern Africa Editorial Team, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the readership of this magazine. I take this opportunity to thank our authors, editors and anonymous reviewers, all of whom have volunteered to contribute to the success of the Magazine.

The sincere friendship and quest for mutual benefit coupled with common development goals for the two continents have made these joint efforts possible. Sino-African relations, also referred to as Africa-China relations are the historical, political, economic, military, social, and cultural connections between China and the African continent.

Modern political and economic relations between the Chinese mainland and the African continent commenced in the era of Mao Zedong, following the victory of the Communist Party of China (CCP) in the Chinese Civil War. At the turn of the 21st century, the modern state of the People's Republic of China (PRC) built increasingly strong economic ties with Africa.

In southern Africa in particular, the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere initiated relations with the People's Republic of China through the first premier, Zhou Enlai, soon after Tanzania's independence in 1961, just 12 years after China's liberation. This relationship led to China's support for the liberation of southern Africa from colonial rule and apartheid era in South Africa.

China's foreign policy agenda in Africa forms a part of its thrust to foster cooperation among the developing countries and demonstrate its status as an emerging superpower. The 2000 Beijing Declaration and the Program for China-Africa Cooperation in Economic and Social Development are the basis of the renewed relations. China has developed diverse and varied relations with Africa in all spheres of interaction. China is the African continent's largest trading partner and source of foreign direct investment. Its investment has

helped spur infrastructure development and economic growth.

Thus the topics covered in this first issue are geared towards addressing the relationship between China and Africa. As indicated earlier, this magazine is published by the MJNLS and thus a special focus is also pointed at the School and its establishment as a strong gesture towards raising a well-informed and prepared young generation into influential leadership positions, towards a common future based on regional development.

This magazine will provide an ideal forum for exchange of information on all of the above topics and more, in various formats: full length and letter length research papers, survey papers, work-in-progress reports on promising developments, case studies / best practice articles written by development experts, and tutorials on up-and-coming leadership and political breakthroughs.

The Magazine's editorial board is strongly convinced this initiative will equally provide platform for young and emerging leaders in southern Africa to learn and share experiences as the continent strives to keep pace with the undergoing international balance of power and profound political changes.

At the heart of this collaborative venture lies a profound objective — to deepen the exchange of governance experiences between the Communist Party of China and the Six Sister Parties of the Former Liberation Movements of Southern Africa. These include The African National Congress (ANC) - South Africa, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) - Tanzania, Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) - Mozambique, Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - Angola, South West Africa Peoples' Organization (SWAPO) - Namibia, and Zimbabwe National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) - Zimbabwe.

Once again I welcome you to this magazine – your magazine! With your support as readers, authors, reviewers, and editors, I see very bright prospects for this magazine to serve, improve more lives and, consequently, our communities.

Thank you.

Prof. Marcelina Chijoriga
Editor in Chief

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Speech by the Honorable Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of Chama Cha Mapinduzi at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Julius Nyerere Leadership School



Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, officiating the opening of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in 2022.

Comrade Philip Mangula, Vice Chairman of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (Tanzania Mainland);

Comrade Ali Mohamed Shein, Vice Chairman of CCM Zanzibar;

Comrade Daniel Godfrey Chongolo, General Secretary of Chama Cha Mapinduzi;

Hon. Isdor Phillip Mpango, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania;

Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council;

Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania;

All members of the CCM Central Committee;

Honourable Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, who is joining us via the Internet;

Members of the National Central Committee of CCM;

Honourable General Secretaries and representatives of our Six Friendly Parties (ANC, CCM, FRELIMO, MPLA, SWAPO and ZANU-PF);

Honourable Ambassadors present;

Honourable Ministers, General Secretaries, Heads of Regions where you are;

Honourable other Party and Government Leaders;

Honourable Guests, all of you who are present;

Members of the Interim Training Committee;

Dear journalists;

Dear Citizens, Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I greet you in the name of the United Republic of Tanzania. In fact, I am very happy today, because the idea of the life of our Parties and our nations that we started 10 years ago through the Harare Declaration of the six parties ANC, CCM, FRELIMO, MPLA, SWAPO, ZANU-PF dated June 8, 2012 has come true today.

Uniquely and sincerely, I would like to thank and congratulate the founders of the idea of establishing this School I know many have participated up to this point, but for this country, I would like to recognize the contribution of the retired President of the Fourth Phase who was also the Chairman of CCM, Mzee Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, because in 2012 when this idea was conceived he was our Party Leader and therefore tasked with carrying the vision. Likewise, I would like to thank the Vice Chairmen of CCM Mzee Mangula and Mzee Shein, as well as the retired General Secretaries of CCM, Comrades Wilson Mukama and Abdulrahman Kinana for their leadership throughout the implementation of this idea. I thank them very much.

As the President of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and current Chairperson of CCM, I am standing

here with great joy to complete the 10-year-old idea of building this School by officially opening it. As the Secretary General of CCM said on 16 July, 2018, the President of the Fifth Phase of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Joseph Pombe Magufuli laid the foundation stone for the construction of this School whilst the training was expected to commence in 2020. Interim Training Committee and our Brothers from the People's Republic of China fulfilled their responsibilities so that the School could start that year, but it was not possible. We continued to step up efforts so that this strategic School and special centre for our Parties is completed, and today we have succeeded in opening it and training has begun. This is a matter of happiness and pride for all of us, so I congratulate everyone, especially the Management Committee of the General Secretaries of all seven Parties (including the Chinese Communist Party), the Coordinator, the Contractors and especially the Members of the Temporary Training Committee for establishing the curriculum of this short course training with patriotic spirit.

Honourable Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This event today is historic for our six countries; i.e. South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and our main partner China. It is an event that reflects our association during the liberation movement in the sixties and sev-

enties until we succeeded in the struggle for the liberation of the freedom of our southern African countries. This event makes us reflect on where we came from in the sense of unity and our success to achieve the second economic liberation of our nations together. An economic liberation that will bring great progress to our citizens and the vitality of our nations as a whole. We Swahili say “Umoja ni Nguvu Utengano ni Udhafu” which literally means “Unity is Strength, Separation is Weakness” and it is always a lesson in the life of our world that moves very fast. Let's learn not to let our cooperation be shaken.

Honourable Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the stable and strategic pillars to maintain this cooperation with broad interests is to provide training with mutual understanding to leaders of our Parties and our Nations. This School has that goal. Through this Academy, Leaders and Cadres of these Parties and States and Executives of strategic Institutions will be given long-term, medium and short-term leadership training of all kinds to instil and create a new generation of revolutionary leadership in Africa. Basically, the college has a big responsibility to build the image of these nations. The courses that will be taught here will be about leadership and ideology, which are among the major problems facing African countries, especially in this era of multi-party democracy. Many parties have been established

without having a clear ideology and they also lack people with leadership experience who are prepared and well trained. And this situation has also, to a large extent, been affecting even our oldest parties and is creating a leadership vacuum.

Honourable Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen

In order to deal with that situation and realizing that ours are ruling Parties, which the people rely on to continue to lead our countries for a long time, we have felt that we have the responsibility to show the way by establishing this School. We want our Parties to have well-prepared leaders, strong leaders who disciplined and ethical; and those who will understand it, will manage it and educate the community about our ideology. We want this College to help us produce many Nyereres, Mandelas, Samora Machels, Augustino Netos, Sam Nujomas, Mugabes, Kaundas, etc. I believe this mission is possible, especially since our parties have similar ideological bases. A revolutionary ideology aimed at liberating the poor citizens and bringing development to our countries. Furthermore, our parties, right now, aim to bring economic reform and liberation to our countries; therefore, it will be easy for this School to connect us and enable us to achieve that mission.

Honourable Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The General Secretaries of the ANC, FRELIMO, MPLA, SWA-



Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, arrives at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Kibaha for a closing ceremony of the training for Regional Commissioners and Regional Administrative Secretaries, representing from across Tanzania. The training took place from August 22 to August 27, 2023 mainland.

PO and ZANU-PF parties should use your opportunities to bring your leaders and cadres so that we can build leadership, ideology, nationalism and our Africanism in this region in a progressive manner, intellectual change and attitudes will be the catalyst and positive to open development, cooperation and people-to-people interaction across the SADC region. It is time for us Africans to get rid of conflicts and poverty because we have enough human resources and we should turn ourselves intellectually, practically and theoretically. You are very welcome at the School in Kibaha, let's build our courage, and with the people of this area and the CCM members of this area are the ones who gave this area for free for the construction of this College in order to develop our

fraternal and historical relationship.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would also like, on behalf of CCM and all our six parties, to express our gratitude to our Comrades and friends of the Communist Party of China who have paid for us to build this College. The construction of this College has cost 40 Million US Dollars, approximately 100 billion Tanzanian Shillings. All those funds are sponsored by our Comrades and friends in China. The Communist Party of China and the country of China are our long-time friends and brothers. Since the days of the liberation struggles, they provided us with weapons and military equipment to carry out the liberation wars. They trained the freedom fight-



ers and taught them ideological and propaganda issues that motivated the freedom fighters to continue the struggle.

After independence, China has continued to cooperate with our countries and provide us with various aid. We in Tanzania are among the biggest beneficiaries of Chinese aid. The TAZARA railway that connects our country with our Zambian colleagues is one of the biggest aid that China has given to our country. This railway greatly helped the liberation movement for countries in Southern Africa. We are very grateful and we ask Ms. Chen Mingjian, Ambassador of China to Tanzania, who joined us here today to convey our thanks to the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, who is also the President of the People's Republic of China, His Excellence Comrade Xi

Jinping, the Government and all the people of China for building this School for us. We promise to continue to honour our friendship and brotherhood.

Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We thank the sister parties and friends of CCM, namely ANC, FRELIMO, MPLA, SWAPO and ZANU-PF, for accepting this School to be built here in our country. You have given us this honour in recognition of the contribution of our country in the liberation movement of our continent. Also, I would like to thank you for deciding to name this School after Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the Father of our Nation. This is a wise decision and reflects the purpose of building this School. Mwalimu Nyerere is one of the best leaders, strong, decisive, defender of the weak, a revolutionary and a good believer in the ideology and philosophy of Pan-Africanism that ever appeared on our continent. We in Tanzania are very proud of Mwalimu Nyerere as our Father of the Nation.

Dear Leaders, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all know, Mwalimu Nyerere made a great contribution to the liberation movement of our continent. Therefore, it is clear that giving this School its name is the right thing. He deserves to be given this honour. I am happy to see that in this activity we have a representative from the family of Mwalimu Nyerere, comrade Makongoro Nyerere. We thank

the family for being in this place, but also for consenting to this School being given the name of the Father of the Nation. And I have great faith that the staff and students/scholars of this School will respect the philosophy and all the good things of the Father of the Nation.

Honourable Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all guests from all nations and parties and all Tanzanians to Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Ki-baha people for coming out in large numbers to this event.

Our Dear Guests; here Ki-baha is the Headquarters of the Coast Region; A region that, like many areas of our country, also participated fully and made a great contribution to the liberation movement, not only of our country but also of many African countries, especially those in the South of our continent. I am sure, our friends, and especially from FRELIMO and ZANU-PF, still remember well the Kaole Freedom Fighters Camp, Bagamoyo, just a few kilometres from here.

Finally, I would like to thank all our guests who travelled from different places to support us. Thank you very much.

Now I officially declare that Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's Leadership School has been opened.

Thank you very much for listening to me and let the work continue.



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and delivers a keynote speech at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 18, 2023. (PHOTO / Xinhua)

Keynote Speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Opening Ceremony of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

Our Excellencies Heads of State and Government, Heads of International Organizations, Representatives of Various Countries, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

Today, we are meeting here for the opening ceremony of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF). On behalf of the Chinese government and Chinese people and in my own name, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to you all!

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) I proposed. The BRI, drawing inspiration from the

ancient Silk Road and focusing on enhancing connectivity, aims to enhance policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity, inject new impetus into the global economy, create new opportunities for global development, and build a new platform for international economic cooperation.

Over these 10 years, we have stayed committed to this founding mission. Thanks to our joint efforts, Belt and Road international cooperation has gotten off the ground, grown rapidly and produced fruitful outcomes.

Belt and Road cooperation has extended from the Eurasian continent to Africa and Latin America. More than 150 countries and over

30 international organizations have signed Belt and Road cooperation documents. We have held two sessions of the BRF before, and have established over 20 specialized multilateral cooperation platforms under the BRI.

Belt and Road cooperation has progressed from "sketching the outline" to "filling in the details," and blueprints have been turned into real projects. A large number of signature projects and "small yet smart" people-centered programs have been launched.

Belt and Road cooperation has expanded from physical connectivity to institutional connectivity. Important guiding principles for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation have been laid down,

which include the principle of "planning together, building together, and benefiting together," the philosophy of open, green and clean cooperation, and the goal of pursuing high-standard, people-centered and sustainable cooperation.

Over these 10 years, we have endeavored to build a global network of connectivity consisting of economic corridors, international transportation routes and information highway as well as railways, roads, airports, ports, pipelines and power grids. Covering the land, the ocean, the sky and the Internet, this network has boosted the flow of goods, capital, technologies and human resources among countries involved and injected fresh vitality into the millennia-old Silk Road in the new era.

Trains speeding along rail tracks, automobiles running on roads, flights connecting different countries, cargo ships breaking waves, and e-commerce bringing so much convenience to people -- they have all become symbols of international trade in the new era, just like camel caravans and the sailing ships were for the past age.

Hydro, wind and solar energy based power plants, oil and gas pipelines, and the increasingly smart and interconnected power transmission networks are removing the development bottleneck caused by energy shortage and fulfilling the dream of developing countries to achieve green and low-carbon development. These energy projects have become the oasis and lighthouse for sustainable development in the new era.

Brand new airports and harbors, smooth roads, and newly built industrial parks for business cooperation have created new economic corridors and new growth drivers, and have become the trading routes and staging posts of the new era.

Rich and colorful cultural years, art festivals, expos and exhibitions, Luban Workshops, people-to-people exchange programs like the Silk Road Community Building Initiative and the Brightness Action program, and deepening exchanges between non-governmental organizations, think tanks, media organizations, and the youth -- all these flourishing activities have composed a symphony of friendship in the new era.

When COVID-19 struck, the Belt and Road became a life-saving road. China provided more than 10 billion masks and 2.3 billion doses of vaccines to other countries and jointly produced vaccines with over 20 countries, making a special contribution to BRI partners' efforts in fighting COVID-19. And China also received valuable support from more than 70 countries when it was hit hard by the pandemic.

Belt and Road cooperation is based on the principle of "planning together, building together, and benefiting together." It transcends differences between civilizations, cultures, social systems, and stages of development. It has opened up a new path for exchanges among countries, and established a new framework for international cooperation. Indeed, the BRI represents humanity's joint pursuit of

development for all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

Our achievements in the past decade are truly remarkable, and there is so much we can draw from them.

We have learned that humankind is a community with a shared future. China can only do well when the world is doing well. When China does well, the world will get even better. Through Belt and Road cooperation, China is opening its door even wider to the world, with its inland regions turning from "fullbacks" into "forwards," and coastal regions scaling new heights in their opening-up. China's market has become even more closely integrated with the global market. China has become a main trading partner of more than 140 countries and territories and a primary source of investment for more countries. Both Chinese investment overseas and foreign investment in China have boosted friendship, cooperation, confidence and hope.

We have learned that win-win cooperation is the sure way to success in launching major initiatives that benefit all. When countries embrace cooperation and act in concert, a deep chasm can be turned into a thoroughfare, land-locked countries can become land-linked, and a place of under-development can be transformed into a land of prosperity. Countries taking the lead in economic development should give a hand to their partners who are yet to catch up. We should all treat each other as friends and partners, respect and support each other, and

help each other succeed. As the saying goes, when you give roses to others, their fragrance lingers on your hand. In other words, helping others is also helping oneself. Viewing others' development as a threat or taking economic interdependence as a risk will not make one's own life better or speed up one's development.

We have learned that the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit is the most important source of strength for Belt and Road cooperation. I once said that the pioneers of the ancient silk routes won their place in history not as conquerors with warships, guns, horses or swords. Rather, they are remembered as friendly emissaries leading camel caravans and sailing ships loaded with goods. Belt and Road cooperation is based on the belief that flame runs high when everyone adds wood to the fire and that mutual support can get us far. Such cooperation seeks to deliver a good life not only to people of just one country, but to people in other countries as well. It promotes connectivity, mutual benefit, common development, cooperation and win-win outcomes. Ideological confrontation, geopolitical rivalry and bloc politics are not a choice for us. What we stand against are unilateral sanctions, economic coercion and decoupling and supply chain disruption.

What has been achieved in the past 10 years demonstrates that Belt and Road cooperation is on the right side of history. It represents the advancing of our times,

and it is the right path forward. We need to remain clear-eyed and undisturbed in a volatile world, and we need to be keenly aware of our responsibility for history, for the people and for the world. We should jointly address various global risks and challenges, and deliver a bright future of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit for future generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

Changes of the world, of our times, and of historical significance are unfolding like never before. China is endeavoring to build itself into a stronger country and rejuvenate the Chinese nation on all fronts by pursuing Chinese modernization. The modernization we are pursuing is not for China alone, but for all developing countries through our joint efforts. Global modernization should be pursued to enhance peaceful development and mutually beneficial cooperation and bring prosperity to all. On our way forward, we will encounter both headwinds and tailwinds. We need to stay focused on our goal, take results-oriented actions, persevere, and keep moving forward until our goal is met. China will work with all parties involved to deepen Belt and Road partnerships of cooperation, usher this cooperation into a new stage of high-quality development, and make relentless efforts to achieve modernization for all countries.

Now, I wish to announce eight major steps China will take to support our joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road coop-

eration.

First, building a multidimensional Belt and Road connectivity network. China will speed up high-quality development of the China-Europe Railway Express, participate in the trans-Caspian international transportation corridor, host the China-Europe Railway Express Cooperation Forum, and make joint efforts to build a new logistics corridor across the Eurasian continent linked by direct railway and road transportation. We will vigorously integrate ports, shipping and trading services under the "Silk Road Maritime," and accelerate the building of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor and the Air Silk Road.

Second, supporting an open world economy. China will establish pilot zones for Silk Road e-commerce cooperation, enter into free trade agreements and investment protection treaties with more countries. We will remove all restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector. In light of international high-standard economic and trade rules, we will further advance high-standard opening up in cross-border service trade and investment, expand market access for digital and other products, and deepen reform in areas including the state-owned enterprises, digital economy, intellectual property and government procurement. China will hold the Global Digital Trade Expo annually. In the next five years (2024-2028), China's total trade in goods and services is expected to exceed USD 32 trillion and USD 5 trillion respectively.

Third, carrying out practical cooperation. China will promote both signature projects and "small yet smart" livelihood programs. The China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China will each set up a RMB 350 billion financing window. An additional RMB 80 billion will be injected into the Silk Road Fund. Together, they will support BRI projects on the basis of market and business operation. Cooperation agreements worth USD 97.2 billion have been concluded at the CEO Conference held during this Forum. China will carry out 1,000 small-scale livelihood assistance projects, and enhance vocational education cooperation through Luban Workshops and other initiatives. We will also step up joint efforts to ensure the safety of BRI projects and personnel.

Fourth, promoting green development. China will continue to deepen cooperation in areas such as green infrastructure, green energy and green transportation, and step up support for the BRI International Green Development Coalition. China will continue to hold the BRI Green Innovation Conference, and establish dialogue and exchange mechanisms for the solar industry and a network of experts on green and low-carbon development. China will implement the Green Investment Principles for the Belt and Road, and provide 100,000 training opportunities for partner countries by 2030.

Fifth, advancing scientific and technological innovation. China will continue to implement the Belt and Road Science, Technol-

ogy and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, hold the first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange, increase the number of joint laboratories built with other parties to 100 in the next five years, and support young scientists from other countries to work on short-term programs in China. At this Forum, China will put forward the Global Initiative for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance. We stand ready to increase exchanges and dialogue with other countries and jointly promote the sound, orderly and secure AI development in the world.

Sixth, supporting people-to-people exchanges. China will host the Liangzhu Forum to enhance dialogue on civilizations with BRI partner countries. In addition to the Silk Road International League of Theaters, the Silk Road International Arts Festival, the International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road, the Silk Road International Alliance of Art Museums, and the Silk Road International Library Alliance that have been set up, China has also launched the International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road Cities. And we will continue with the Chinese government scholarship Silk Road Program.

Seventh, promoting integrity-based Belt and Road cooperation. Together with its cooperation partners, China will release the Achievements and Prospects of Belt and Road Integrity Building and the High-Level Principles on Belt and Road Integrity Building, and establish the Integrity and Compliance Evaluation System

for Companies Involved in Belt and Road Cooperation. We will also work with international organizations to carry out research and training on promoting integrity in Belt and Road cooperation.

Eighth, strengthening institutional building for international Belt and Road cooperation. China will work with its BRI partner countries to strengthen the building of multilateral cooperation platforms covering energy, taxation, finance, green development, disaster reduction, anti-corruption, think tank, media, culture and other fields. China will continue to host the BRF and establish a secretariat for the Forum.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

The past decade has been a journey of dedicated cooperation and fruitful outcomes. Belt and Road cooperation was proposed by China, but its benefits and opportunities are for the world to share. Let us meet the expectations of the people, assume responsibilities entrusted on us by history, closely follow the trend of the times, and press ahead with energy and enterprise. Let us deepen Belt and Road international cooperation, and bring Belt and Road cooperation to a new stage of higher-quality and higher-level development. Let us advance modernization of all countries, build an open, inclusive and interconnected world for common development, and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind.

I wish the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation a full success!

Thank you.

Keynote Speech by Professor Marcellina Chijoriga, Principal of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Tanzania Delivered at the 3rd Asian-African Women's Development and Cooperation Forum

Our Excellence Guest of Honor, Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, organizers of the forum, and dear participants of the 3rd Asian-African Women's Development and Cooperation Forum, all protocols observed.

Good afternoon!! Habari za Mchana!!

Your Excellencies, Guest of Honor, I would like to begin my key note speech by thanking God for giving us the blessing of life and bringing us together here safely. In addition, I want to thank the organizers for inviting me to take part in this forum and offering me this precious opportunity to give this key note speech and talk issues related to women. For this is a great honor I say thank you very much!

As it has been mentioned, I am currently the Principal of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Tanzania. The School was established in February, 2022 by the six (6) former liberation movements in Southern Africa (FLMSA). The FLMSA includes, MPLA from Angola,



Professor Marcellina Chijoriga, Principal of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Tanzania delivers a keynote address at the 3rd Asian-African Women's Development and Cooperation Forum on the 31st October, 2023 in Hong Kong.

FRELIMO from Mozambique, SWAPO from Namibia, ANC from South Africa, CCM from Tanzania, and ZANU PF from Zimbabwe. The Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Peoples of China supported the construction of the School.

The School envisions becoming *“an international center of excellence for nationalist and Pan - African leaders through*

equipping Pan-African leaders to deliver impactful sustainable political, socio - economic and cultural development”. The School expects to produce leaders who are people centric and transformative.

As a professor from Southern Africa, I have experienced women challenges, struggles and triumphs at personal, institutional, country and regional levels. It is a profound honor to address this gathering today where I will try my best to speak some of the experiences of empowering women and advancing gender equality in our African continent amidst a global transformation that has brought to the fore the harsh reality that women across the world continue to grapple with severe social vulnerabilities. Some of these vulnerabilities extend to the realm of leadership, where women face unique and persistent challenges.

We are living in a world of profound transformation, a world where both unparalleled challenges and unprecedented opportunities coexist. It is crucial that we recognize this dual-

ity and harness it for the betterment of women worldwide.

As we witness these global shifts, one fact remains unchanged: women across the globe continue to face daunting social challenges. In many regions, women still bear the brunt of inequality, discrimination, and limited access to resources and opportunities. Yet, even in the face of adversity, women have consistently demonstrated resilience, determination, and the capacity to lead transformative change.

Our shared mission is clear: to promote the strength and leadership of women through education and training, thus enabling them to partake in the fruits of peace and development, and together, crafting a brighter future for women across Asia and Africa.

To provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand, let us turn to both global and African data:

1. Global Gender Gap in Leadership

As of 2021, women remained underrepresented in leadership positions worldwide. According to a report by McKinsey, women held only 28% of senior management roles globally. The situation is more acute in certain sectors, such as politics and corporate boardrooms. I myself had a privilege to sit in several boards in the public and private sector, national and international; in most cases there were no or few women in some of these boards. Many times I was the only woman.



Comrade Lv Xuejun, President and Editor-in-Chief, Contemporary World Magazine flanked by Prof. Marcellina Chijoriga, Principal of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School sign a cooperation agreement to run a joint "Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School Magazine" in Beijing, April 19, 2023.

2. Africa's Progress and Challenges

In Africa, we have witnessed significant progress in women's political representation in some nations, with Rwanda leading the way with over 60% female representation in its parliament, Niger and Somalia with least percentage. However, progress varies across the continent, and many countries still struggle to achieve gender parity in leadership. In my country Tanzania we have affirmative action for women to be members of parliament, which goes with a percentage representation. Current representation in parliament is 37.4% (147 women against 246 men), and women full ministers are 27.6% (8 women against 21 men ministers). Nonetheless, we have few women in corporate leadership positions including professors in universities and higher earning institutions.

3. Barriers to Leadership

Women's leadership aspirations are often hindered by systemic barriers such as cultural norms, stereotypes, and discriminatory practices. The Global Education Monitoring Report highlights that gender-based violence, early marriage, and limited access to education impede women's leadership potential. Many married women choose not/do not want to be leaders; and if they are appointed they cannot compete with fellow men on the education levels and experience. I have witnessed competent women refuse to take up leadership positions because of the need to balance family (a wife and a mother) and professional/leadership positions.

4. Economic Disparities

Gender pay gaps persist globally, with women earning less than men for the same work. The In-

International Labour Organization (ILO) reports that women's average global income is only about 63% of men's income. This is more common in Europe compared to other regions in the world.

5. Access to Education

Access to quality education remains a challenge for many girls in Africa, particularly in sub-Saharan regions. UNESCO estimates that 52% of girls of primary school age are out of school in sub-Saharan Africa. Major reason for drop out are to do with social relations in the societies they come from. Many like to educate a boy child than a girl child.

In the face of these challenges, education and training stand as powerful tools for dismantling barriers and fostering women's leadership. Education not only equips women with knowledge and skills but also builds their confidence, critical thinking abilities, and decision-making capabilities. The transformative impact of education on women's leadership cannot be overstated.

In the African continent and across the globe, we have seen women leaders who have demonstrated that when women are educated and empowered to take up decision-making roles, they can create a profound impact spanning from conflict resolution, bring about peace, socio-economic development to gender equality and diplomacy.

**Ladies and gentlemen,
distinguished guests,**



Main Speakers at the 3rd Asian-African Women's Development and Cooperation Forum held on the 31st October, 2023 in Hong Kong show their appreciation certificates.

To illustrate what I have said, please allow me to explore a few compelling examples from different corners of the world, including Africa, China, Asia, and Western nations.

Africa

In Tanzania, President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the first female President in the country, is a testament to the profound change that can occur when women are educated, empowered, and given the opportunity to lead. Her tremendous achievements on diplomacy and regional stability, economic development and inclusivity, gender equality and empowerment and covid-19 response proves positive outcomes of women-led political and development endeavors. She has also introduced an education scholarship fund for girls. She has invested a lot on health care and maternal and child health.

In Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first female president in

Africa, stood at the helm during a tumultuous period. Her leadership played a pivotal role in stabilizing the nation after years of civil war, fostering reconciliation, and laying the foundation for socio-economic development.

Malawi's former President, Joyce Banda, implemented policies promoting economic growth and social development. Her initiatives, focusing on health, agriculture, and education, brought tangible improvements to her country's well-being.

Ethiopia's President Sahle-Work Zewde has been actively involved in promoting peace and reconciliation not only within her country, but also across the Horn of Africa, contributing to regional stability.

Rwanda's government with a significant representation of women in key positions, has made substantial investments in healthcare and education. This has led to improvements in ma-

ternal health, increased access to education, and reduced child mortality rates.

China

Comrade Wu Yi, the former Vice Premier of China, played a significant role in China's economic growth and globalization efforts. Her leadership in trade negotiations and economic reforms contributed to China's emergence as a global economic powerhouse.

China has seen improvements in gender equality in recent years. Women leaders in various government positions have advocated for policies promoting women's rights, workforce participation, and protection against discrimination.

Women leaders in China have been involved in initiatives to improve healthcare access and poverty reduction programs, leading to improvements in public health and living standards.

Asia

Bangladesh, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, serves as an inspiration for gender equality, education, and economic growth. The nation's impressive progress in poverty reduction and economic development showcases the potential of women's leadership.

Sri Lanka's former President, Chandrika Kumaratunga, worked tirelessly on conflict resolution and reconciliation efforts, crucial steps in achieving lasting peace.

Western Countries

Germany's Angela Merkel, the



Main Speakers at the 3rd Asian-African Women's Development and Cooperation Forum held on the 31st October, 2023 in Hong Kong show their appreciation certificates.

first female Chancellor, steered the nation to economic stability and leadership in Europe, while also navigating complex global challenges.

In the United Kingdom, Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May made their marks as Prime Ministers, contributing to critical policy changes, including economic reforms and national security.

In the United States, leaders such as Hillary Clinton and Madeleine Albright were instrumental in shaping the nation's diplomacy and foreign policy, advocating for global stability and human rights.

These remarkable women have demonstrated that when women are educated and empowered to take up decision-making roles, they can create a profound impact, on not only conflict resolution and socio-economic development, gender equality and diplomacy, but also it impacts and touches all walks of life in

the society.

As we move forward, let us continue to champion the cause of women's education and empowerment, recognizing that it is not only a matter of equality but also a powerful catalyst for positive transformation in peace and development, across the globe.

In conclusion, let this forum be a catalyst for action, a call to arms for promoting women's strength and leadership. Together, we can enable women to enjoy the fruits of peace and development and usher in a brighter future for women across Asia and Africa. Our collective efforts will not only transform the lives of women, but also the destiny of our nations and the world at large.

May this forum inspire us to take meaningful steps towards gender access, equality and women's leadership by educating more girls and women.

I thank you for Listening. As- anteni!

Speech by Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Chen Mingjian at the Reception in Celebration of the 74th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China



Your Honorable January Yusuf Makamba, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation,

Your Honorable Mussa Azzan Zungu, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly,

Your Honorable Mizengo Peter Pinda, former Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania,

Your Honorable Nape Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology,

Your Honorable Engineer Hamad Yusuph Masauni, Minister for Home Affairs,

Your Honorable Major General Amri Salim Mwam, representing Chief of Tanzania People's Defence Force, General Jacob John Mkunda,

Your Honorable Amb. Liberata Mulamula, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation,

Your Excellencies, High Commissioners, Representatives of the International Organizations, Friends from different sectors of Tanzania,

My Chinese compatriots, Ladies and gentlemen, Good evening! Habari za jioni!

Today, we are gathered here

to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. First of all, on behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania, I would like to extend a sincere welcome to all the guests attending the reception, and congratulate all the Chinese compatriots in Tanzania on the holiday. My heartfelt gratitude also goes to all the friends who have been consistent contributors to the friendship between China and Tanzania!

Over the past 74 years since its founding, the People's Republic of China has made remarkable achievements in develop-

ment. In 2022, the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was held, drawing a grand blueprint for advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. In 2023, standing at



a new starting point, China will continue to promote high-quality development and high level opening-up. China's economic growth rate remains the highest among all major economies in the world, and the country has made solid progress in scientific and technological innovations. Moreover, under the guidance of head-of-state diplomacy, a new splendid chapter of China's major-country diplomacy has been written. China's economic stability and development has injected confidence and certainty into a turbulent world.

Here I would like to first brief

you on the current economic situation in China. This year, China's economy has seen a significant recovery, and the quality and efficiency of development has been improved continuously. China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 5.5% year on year in the first half of 2023, reaching 59.3 trillion yuan (equivalent to 8.24 trillion USD); Goods imports and exports exceeded 20 trillion yuan (equivalent to 2.8 trillion USD) for the first time; The vehicle export volume in the first seven months reached 2.535 million, making China the world's largest exporter of automobiles; The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast that China will contribute 34.9% to the global economic growth this year, which fully demonstrated the confidence of the outside world in China's high-quality development.

This year, China has made many advances and breakthroughs in science and technology, and solid progress has been seen in building China towards an innovative country. In terms of research and development personnel, China continues to rank No.1 in the world. China ranks the 11th in this year's Global Innovation Index, of which, three international science and technology innovation hubs, namely Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, were among the top 10 global science and technology clusters. Tianwen-No.1, which is China's first Mars mission, achieved orbiting, landing, and roving on Mars in

one mission for the first time in history. Chinese astronauts were successfully delivered to its space station. And the C919, China's first self-developed trunk jetliner, has completed its commercial maiden flight successfully.

This year, China's diplomacy weathers a tough year, injecting confidence and strength into a volatile international environment. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of "Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind" and "the Belt and Road Initiative" proposed by President Xi Jinping. In the past decade, China has signed more than 200 cooperation documents on Belt and Road cooperation with more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations. Two-way investment between China and the countries along the Belt and Road exceeded 270 billion USD during the period, and over 3,000 cooperation projects were launched, creating 421,000 jobs for the participating countries and lifting 7.6 million people out of absolute poverty every year. China will host the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation next month, and representatives from 110 countries have confirmed their participation. The Belt and Road Initiative has become the most popular international public good and the largest platform for international cooperation.

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of China's Africa policy principles proposed by President Xi Jinping, namely "sincerity, real results, affinity

and good Faith". In August this year, President Xi Jinping proposed three initiatives for China-Africa practical cooperation in the next phase. They are Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization, the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization, and the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development. China is ready to work with Africa to implement these three initiatives, so as to help Africa accelerate industrialization and agricultural modernization, and achieve development and rejuvenation.

**Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends!**

The traditional friendship between China and Tanzania was forged by the older generations of the leaders of both countries. This year marks the 59th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Tanzania. In the past 59 years, our two countries have looked out for each other and pulled together as one, the traditional friendship between China and Tanzania has been carried forward from generation to generation and continue to flourish. As all-round and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields has been continuously consolidated and developed, China-Tanzania relationship has become a model for China-Africa relationship and South-South cooperation.

By maintaining close high-level exchanges, political mutual trust between our two

countries has been continuously deepened. Last November, President Samia Suluhu Hassan paid a successful state visit to China. The two heads of state jointly announced the elevation of the China-Tanzania relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, which drew the blueprint for the development of bilateral relations in the new era. During the BRICS Summit held in August this year, the two heads of state met again, setting the direction for the two countries to strengthen political collaboration and further deepen practical cooperation in various fields. The two heads of state met twice within nine months, which is a clear manifestation of the high-level strategic mutual trust and the genuine brotherhood between China and Tanzania.

Economic and trade exchanges buck the trend with steady progress on practical cooperation in various fields. China has remained Tanzania's largest trading partner for seven consecutive years, with bilateral trade reaching 8.31 billion USD in 2022. Take agricultural cooperation as an example, China encourages and supports the development of agriculture in Tanzania and keeps expanding imports of featured agricultural products from Tanzania. Last year, I visited Ruvuma Region, where local women began to plant soybeans under the guidance of Chinese agricultural experts. Recently, I was happy to hear that the region had a bumper soybean harvest,

boosting soybean farmers' income and contributing to their poverty alleviation efforts. As a number of Tanzania's featured agricultural products, such as soybeans and avocados, continue to gain market access in China, the agricultural cooperation between our two countries will make more contributions to job creation and poverty reduction in Tanzania.

China is also the largest source of foreign investment in Tanzania. One week ago, I was invited, together with President Samia Suluhu Hassan, to attend the launching ceremony of Wangkang Sapphire Float Glass Factory, a project with a total investment of 311 million USD. Chinese enterprises, such as Wangkang Group, have been actively engaged in the industrialization process in Tanzania, creating a large number of job opportunities for Tanzania and bringing tangible development dividends to the local people.

Personnel exchanges between China and Tanzania have been more frequent, and the friendship between our two peoples has been strengthened. Since the beginning of this year, cultural exchanges between China and Tanzania have continued to develop. We made a proactive effort to support Air Tanzania in increasing the frequency of direct flights between Dar es Salaam and Guangzhou, which now operates three times a week, further facilitating people-to-people exchanges between our two countries. This

year, 160 Tanzanian students have received scholarships to study in China. In addition, China keeps providing training opportunities for Tanzania, which cover a wide range of fields such as vocational education, infrastructure building, poverty alleviation, and women empowerment, thus helping the country nurture talents of various disciplines who are urgently needed for national development.

It's worth mentioning that this year marks the 60th anniversary of China dispatching medical teams to foreign countries. Since China sent its first medical team to Zanzibar in 1964, more than 2,000 Chinese doctors have dispatched to Tanzania. From the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro to the remote areas beside the Ruvuma River, from Zanzibar Islands flourishing with coconut groves to the rippling Lake Tanganyika, they have travelled to most of the places in Tanzania. The Chinese medical teams in Tanzania have braved hardships and dedicated themselves to the noble cause of saving lives with total devotion and ultimate love, thereby making significant contribution to the health of the Tanzanian people with their professionalism, wisdom and persistent efforts. Recently, a Chinese TV series named "Welcome to Milele Village", which is based on the real experiences of the Chinese medical teams in Africa, has completed its filming in Tanzania. I believe that it will be aired soon, and people of both countries will have the chance to watch it. I hope you



While presenting her credential to President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Amb. Chen Mingjian highlighted the profound traditional friendship between China and Tanzania, and pledged to make relentless efforts to carry forward the friendship during her tenure.

enjoy the TV series.

**Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends!**

In 2024, China and Tanzania will celebrate the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. Both countries will then hold important activities to jointly commemorate the historical moment of the bilateral relations. The commemoration will constitute a big move in upgrading China-Tanzania relations to a higher level of comprehensive strategic cooperative partner-

ship and injecting strong impetus into the development of the bilateral relations in the next 60 years.

Finally, I wish to propose a toast:

To the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China,

To the prosperity of both China and Tanzania, to the happiness of the people of both countries, and

To the health of all our guests.
Cheers!
Thank you!



Front view of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School.

China's Image in African Perspective

By Nasongelya Kilyinga
News Editor for Daily News

Decades of China's growing engagement with Africa has had a positive, albeit uneven, effect on Africa's economic growth, economic diversification, job creation and connectivity. China-Africa relations are mostly organised between government-to-government relations. But the perceptions and wellbeing of ordinary people also need to be better considered.

In 2016 the pan-African re-

search institute Afrobarometer published its first study on what Africans think of their governments' engagement with China. The study found that 63 per cent of citizens surveyed from 36 countries generally had positive feelings towards China's assistance especially on economic issues. Some things that stood out were China's infrastructure, development, and investment projects in Africa. On the flip side, perceptions of the quality of

Chinese products tarnished the country's image.

Back in 2019/20, the Afrobarometer conducted another wave of surveys with data collected from 18 countries. The survey questions covered how Africans perceive Chinese loans, debt repayments, and Africa's reliance on China for its development. Preliminary findings showed that the majority of Africans felt that China's influence is still largely considered as positive for Africa,



and that Africans who are aware of Chinese loans feel that their countries have borrowed too much.

This is important because – as both African and Chinese leaders reflect on their engagement – these findings should allow them to build a forward-looking relationship that better reflects African citizens' opinions and needs. However, for many African countries, Tanzania inclusive, Beijing still is seen favourably by many in Africa, where it is vying for influence with Washington.

Cheap Chinese products, however, are also a source of China's negative image in Africa. The poor quality of Chinese products was the most significant factor shaping Afrobarometer's sur-

vey participants' negative images of China — mentioned by 35 per cent of respondents. Second to product quality in shaping a negative image of China was the perception among Africans that Chinese take jobs or business from locals — mentioned by 14 per cent of respondents.

Political and trade ties

In present-day, China occupies a major role in the development of African countries, as a result of having established strong ties with the continent both through grants to African governments and through direct foreign investments targeting the continent. At a country level China was in 2015 Africa's largest trading partner, a significant increase from being Africa's eighth largest trading partner in 2000. The total value of trade in goods between China and Africa increasing from USD 7.3 billion in 2000 to USD 135.9 billion in 2015.

At that particular time (2015), India was Africa's second largest trading partner with the total value of trade in goods estimated at USD 51.1 billion according to

the African Development Bank (ADB), OECD Development Centre and the United Nations Development Program 2017.

Different perspectives and views

China's major involvement and influence on Africa has led to a number of different perspectives and views on the China-Africa relationship. There are those who argue that the relationship is not mutually beneficial under the assumption that Chinese interest in Africa lies in the continent's natural resources only.

China also stands accused of weakening African industries and manufacturers by exporting cheap and low-quality goods to African countries. Some critical voices have drawn parallels between the Sino-African relationship and imperialism. Others harbor a more positive view on the relationship, arguing that it leads to benefits for both parties and that the relationship brings development to the African continent according to studies conducted by Mlambo, Kushamba & Simawu and published in 2016.



Bird's eye view of the Tanzania national Stadium also known as Benjamin Mkapa.

China's debt owed to Africa

When it comes to discussions on China-Africa relations, debt is a common theme, with a considerable number saying Africa is overburdened by Chinese lending.

A recent survey carried out by Afrobarometer in 2021 has found that despite these concerns, many Africans view China's economic and political influence on their countries favourably, saying it's "somewhat positive" or "very positive."

Indeed, China is Africa's largest economic partner, with huge lending for infrastructure development projects. Between 2000 and 2019, China entered loan commitments worth USD153 billion in Africa, according to the China Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins University.

Nevertheless, China's activities in the continent have been marred by accusations of debt-trap diplomacy because of the secretive nature of its loan contracts, and its infrastructure projects face allegations of environmental and human rights abuse. Still, some say China is using its influence to promote its political and economic ideologies in Africa.

How Africans consume Chinese media, attitude towards China

The increased presence of Chinese actors in Africa, from telecommunication companies, to mining contractors, diplomats, journalists, and traders, has received much scholarly and me-



The Chinese-built Tanzania and Zambia Railway line

dia attention in recent years. For others, the recent push by Beijing for more mediated engagements with Africa can be explained by the desire of Chinese media to increase their market share and strengthen the country's discursive power in the global arena.

Extending the presence of China's media, particularly State-owned companies, in Africa is one of the pillars of "people-to-people exchanges," which have been a central component of all the declarations of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

These "people-to-people exchanges" are at the core of Beijing's public diplomacy toolkit, which is primarily focused on relationship building, according to studies by d'Hooghe in 2015 and Benabdallah in 2019 respectively. The assumption is that good relationships between people can support inter-state relationships, "deepen understanding and friendships between Chinese and African people and avoid misunderstandings", studies indicate.

Despite Chinese media having played an important part in Beijing's foreign policy towards Africa since the 1950s, scholarly attention on the topic only began to grow in the early 2000s, when

several renewed initiatives were launched and turned Nairobi, Kenya, into the epicentre of Sino-African media "cooperation".

These initiatives included the establishment of the regional headquarters of Xinhua (a news agency), the launch of a multilingual FM radio station by China Radio International (CRI) and the development of Africa-focused programming by CGTN from a broadcast and production centre.

China has also launched Studies Exchange Programme for African Journalists. The training topics include China's political, cultural, media and economic studies amongst others. Other activities will include touring China, covering major political activities at the National People's Congress and other major events like the BRICS economic summit slated. The development studies and media exchange is being organized by Renmin University of China (RUC) based in the capital, Beijing.

Experience in Tanzania

China and Tanzania: Historical Context In 1961, Tanganyika, the sovereign state that would eventually become Tanzania became the tenth African country to recognize the People's Repub-

lic of China. The Zanzibari revolution in 1964 later resulted in an increase in Chinese influence on the island of Zanzibar which would later merge with Tanganyika and form a union. In the mid-1960s, the Tanzanian government opted for a socialist path of development which in turn led to an increase in resentment and hostility between Tanzania and the West. Due to this change in policies, Tanzania began to search for other external sources of assistance and China showed itself as willing to offer aid to the country.

In 1964, an agreement was signed which granted Tanzania Chinese aid, and a trade agreement between China and Tanzania was signed in February 1965. Furthermore, a Chinese Economic and Commercial Mission was in 1966 opened in Dar es Salaam. Tanzania's president at that time Mwalimu Julius Nyerere said on a state visit to Beijing in 1968 that the purpose of his visit to China was to attain knowledge about "The Chinese model of development", which he had exhibited great interest in. Chinese influence also resulted in Nyerere opting to lead Tanzania in an increasingly socialistic path of development, which he had previously been suspicious of since he considered socialism as something that was being practiced in non-African countries according to archival records.

Construction of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Tanzania

Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Lead-

ership School in Tanzania is co-funded by six parties in southern Africa and Communist Party of China (CPC).

The six parties include Tanzania's Chama Cha Mapinduzi party, the African National Congress of South Africa, the Mozambique Liberation Front Party, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, the SWAPO party of Namibia and the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front.

As an important outcome of China-Africa exchanges on national governance, the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School aims at enhancing party construction and improving governance capabilities of the six parties through exchanges and communication.

The inauguration of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School is another piece of evidence showing the firm mutual support between China and Africa. It has set a new example for and injected new vitality into China-Africa cooperation in a new era.

Significantly, the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School will play a key role and gather intelligent resources to promote think tank exchanges between the region and other regions, and help coordinate the work of leadership and political institutions in relevant countries.

Construction of the National Defence College in Tanzania

China's support to build critical government infrastructure in Africa marked another accom-

plishment in 2021 with the commissioning of the National Defence College in Dar es Salaam. The USD 24 million building was paid for by the Chinese government and built by Chinese contractors.

The TAZARA Railway

It is difficult to talk about relationship between Tanzania and China without mentioning the Tanzania and Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA). This is one of the most well-known cases of Chinese contribution in Tanzania. Built between 1970 and 1975, the 1,865-kilometer-long railway linked the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania with the town of Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia. The purpose for the railway line was to end the landlocked Zambia's dependence on Zimbabwe and South Africa by giving the country an alternative option for coastal access.

Tanzania National Stadium

China also assisted in financing the construction of the Tanzania National Stadium also known as the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, construction started in 2004 and the 60,000-seater complex was finished in 2007 with the Tanzanian government financing 53 per cent of the total cost of USD 43.5 million while the remaining per cent was financed through a soft loan offered by China.

Conclusion

Conclusively, it is only fair to say that China's image in African public opinion is positive rather than negative.

Opportunities and Challenges Faced by Developing Countries in Improving Their International Voice

By Humphrey P.B. Moshi
 Professor & Director, Centre for Chinese Studies
 (CCS) - University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

It is contended, at the outset, that international cooperation between developed, emerging and developing countries is an imperative, given the uneven distribution or availability of resources, both physical and human, across countries and regions around the world. This phenomenon has thus led to establishment of trade relations between countries, in terms of exchanges of goods, services and investments; as well as emergence of colonial and Neo-colonial relations, spearheaded by the dominant Neo-liberal ideology, which informed the requisite economic, political and the social systems.

Indeed, the modalities of international cooperation have been both on bi-and multilateral basis, as evident by establishment of country to country relations, and multilateral organizations, such as the UN and its agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP), but also to other international organizations such as World Trade Organization (WTO), the

World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Whereas the above cited relationships have economic, as well as social benefits, they are asymmetrically distributed between developed and developing countries because of the low voice of the latter, coupled with the dictation power or muscle of the former. This unequal and skewed relations are indeed the challenges of international coop-

eration.

Overtime, the rise of eastern economies, such as China, has not only broadened the menu of international cooperation, but also has resulted in a more inclusive platforms for negotiation, coupled with alternative institutional frameworks in which the voice of developing countries is enhanced and heard. Such platforms and institutional frameworks, include: FOCAC, BRI,



Ethiopia's largest university inks scholarship cooperation agreement with China:
 Ethiopia's largest Addis Ababa University (AAU) on Friday signed a scholarship cooperation agreement with China to boost education quality. The Chinese government will offer some 120 scholarship opportunities for graduate and postgraduate students from the AAU during the course of a year, according to the agreement signed between representatives of the university and the Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia. In picture Guests pose for group photos after a signing ceremony of scholarship cooperation agreement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Nov. 3, 2023. (PHOTO / Xinhua)

BRICS, New Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Development Bank, among others.

Surely, given the enhanced voice of the developing countries, they offer these countries unprecedented opportunities for realizing their social and economic visions and plans.

It is in the context of the foregoing, that the discussion will focus on Africa for two basic reasons. One, the continent remains the most poverty-stricken region in the world, and the least industrialized, notwithstanding its huge resource-base. Two, the region has witnessed the challenges of Neo-liberal development model, and currently adjusting to seize the unfolding opportunities arising from the alternative development paradigm being spearheaded by China.

Modalities and Forms of International Cooperation

Modalities

There are three modalities of cooperation, which are interdependent, namely multilateral, bilateral and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's).

Multilateral is when a country cooperates under an umbrella organization such as United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, etc. (30%). Bilateral is a cooperation of two countries, via their respective development agencies (For example Tanzania's relations with Germany, Japan, China, India, etc.) (70%). And NGO's a mixed grill of the above BUT more focused on issues and civil soci-

ety (JICA, USAID, Action Aid, Hope, Care, etc.)

Types and Forms

How do resources flow from one country to another? There are a number of channels. First is the Official Development Aid (ODA), which is a financial aid given by governments and other agencies to support development efforts in developing countries. It could be either tied or untied. Second is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which is an investment from a part in one country into a business in another country, through mergers & acquisitions, joint ventures, subsidiaries

Third is Loans, which is money lent to another country in exchange for future repayment of principal plus interest. They could be either concessional or non-concessional. And fourth is Humanitarian aid, which is assistance given to another country in response to emergencies such as earthquakes, floods, Ebola, among others. Basically, this is a short-term relief effort.

Challenges

The challenges highlighted in this section are basically those associated with the provision of official development aid, foreign direct investments and loans from western countries and the multilateral financial institutions. It needs to be emphasized that these transactions are, in most cases, accompanied with stringent conditions, imposed by the giver country or institution. In other words, the voice of the recipient is very low. This being

the case, it is no wonder that at the end of the day the attendant projects, emanating from such conditionality, do not stimulate and accelerate development of the recipient countries. This outcome is basically due to two reasons.

Firstly, the approval of projects is based on narrow principles of economic and financial criteria, while ignoring the fact development is much broader than the applied criteria.

Secondly, superimposition of "cut-and-paste" model on other countries fails to appreciate the fact that countries' circumstances do differ on a number of fronts; culture, history, level of social and economic development, civilizations, etc. etc.. Indeed, disrespect of these diversities and realities, across countries and regions, is squarely accountable for failure of many projects in developing countries, including Africa. The failure of such projects have far-reaching effects on poverty, illicit capital outflows, peace and security.

A few examples will illustrate the foregoing.

Firstly, recently the World Bank froze loans to Uganda because of anti-gay laws. However, the freezing is contrary to the Bank's Articles of Agreement which state that the Bank "shall not interfere in the political affairs" of its member states.

Secondly, the imposition of Western democracy in Africa, in terms of multi-partism has led to establishment of multiplicity of political parties, in some cases more than ten parties in a coun-

try, based on tribal backgrounds and without having clearly stipulated development agendas. In such circumstances, they have not only endangered peace and tranquility, but they have given birth to leadership regimes which promote selfishness, by embracing and serving the interests of their families and their close associates; at the detriment of socioeconomic development of the people. Surely, under such conditions development process would neither be inclusive nor sustainable.

Thirdly, French West Africa countries have experienced five coups in the past three years. The main factor underpinning most of these coups is hostility towards France, a former colonial power, which continues to hold that, French development aid in Africa has to be run by French businesses.

Fourthly, one of the conditions set in the ongoing free trade deal (FTA) negotiations between USA and Kenya governments, is that Kenya should, with respect to commercial partnerships, discourage actions that prejudice or discourage business between the US and Israel. Washington argues that the FTA should “discourage politically motivated actions to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israel.”

The above examples, are a clear testimony to the fact that the developing countries’ voice has either been dormant or very low to the extent that whatever projects were undertaken failed to quench the development thirsty of the respective coun-



Chinese companies hold job fair for Zimbabwean youth

Job seekers attend a job fair in Harare, Zimbabwe, Nov. 3, 2023. A two-day job fair kicked off in the capital of Zimbabwe, on Friday, with over 50 Chinese enterprises offering more than 1,000 jobs to Zimbabwean youth. (PHOTO / Xinhua)

tries. These then were and are the main challenges.

Unfolding Opportunities

As already alluded to earlier, the rise of Eastern economies, such as China, has not only broadened the menu of international cooperation, but also has resulted in more inclusive platforms for negotiations, coupled with alternative institutional frameworks in which the voice of developing countries is enhanced and heard. Such platforms and institutional frameworks are not only underpinned by clearly stipulated principles, but also they are strictly adhered to.

For example, China's five (5) principles that guide international cooperation are: one, mu-

tual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; two, mutual non-aggression; three, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs; four, equality and cooperation for mutual benefit, and five, peaceful co-existence. The main takeaway from these principles is that, they provide space cum voice to the cooperating partner to ensure that the deal is on win - win basis. This is because there are no pre-emptive conditionality attached. In such circumstances, whatever project is undertaken there is the likelihood that it will be demand-driven for the socioeconomic development of the recipient.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a good example of the



opportunities embedded in the emerging new frameworks and platforms of cooperation.

Most importantly, it needs to be recalled that, the BRI has unique features or characteristics, in its conceptualization and implementation, that a great departure from Western countries-initiated projects. This uniqueness, among others, are the following:

High synergy effects: That is, has positive spill-over effects on other sectors of a country's economy. **Holistic or comprehensive approach:** That is, it views development process in its totality and Inter-dependence of factors (land, sea and air transport), coupled with soft structure provision and human capital development.

Inclusiveness: That is, by ensuring that the cooperating par-

ties meet frequently, through periodic holding of stakeholders' meetings and scheduled Forums, to review progress and chart the way forward. Thus, promoting ownership of the Initiative and therefore trigger the incentive for effective implementation. Here is where the issue of voice is underscored.

Dynamic: That is, it incorporates new agendas in its menu with a view to address challenges and tap unfolding opportunities. For example, the Post-COVID-19 ushered in: Health Silk Road, Green Silk Road, Digital Silk Road, and Clean Silk Road unfolding opportunities. For example, the Post-COVID-19 ushered in: Health Silk Road, Green Silk Road, Digital Silk Road, and Clean Silk Road Compatibility/Alignment with global, regional and country development visions and Agreements; Such as, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030), Paris Agreement, Africa's Agenda 2063, Africa's Programme for Infrastructure Development Agenda (PIDA), and Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The above attributes of BRI are a clear manifestation of opportunities available to Africa and other developing in their search for enhanced voice. However, this need to be complemented by seeking membership in organizations, such as BRICS, with the objective, not only of broadening the avenues for international cooperation, but also of benefiting from their new initiative of easing dependency on dollar as a dominant trade and

reserve currency. Indeed, the success of the proposed initiative will go a long way in reducing the debt burden of developing countries, given the high dependency on dollar-denominated debts.

Concluding Remarks

The above discussion has clearly shown the developing countries' voice has been dismal in the countries and institutional frameworks of international cooperation dominated by the Neo-liberalism development paradigm. This phenomenon has been perpetuated through the imposition of conditionality on transactions, which do not take into consideration the varying diversity across countries and regions in terms of history, culture, civilization and level of socioeconomic development.

These challenges have ushered in persistence of poverty, low growth rate and unchanged structure of economies in a number of developing countries. In the recent past, the rise of eastern countries, such as China, has ushered in alternative cooperation modalities and institutional frameworks, which are underpinned by clearly stipulated principles that avail more voice to developing countries. This being the case, it is timely that this unfolding opportunity should be seized by the developing countries, while at the same time enhancing the human and institutional capacity for negotiation. This notwithstanding, the demand and struggle for more voice in multilateral institutions must be sustained.

Chinese People-Centered Democracy: How Do We Use It to Steer Our Social Transformation?

By Dr. Rose Mbwete

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This article describes how Chinese People-Centered Democracy can be used to steer our transformation. It has been noted that, it is the most extensive, genuine and effective socialist democracy. The CPC party will continue to work with all peace – loving countries and people to promote the shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom.

Meaning of the Term

Democracy

In the course of its development, democracy has taken many forms and expressions. However, its meaning and the concept can be analyzed with reference to the well-known histories of Democracy. Abraham Lincoln who defined the term “Democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people”. Generally, the term Democracy entails Government of the people or Government of the Majority.

In this article Chinese People Centered Democracy is the most genuine form of Democracy, effective and broadest, where people are positioned at the cen-

ter and involved in running the country based on the prevailing laws. It is also called “whole-process people’s Democracy”. In that, people are participating in political affairs and democratic elections, consultations, decision making, management and oversight in accordance with the law.

For the CPC democracy is an instrument for addressing the issues that concern the people. The Communist Party of China has always adhered to the following basic ideas: First, people’s democracy is the lifeblood of socialism thus without democracy, there would be no socialism, socialism modernization or national rejuvenation. Second, the running of the country by the people is the essence and heart of socialist democracy. Third, the Chinese socialist path of political development is the right path, as it conforms to China’s national conditions and secures the position of the people as master of the country. Fourth, China’s socialist democracy has two forms, one the people exercise rights by means of elections and voting, and two, people from all sectors of society are

consulted extensively in order to reach consensus on matters concerning the majority before major decision are made. Fifth, the key to developing China’s socialist democracy is to fully leverage its features and strengths.

China uses this type of Democracy, whereby all power of the state belongs to the people. It is through this type of democracy where modern socialist country is built. Social transformation refers to the fundamental change in the way societies are organized and resources are distributed. In that, there are five interconnected dimensions that include the political, the economic, the technological, the demographic and the cultural. In totality constitute the social realm.

How do we use to steer Our Social Transformation?

This type of Democracy can be used in Tanzanian context so as to steer Our Social Transformation through the following ways: First, by fostering primary-level democracy through improvement of community level self-governance under the leadership at the community. Sec-



Congolese Prime Minister Sama Lukonde Kyenge (C) cuts a ribbon to inaugurate a data center in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on Nov. 2, 2023. Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Sama Lukonde Kyenge on Thursday inaugurated a data center at the Ministry of Finance, a project built by the Chinese tech giant Huawei. (PHOTO / Xinhua)

ond, by increasing transparency in government affairs. Through establishment of more channels for the people from various sector to participate in community level-governance in an arranged way. Third, by improvement of the consultative system via promoting consultations carried out by political parties, government departments, pressure groups, community and social organizations, so as to develop consultative democracy which is crucial in whole process people's democracy.

Fourth, the government in power has to comply with the Constitution. Meaning, Law-based governance and law - based exercise of state power.

Having advance rule of law in domestic and foreign related affairs in a harmonized manner. Making laws in a well-conceived and democratic way and in accordance with the law in due course. Good laws are made to promote development and ensure good governance. Fifth, having a law-based decision-making process and fully implemented procedural system for making major decision. In that, all legislative work requested to be done in more systematic, holistic, coordinated and responsive manner. Sixth, by enhancing the efficiency and credibility of government administration through improvement of the government responsibility

system, functions, powers and procedures. Seventh, reforming judicial system with fully and faithfully judicial accountability, the development of a fair, efficient and authoritative judicial system. This has to be well comprehended in such a way people's justice need to be served in each and every judicial case.

Eighth, improving the system and mechanisms which enable public security organs, courts and other administrative agencies perform their respective function with proper coordination. Ninth, fostering public commitment to larger extent, public morality and personal integrity. These initiatives will raise public moral standards and

enhance public civility. Tenth, promoting equal opportunity to both low-income earners and middle-income group.

Also, to improve the policy system for distribution based on factors of production, with more avenues so as to enable low and middle income group to earn more from production factors. Eleventh, Improvement of multi-tiered social security system which covers the entire population in urban and rural areas, the system should be unified, fair, reliable, well-regulated and sustainable. Such as medical insurance and benefits for old age insurance. The government is further, supposed to be committed to the fundamental national policy of gender equality and protect the lawful rights and interest of women, children and people with disabilities.

Twelfth, the government has to guarantee equitable access to basic public services hence to achieve long term social stability. Promote the people's well-rounded development and prosperity for all. Thirteenth, to ensure that people's wellbeing is improved in the course of pursuing development and encourage everyone to work hard together to meet the people's aspirations for better life. This is because bringing benefits to the people is the fundamental principle of governance.

Therefore, the ruling party is supposed to be committed in serving the public and exercising governance for the people. Fourteenth, strengthening the national security system and na-



President of Yanshan University Zhao Dingxuan (L) and Ologetsewe Totolo, vice chancellor at Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), unveil the second Confucius Institute in Palapye, Botswana, Oct. 31, 2023. BIUST in collaboration with Yanshan University (YSU) from China, launched a second Confucius Institute on Tuesday in Palapye in the country's Central District. (PHOTO / Xinhua)

tional securities capabilities that include having basic modernization of national defense and the armed forces. In that, structure and composition of the armed forces will be improved. Fifteenth, by promoting education, science and technology. Also, talent, culture, sports and health. Through allocating innovation resources, proper definition of roles in the national research institutes, in universities and increase of investment in science and technology through diverse channels.

Lastly, by taking serious steps to improve Ruling Party conduct and enforce discipline, including leading officials and other member of the party in all levels. Additionally, thorough self - reform is required in fighting against corruption. In that, coordinated and comprehensive steps need to be taken to ensure that officials do not have opportunity or desire to become corrupt.

Conclusion

The fundamental role of all Party members is to serve people in the whole heart, maintain people centered mindset. In that, the Party must follow the principle of 'for the people', 'to the people', maintain a close bond with the people and accept their criticism and oversight. This will further, create a powerful collective force. It is a process, which may take some time to be realized.

However, it is the model with clear path of development; politically, economically, technologically and culturally. Ruling Party has to lead in every step towards the achievement of People's Democracy. This will eventually create stable and united political atmosphere hence nation advancement will be attained in every aspect. Therefore, it is through the above elaboration the Chinese people centered democracy can be used to steer our social transformation.

Towards a Global Community of Shared Future: Theoretical Basis and Practical Logic of Jointly Advancing the Belt and Road Initiative

By Zhao Kejin

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The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has embarked on a decade-long journey since its proposal in 2013 and has gone through such tough challenges as the COVID-19, the Ukraine crisis and intensifying rivalry among major countries. Rising to these challenges head-on, the BRI has shown strong resilience and vitality. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, it is of strategic importance to summarize the decade-long implementation of the BRI and dig into the theoretical basis and practical logic of the high-quality development of the BRI.

The BRI is the Path to a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

As the world is undergoing major changes unseen in a century, humanity is faced with such severe challenges as the deficit in governance, trust, peace and development. Jointly advancing the BRI is a crucial path to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

First, adhering to a correct view of history, the BRI stands at the historical height of the theme of

our times and the international landscape, and provides an insightful answer to where humanity is heading, an important question of the world, of history and of our times. Driven by economic globalization and the information technology revolution, peace, development, cooperation and common progress have become the trend of the times. As a new round of technological and industrial revolutions is taking shape, new momentum for innovation-driven development is building up. With ever profound integration of interests, countries are unprecedentedly inter-linked. The BRI follows the general development trend of today's world, reflects the grand transformation of human history, represents a new vision of pursuing common global development in an open world economy, different from the anti-trend door-closing approach to development, represented by unilateralism, protectionism and xenophobia.

Second, looking at the bigger picture, the BRI takes into account both domestic and international dynamics, advances development and security in a coordinated way and builds an international cooperation platform enabling benign interaction between high-quality

development and high-level security. In the face of mounting new problems and challenges since the beginning of the 21st century, the US Solution centering on the Washington Consensus, the European Solution focusing on promoting regional integration and the Japanese Solution depending on government-driven development have all fallen off the pedestal and some have even triggered more serious problems. The BRI stands as an important attempt to build an open world economy and a community with a shared future for mankind. It is a new development strategy and also a great vision with an eye on the common development of China, the region and the whole world. As a China-proposed solution for world peace and development, the BRI aims to foster a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation at the core and has become an engine to kick off a new round of world economic growth; The BRI represents a new development vision different from the Washington Consensus, regional integration and global hegemony, and opens up a new path to coordinate global development and security.

Third, adhering to the correct

view of roles, the BRI combines “viewing the world from China” and “viewing China from the world” to accurately get the new direction of the common development of China and the world. As it pursues development, China faces ever more intense competition from other major countries. Also as China advances its overseas interests, it is deeply integrated with the rest of the world in such fields as food, energy, resources, technology, market, and finance, all of which have become critical factors affecting its peaceful development. In essence, the BRI focuses on global public issues and people’s needs, follows the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and leverages on bilateral, sub-regional, regional and global mechanisms to promote the orderly and free flow of economic factors, efficient allocation of resources and close integration of markets. The BRI also aims to facilitate coordination of economic policies among countries, promote closer regional cooperation at a larger scale and higher level, jointly create an open, inclusive, balanced regional economic cooperation framework that delivers benefits to all and innovate the actions, processes, and structures of global public goods. Therefore, the BRI is essentially a global public good with extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits for all parties, featuring non-competition, non-exclusiveness and non-zero sum. Any country, whether it is a BRI partner or not, is welcomed to join this inclusive community with shared interests, shared future and shared responsibilities.



Local employees display seedlings at the China-aided Nigeria Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center in Abuja, Nigeria, on September 19, 2023.

Theoretical Basis for High-Quality Belt and Road Cooperation

From the grand perspective of building a community with a shared future for mankind, the BRI, as an international public good, follows the basic principles of consensus-driven development, joint contribution of multiple parties, equal responsibilities and rights, composite representation, openness and inclusiveness.

I. Consensus-Driven Development

American scholar Robert D. Putnam defines social capital as value norms of reciprocity and mutual trust formed on the basis of trust with “features of social organization” that facilitate coordination and cooperation to improve social efficiency. As an initiative focusing on international cooperation and development, the BRI cannot work without social capital based on international exchanges and dialogues and supported by consensus and trust. Serving as a plat-

form for international exchanges, the BRI is well-positioned to foster consensus and trust in the international community, ignite mutual love and care, and build up social capital. Once the international social capital is built up and fully unleashed, the BRI will advance like a fire on the prairie. Within the BRI framework, the top priority of international cooperation is to promote government-to-government policy communication and cement people-to-people bond.

On the one hand, policy communication is the main channel for the accumulation of government social capital and the key to expanding the convergence of national interests of the BRI partner countries. Through policy communication and diplomatic dialogue, different countries work together to enhance inter-connectivity, seek common development by fully exercising complementary advantages, integrate and consolidate resources to achieve an effect as a whole system is greater than the sum of the parts.

On the other hand, peo-

ple-to-people bond is the social foundation for the BRI development and the fundamental foothold of the steady progress of the BRI. Recent years have witnessed the rapid growth of various types of think tanks worldwide. These think tanks in BRI partner countries carry out joint studies and research, co-host fora and even host summit when sufficient conditions are in place. As they pool efforts for policy research on the BRI, they provide strong intellectual support for the deepening of the BRI development.

II. Joint Contribution of Multiple Parties

As a long-term plan, the BRI cannot be achieved with the efforts of merely one or two countries, but rather calls for the concerted efforts of all BRI partner countries. In the past decade, different from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) established by Western developed countries and its institutional approach with emphasis on the making of standards and norms, the BRI has created and championed a new model of international cooperation which relies on the concerted efforts and joint contribution of all partner countries. Relevant parties are allowed to extensively discuss arrangements for investment returns, determine their rights and obligations, and receive agreed benefits. The core of the BRI is to promote various forms of mutually beneficial cooperation among governments, enterprises, social organizations and civil society organizations and jointly build a new comprehensive platform with the participation of multiple parties

and covering various sectors.

III. Equal Responsibilities and Rights

Clearly-defined and equal responsibilities and rights are the fundamental principles that ensure the successful operation of all the organizations. While the responsibility-power relationship is static in the OECD and other existing international organizations, the rights a BRI partner assumes is equal to the responsibility it shoulders. If a partner takes on more responsibility in a certain area, it enjoys a larger share of equity in the joint contribution and thus assumes more rights. Some rights are established by formal organizational identity, while others are authenticated by flexible norms. Countries might position themselves differently in terms of responsibilities and rights in different topic areas. Within the framework of cooperation among countries, sovereign countries and inter-governmental international organizations, which are the primary legitimate representatives, enjoy equal status regardless of their sizes, wealth, and strength. Within the framework of cooperation among state and non-state actors, non-state actors are supported to access equal opportunities for participation with state actors, and their powers are defined in accordance with their responsibilities. On the BRI platform, all actors, in accordance with the rules of procedures and on the basis of self-determined will, mutual benefit, cooperation and interaction, reach consensus on projects, topics, challenges and other issues of common concern through

equal-footing consultation and take concerted actions.

IV. Composite Representation

In accordance with the principle of equal responsibilities and powers, the BRI has established an institutionalized channel of composite representation and opened its door to all countries, international organizations and non-state actors. For example, the Belt and Road Summit for International Cooperation held in Beijing in May 2017 has welcomed representatives from countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and even individuals interested in the BRI. All representatives centered on certain topics, aimed to create and provide international public goods and were driven by joint contribution and agreed norms to advance the implementation of specific cooperation projects. The composite representation is significant in that it expands the means through which citizens, enterprises and civil society organizations could engage in the BRI and it mobilizes the enthusiasm and creativity of social forces that have long been on the periphery of international cooperation.

V. Openness and Inclusiveness

Openness and inclusiveness are the most essential principles governing the operation of the BRI. The vast majority of international cooperation mechanisms have been so far established upon unique cultural backgrounds. Whether the well-known international systems and norms dominated by Western countries, or the cooperation mechanisms in the Is-

lamic world, Africa, Latin America or other non-Western regions, they can only be accurately interpreted within a framework of civilization and culture. While the OECD emphasizes mainstream European and American values, the BRI respects diverse social cultures and never presupposes the values of a certain civilization. Within the framework of BRI cooperation, all parties reach consensus through dialogue, exchange and consultation, adopt different arrangements on different issues, and never pursue unified solutions. Moreover, the BRI never adopts an exclusive approach towards any countries, international organizations or social organizations. The BRI is open and inclusive towards any parties with interest in engaging in the BRI cooperation, no matter in what capacity, in which topics and to what extent they wish to involve.

Practical Logic of High-Quality BRI Cooperation

In review of the decade-long devotion to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, we will definitely come to the sober realization that the BRI cooperation means a long, complicated and undulating process. To advance the high-quality BRI development, it is imperative to set up an evaluation and assessment system for the overall development. In view of the closeness of the BRI regional cooperation architecture, an evaluation system consisting of five indicators, including level of inter-connectivity, familiarity, participation, governance and recognition, can be set up to systematically assess the pro-

gress of the BRI development.

The first is the level of inter-connectivity. It calls for an integrated approach to plan, implement and manage relevant projects to push forward the BRI infrastructure inter-connectivity. The infrastructure construction projects should be connected with government departments, enterprises and societies of the partner countries and a central platform integrating planning, implementation, management and service should be set up. Efforts should also be made to form a governance system engaging multiple stakeholders that focuses on the connection and synergy of policies, technical standards, development plans, implementation and management of projects, social norms and cultures to promote in-depth inter-connectivity of infrastructure.

The second is the level of familiarity. The infrastructure inter-connectivity ultimately serves to facilitate the flow of elements including that of people among countries. More frequent exchange of persons indicates higher level of familiarity among the BRI partner countries. Therefore, it is imperative to closely assess the familiarity among the people of partner countries in terms of the scope, frequency and quality of their exchanges, as a means to evaluate the progress of the BRI development.

The third is the level of participation. The BRI development is a process of wider participation and deeper cooperation. The scope, scale, degree, quality, outcomes of participation (by both institutions and individuals) can serve as critical indicators for evaluating the level of participation. For a

specific project, it is easy to monitor the participation of relevant countries, enterprises, and social organizations. For cooperation mechanisms and frameworks, we can monitor the level of participation through the lens of membership, subscribed shares and frequency of participation.

The fourth is the level of governance. The BRI development cannot progress without taking into consideration such issues as institution building, assigning rights and responsibilities, standardizing collective actions and fulfilling norms. Since the BRI governance is of cross-border, multi-sector and multi-actor composite nature, its evaluation should focus on the level of institutionalization of such multiple actors as governments, enterprises and non-governmental organizations in the process of addressing a certain issue. The BRI development can take the Worldwide Governance Indicators, which are influential composite indicators, as references to build up a governance evaluation system.

The fifth is the level of recognition. The level of recognition refers to how people in partner countries understand and evaluate the BRI. Pursuing high-quality BRI development is a process of improving the level of recognition by partner countries. The important aspects of evaluating the recognition of the BRI include whether people realize that their countries are within the scope of BRI, whether they recognize a sense of belonging in the circle of BRI friends, and whether they recognize the BRI on the basis of other sense of belonging (to locality, ethnicity, state and region).

Global Civilization Initiative and China-Africa Modernization

By Prof Shadrack S. Mwakalila and Dr. Evaristo Haulle
Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy

China for over a century has had a strong influence on the global scale including Africa. As such several of the initiatives introduced by China have had a global impact to both developed and developing countries. Of importance, Africa has been beneficiary to most of introduced Chinese policies while Western countries have been positioning how they deal with Africa.

On March 15th 2023, President Xi Jinping introduced the Global Civilization Initiative which aspires to advance humanity's modernization process and building a community with a shared future for mankind. With introduction of this initiative each part of the world has thorough necessity to chart out and ponder on how the initiative will be beneficial or detrimental to their development so that they can strategically position themselves for the same.

Africa which has enjoyed strong relationship with China which date from 15th century but got more renewed in 1950s is one among the region for intensely discussion of the initiative. This article while appreciating the on-going debate by the public intellectuals holds on possibilities of African reaping in bounds of the initiative and so became active

player in the global civilization.

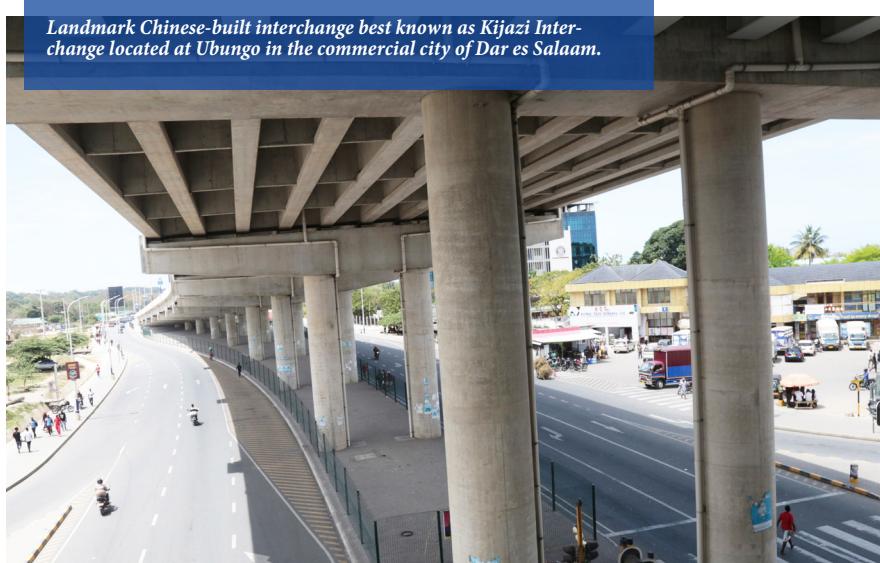
Given the current economic growth of Africa and its current strategic position among the global partners Africa through the initiative will increase its investments, improve international repute, save as the trusted global partner, increase scientific pursuit, innovation and further harness its natural resources to further better life of its people. However, to harness to the fullest Africa needs to highly invest in human capital by developing both hard and soft skills to partake fully the GCI.

Scholarly articles show that the world is currently grappling with forces in which each country is striving to ensure that its form of economic structure, political system and social formation span-

ning from language use, belief system is embraced as an ideal form of living and so the civilization and modernisation. For about four centuries African continent has been entrenched into adopting a certain form of global civilization and modernisation which was imported by foreign countries.

It started with Arabs and Portuguese altogether who stormed the African continent and started spreading their cultural imperialist as superior against the uncivilised and barbaric African. As a result, strategy to ensure every individual embraces what was regarded as global civilization by then was instituted through belief system mostly Islamic among Arabs. Through that the dressing codes, singing, praying, eating style amongst oth-

Landmark Chinese-built interchange best known as Kijazi Interchange located at Ubungo in the commercial city of Dar es Salaam.



ers were to be embraced and failure of that such countries were considered uncivilized.

It is through this effort that China has been at the forefront to ensure it continues to design diverse policy issues which can be applied not only within China but beyond. And through this Africa which have been in contact with China since 15th century when Chinese traders visited Africa. However, the modern relationship between China and Africa was built in 1955 during the Bandung conference. Since then, the relations with Africa are based upon trade, investments, aid and a number of development programs according to literary records. Through all the time efforts have been made to ensure that the China's relationship with Africa is based on mutual benefit, mutual cooperation and mutual participation.

Before underscoring what Global Civilization entails and its overall implication to global landscape and Africa in particular it is essential to conceptualise what civilization is and the modernisation in its literary form. While meanings of the two terms may literally differ, their final consumptions are equally the same. That is, while modernisation encompasses transformation of society from traditional life to the advanced, then civilization refer to the society ways of living at the modernised level which differs from the traditional ones.

According to Atlas (1972) modernisation refers to the ideology, attitude or mentality that subordinates traditions to the modern. He further proffered that the trait

of modernization include the rationalisation of economic and political life, rapid urbanisation, and industrialisation, differentiation in social structure and greater popular involvement in public affair.

On the other hand, another scholar named Armour in his 1999 publication explain civilization as a fundamental organising culture, a set of practices and beliefs which orients people around a common outlook and which is capable of bringing together a number of subcultures.

As well recounted by Kamali (2005) the actual modernization and civilization began in Europe in 18th century and then spread throughout the world which encompasses specific pattern of social and economic changes covering the utilisation of scientific knowledge to increase aspects of human life. The view that modernisation and civilization is also shared by Arowolo (2010) who attested Western civilization and culture began to creep into African socio-cultural milieu, first, with the contact of Europeans with Africa, a consequence of Berlin conference in the quest for imperial pilfering of African resources and, later, consolidated by the unstoppable wave of globalisation.

However, there is no ultimate level of modernity and civilization since human being continues endeavouring utilising his intellect for scientific pursuit which may generate new form of modernisation and civilization like the current form of civilisation under discussion, Global Civilization Initiative.

Global Civilization initiative:

The Chinese Perspective

The Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) is the recent Chinese move which was introduced by President Xi Jinping at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting. The GCI aspires to inject strong impetus into advancing humanity's modernization process and building a community with a shared future for mankind, according to Xiao Liang in his 2023 publication.

Xiao Liang says the GCI was introduced in order to address the current governance challenges, economic disruption, climate challenges, global unrest due to war and displacement amongst others. The GCI also aspires to address the worst poverty that the world is still encountering especially in the global South, fight all pandemic and epidemic disease like the worst witnessed COVID-19.

It is important to hold that the initiative aims at serving as an alternative model to the Western-dominated principles aimed at rule-based international order. This order encompasses the Western overbearing in its manner of promoting its concept of democracy and universal human rights, as well as the economic models and belief systems.

It is strongly believed that the future of all countries are closely connected, tolerance, co-existence, exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations play an irreplaceable role in advancing humanity's modernization process and making the garden of world civilizations flourish.

Chinese Modernization: Fundamental Way to Achieve Great Rejuvenation for Its Nation

By Adam Raphael Kihaka

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Since the dawn of modernity, the Chinese people have aspired to national revitalization and modernization. The great rejuvenation of the Chinese country is now inevitable from a historical perspective, and the Chinese path to modernization is the clear way to achieve it.

A two-step strategic strategy has been approved by China. The first step is to essentially realize socialist modernization from 2020 through 2035. The second phase is to transform China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful from 2035 through the middle of this century. In this sense, this article is focused on the characteristics of Chinese modernization, its guiding principles, and the lesson that Africa should take away from it in order to experience significant rejuvenation. The Chinese path to modernization is characterized by five distinctive features that are unique to the Chinese context which are as follows;

Firstly, Chinese path to modernization is the modernization of a huge population. China has 18% of the world's population, 56 ethnic groups and a vast territory, with

remarkable regional differences and diversity. China's modernization is making 1.4 billion people live a prosperous and dignified life, which is an important contribution to world development as well.

Secondly, Chinese path to modernization is the modernization of common prosperity for all. "The country is the people, and the people is the country", an often-quoted golden verses by General Secretary Xi Jinping, is a vivid expression of CPC's people-centered governance philosophy. China has succeeded to fight against the gap between the rich and the poor and won the war

against poverty. The CPC is dedicated to pursuing the happiness of the Chinese people by ensuring human progress and world harmony.

Thirdly, Chinese path to modernization is the modernization of material and cultural-ethical advancement. We all know that China has succeeded in preserving and maintaining her culture for a very long time; there is no/little cultural intrusion from other countries such as Western countries, which has helped China to avoid various social problems such as moral and value distortion, and social disorder. The Chinese path to modernization seeks to integrate material and spiritual





Major project in China's largest ultra-deep oilfield kicks off operation: This aerial photo taken on Nov. 4, 2023 shows a major gas and oil processing station in the Fuman oilfield in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (PHOTO / Xinhua)

civilizations, with humanism and humanistic care at its foundation.

Fourthly, the Chinese path to modernization is the modernization of harmony between humanity and nature. Based on the history of development in many parts of the world resulting in serious environmental problems, China is committed to sustainable development and is making significant efforts to develop a low-carbon economy with a goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions. This is to demonstrate that China is committed to sustainable development, which will help the world maintain its status as a better place to live.

Fifthly, the Chinese path to modernization is the modernization of peaceful development. China believes that peaceful development is in China's best interests. One of the primary goals of Chinese diplomacy is to foster a favorable external environment for the country's development. China promotes peace, develop-

ment, cooperation, and mutual benefit, and urges the international community to work together to create a community with a shared future for humanity. The following principles guide the Chinese path to modernization.

First, upholding and strengthening the Party's overall leadership. According to independent polls and surveys conducted by foreign institutions such as Harvard University and Edelman Public Relations Consultancy Firm, the CPC and Chinese government enjoy the support of more than 90 percent of the Chinese people. China's modernization can be achieved only by steadfastly defending the leadership of the CPC, a political party with widespread endorsement and support among the Chinese people.

Second, following the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. China has completed an industrialization process that took developed countries several centuries in the space of a few

decades, resulting in the two miracles of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability. The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics has fully demonstrated that it conforms to the realities of China, reflects the will of the Chinese people, and meets the requirements of the times.

Third, applying a people-centered development philosophy. China ensures that development is for the people and by the people and that its fruits are shared by the people. They must do a better job of seeing that the gains of modernization benefit all the people fairly.

Fourth, remaining committed to deepening reform and opening up. They must work hard to remove deep-seated institutional barriers so as to continuously imbue their socialist modernization endeavors with fresh dynamism and vitality.

Fifth, carrying forward the fighting spirit. However, China is confronting obstacles and chal-

lenges head on, ensuring both development and security, and digging deep to overcome the difficulties and challenges that lie ahead.

What can Africa learn from Chinese modernization?

One, African countries should adopt China's development model where by over the last three decades China has grown rapidly and continues to do so, and it is now the world's second largest economy. The state-led development model has elevated development to the top of China's priorities. China has grown richer, more powerful, more visible. As developing countries seek new models of development and governance, the China model offers a workable solution. Because the establishment of special economic zones aided China's economic development and diversification, African countries may adopt the model for long-term development.

Two, if China succeeded in having democracy with Chinese characteristics hence Africa

should have democracy with African characteristics since electoral democracy just is not suitable for all nations, and those developing countries including Africa need stability and economic development before they could afford the luxuries of liberal democracy and personal liberty as in a Western countries. African countries should redefine the term democracy based on our context, the focus should be to achieve economic freedom rather than political campaigns. Also African democracy should focus on good governance which will reflect the reforms in practices at all levels of government in response to emerging social, political, economic, and environmental issues. African countries should not allow Western countries to define democracy for them.

Third, African countries should diversify their exports by identifying markets for African manufactured goods in China and expanding preferential trade access to Chinese markets.

Four, Africa should accept China as the best development partner. It is Africa's largest trading partner, bilateral creditor and a crucial source of infrastructure investment. Chinese firms account for an estimated one-eighth of the continent's industrial output. Chinese-built digital infrastructure is critical to the platforms on which Africans communicate. Political, military and security ties are becoming closer. Understanding the China-Africa relationship is a two way development. African countries so far, China's foreign investment in Africa has had the greatest impact on infrastructure development. Following China's domestic experience of massive infrastructure investment enabling advanced growth, they have begun the same process in Africa.

Five, African countries should improve technology transfer and maximize positive spillover effects from foreign investment by requiring local labor and content, as several African countries do.

Lastly, African countries should continue to respect human rights in light of the African context. African human rights are constrained by culture, norms, and traditions, and what is considered human rights in other countries, particularly Western countries, contradict African culture and traditions. African countries should not accept other countries to guard their rights. Human rights on our continent must be preserved and maintained in order to avoid a variety of social issues such as moral and value distortion in African communities.



Creating a New Era for Global Civilization Development by Deepening Exchanges and Mutual Learning

By Li Yuan

Executive Vice President and Professor of the Institute of International Studies at Shandong University

On March 15, 2023, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed for the first time the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting. The GCI, like the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, is another important public good provided by China in the new era to address common global challenges and build a shared future for humanity. 2023 marks the tenth anniversary of General Secretary Xi Jinping's proposal of building a community with a shared future for mankind and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The GCI has further expanded the means and pathways towards the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, enriched the ideological connotation of the BRI, and offered Chinese solutions and contributed Chinese wisdom to promoting the exchanges and mutual learning of civilizations as well as advancing progress of human civilization.

In recent years, the international landscape has been undergoing profound changes. The various conflicts among different cultures and civilizations have not yet been eliminated, and noises hyping up

the notions such as superiority of certain civilizations and clash of civilizations have been lingering in the international public opinion arena. However, in the east of world, China in the new era has been exploring ways of interaction among nations and civilizations with its unique cultural spirit. With the continuous development of Chinese modernization, China has forged its own unique vision on civilizations. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting that "As the future of all countries are closely connected, tolerance, coexistence, exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations play an irreplaceable role in advancing humanity's modernization process and making the garden of world civilizations flourish." Based on the features of the times and the development context of China, the GCI encapsulates the Chinese wisdom of state governance in the new era, follows the trend of world modernization and the law of human civilization development. With the GCI in mind, China will join hands with all countries to create a new era for global civilization cooperation through exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.



Diversity of civilizations is a Necessary Law of the Development of Human History

Human history is one of plural civilizations prospering together in diversity. Interaction, collision and integration of different civilizations have brought about possibilities for progress of human society and painted a colorful picture of the world moving forward. As early as remote antiquity, human beings created a variety of colorful original civilizations, including, among others, the Mesopotamia civilization, the Nile River Valley civilization, the Indus Valley civilization, the Yellow River and Yangtze River civilization, the Maya civilization, which all brimmed with unique splendors. 2000 years ago, Confucius and Lao-tzu in China, Socrates and Plato in ancient Greece and other great thinkers emerged, who were just like bright stars shining together and became high mountains that later generations look up to. The ideological propositions and ethical principles they put forward created cultural traditions of different ancient civilizations and jointly lit up the sparks of the age of reason in human civilization.



Dancers perform during a ceremony to welcome Chinese tourists at Tambo International Airport on March 29, 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

With the opening of new trade routes, individuals from different civilizations set foot on each other's territory more frequently. The exchanges and cooperation among civilizations gave impetus to the progress of human society. The four great inventions of China were transmitted to Europe via the Arab world, which promoted the Renaissance and the religious reform and facilitated the emancipation of mind and social progress in Europe; Zheng He made seven voyages by his treasure-loaded ship to the Western seas and spread advanced technologies to the South Seas, which led to civilization and enlightenment of local communities; Matteo Ricci and Xu Guangqi jointly translated the *Elementorum* by Euclid, which marked the beginning of the exchanges between Chinese and Western science. It can be seen that the exchanges and mutual learning of civilizations served as a basic form of human social interaction in history, and has great significance for the common prosperity of human civilizations. Connectivity between regional civilizations and inclusion of global civilizations have provided

an inexhaustible source of nutrients for the emergence of new philosophies and new ideas, pushing for the continued development of human civilizations in all forms.

However, the industrial revolution has led to rapid changes in balance of power between countries. With the expansion of colonialism, the diversity of world civilizations has been severely challenged. After two world wars, the world established the basic order and rules for international relations and entered a period based on independent nation states. After more than a hundred years of endeavors, a vast number of developing countries have finally embarked on their own modernization paths, and the collective rise of diverse groups has become an inevitable trend of world development. Consequently, many ancient civilizations have regained their vitality and confidence, bringing the world civilizations back to the track of diversified and inclusive development featuring open dialogue, mutual learning and drawing on each other's strengths. The diversity of human civilizations is bound to reappear, and the relations among civilizations are bound to return to equality. This is the general trend of human historical development and the aspiration of the people. General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed in the GCI that "We advocate the respect for the diversity of civilizations. Countries need to uphold the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations, and let cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcend clashes, and coexistence transcend feelings of superiority." China in the new era, guided by the vision of equality, mutual learning,

dialogue and inclusiveness among different civilizations, has become a practitioner and promoter of global civilization exchanges and mutual learning, contributing Chinese wisdom and Chinese strength to promoting diversity, coexistence and development of human civilizations.

Exchanges and Mutual Learning of Civilizations Have a Profound Bearing on Peace and Development of the World

As human society enters the globalization era, the exchanges and communication among civilizations have been more intensive than ever before, providing a strong impetus for social development and progress. However, in recent years, the international political and economic situation has been rapidly changing, with anti-globalization thoughts being on the rise and all kinds of conflict happening frequent. In dealing with the multiple challenges facing the world, the significance of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations has become more prominent.

Exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations are an important driving force for peace and development of the world. Facing never ceasing gunfires, haunting terrors and piling conflicts in today's world, neither Francis Fukuyama's "the end of history" nor Samuel Huntington's "clash of civilizations" can change the crises and dilemmas of the contemporary mankind. These theories, in final analysis, advocate the standards of Western civilization and deviate from the spirit of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. The reality of today's world has proven that the attempts of putting a certain civilization above another, dividing the world into irreconcila-

ble blocs and ignoring the possibility for harmonious coexistence among civilizations will gravely obstruct the relations among different countries and peaceful and stable development of international order. General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed that “We advocate the common values of humanity. Peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom are the common aspirations of all peoples. Countries need to keep an open mind in appreciating the perceptions of values by different civilizations, and refrain from imposing their own values or models on others and from stoking ideological confrontation.” The common values of humanity provide fundamental guidelines for all parties. Refraining from imposing one’s own values and models to others is a manifestation of political civilization and represents the historical trend of human development. Human history tells us that the attempt to establish a unified world with a single civilization is only an unrealistic fantasy. Only by respecting the political systems, economic systems and religious philosophies under different historical backgrounds, cultural traditions and special national conditions, and by enhancing people’s recognition of harmony without uniformity and inclusiveness of civilizations, can mankind find a way of coexistence among civilizations that eliminates barriers and misunderstandings, resolves clashes and conflicts, and ensures lasting peace and common development of the world.

The exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations can help countries better inherit and develop their traditional cultures. Thousands of years of human civilizations have produced beautiful and colorful

fine traditional cultures in different countries, which well ground profound cultural and ethical pursuit of all peoples and represent the unique cultural identity of different nations. The fine traditional culture of a country belongs not only to its nation, but also to the whole world. How to treat our own traditional cultures? This is a question that any country must address well in the modernization process. For this question, General Secretary Xi Jinping offered a clear answer in proposing the GCI, “We advocate the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations. Countries need to fully harness the relevance of their histories and cultures to the present times, and push for creative transformation and innovative development of their fine traditional cultures.” The exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations can help traditional cultures of various countries to spread widely to the world, and at the same time help them absorb the essence of various ideas and cultural elements, thus bringing these traditional cultures fully up to date and enhancing their vitality and influence.

Exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations will be the main driver for globalization in the post-pandemic era. As the international community is moving fast to remove the negative impact of COVID-19, the development and prosperity of the world call for mutual understanding, mutual exchanges, mutual learning and common development among different civilizations, so as to break the stubborn mindset of anti-globalization. In face of global challenges, the wisdom and strength of civilizations are all the more needed to provide in-depth guidance for survival and

development of all nations and all countries. China’s proposal for globalization in the post-pandemic era refrains from drawing ideological lines, not engaging in values-oriented diplomacy, not targeting a third party, nor forming exclusive bloc. Instead, China advocates the respect for diversity and differences and works to build a community with a shared future for mankind. Building such a community is not only about close cooperation in the material dimension, but also about building a cohesive consensus in the cultural and ethical dimension and strengthening the bonds of identity. Through inter-civilization exchanges and mutual learning, countries can enhance mutual understanding and mutual recognition, take into account the reasonable concerns of other countries while pursuing their own interests, and promote common development of all countries while seeking their own development.

China is a Firm Practitioner and Promoter of Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations

Since ancient times, China has forged a vision of diversity, tolerance and mutual learning on civilizations through its peaceful and friendly interactions with different countries and civilizations. The ancient Chinese sages have long realized that there is no such thing as a uniform standard for everything in the world. Therefore, the respect for diversity and commitment to the harmonious coexistence have been transformed into the essence of thoughts and ideas nurtured in the ancient Chinese wisdom. It was observed in the Book of Rites that “All living things can grow in harmony with-

out hurting one another, and different ways can run in parallel without interfering with one another". This observation profoundly points out that the development of things is not possible without pursuing common ground while shelving differences and seeking openness and inclusiveness. During the Western Han Dynasty, the ancient Silk Road opened up by China not only served as a road of economic exchanges, but also a road of cultural exchanges and inter-civilization dialogue. The ancient Silk Road opened the window of interaction and dialogue between Arab and Western civilizations along the route. The connectivity of people, commodities and ideas greatly drove the common progress of civilizations along the Silk Road. At the same time, when facing the colorful external cultures, China opened the door of inclusion and integration with a broad mind. With the arrival of different cultures, an inclusive ideological and cultural system combining Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism came into being.

With the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence as its diplomatic guidance, China adheres to the diplomatic guideline of seeking common ground while reserving differences, and is committed to engaging in inter-civilization exchanges and dialogues with all ethnic groups and regions on an equal and harmonious basis. Especially since the reform and opening up, China has held high the banner of peace and development, participated extensively in the dialogue and exchanges among countries and civilizations with its independent foreign policy of peace. China has promoted joint cooperation through joint participation, maintained long-term friendly dialogue and coopera-

tion with the majority of third world countries, and gradually established relatively stable diplomatic and dialogue relations with the world's major countries, especially with the Western countries. In the process of exchanges and mutual learning, China has always been committed to promoting South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue, and enhancing coordination and cooperation with emerging and developing countries. China has worked together with developing countries to seek opportunities and prospects for modernization and social progress.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping has set great store by the exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations and proposed a new vision on civilization, which outlines the way forward for the development of diverse civilizations. Taking into consideration both the domestic and international situation, China in the new era has successively put forward important ideas such as the initiative to build a community with a shared future for mankind, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, demonstrating China's broad mind and sense of responsibility to work for peace and development of the whole world.

Not only is China an advocate of civilization exchanges and mutual learning, but even more so its practitioner and promoter. Guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China has been advancing inter-civilization exchanges and dialogue through concrete actions. Committing to the exchanges and integration of diverse civilizations and

focusing on high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, China has been vigorously advancing Belt and Road people-to-people connectivity and has built cooperation networks in education, health, sports and tourism, among others. China has developed new models for dialogue and cooperation among civilizations. It has established a series of platforms for inter-civilization dialogue, including the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting, Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, Conference on Dialogue Between Chinese and African Civilizations. All these platforms have become mechanisms for open and equal communication among civilizations, providing lasting and strong impetus for deepening inter-civilization exchanges and mutual learning. In February 2023, the Center of Chinese and Greek Ancient Civilizations was established jointly by China and Greece, setting a good example for exchange and mutual learning between Chinese and foreign civilizations.

Amid the once-in-a-century changes, the world is once again at the crossroads of history. The GCI proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping, has built a bridge of inter-civilization exchanges and mutual learning for upholding world peace and development. As another important intellectual contribution made by China to human civilizations, the GCI will move forward with China, a country moving closer to the center of the world stage, to have a profound bearing on the forms and pattern of human civilizations, usher in a new era of development of global civilization and present a beautiful vision for the world's modernization process.

Exchange and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations and Reshaping of Global Order

By Zhang Zhizhou

Professor of School of International Relations of Beijing Foreign Studies University

The history of development of human society over thousands of years is a history of exchange and mutual learning among different civilizations. In ancient times, this happened in a slow way like “natural history” process. It is imperceptible but persistent and pervasive. Today, the world has entered the era of globalization, and civilizations have both the motivation to interact and integrate more deeply with each other, and more convenient conditions for exchange and mutual learning. Exchange and mutual learning among civilizations in diversity and with respective characteristics are shaping the basic features of the world in the era of globalization. However, the global order of the present time is an unequal one with western centrism and hegemonic dominance. Obviously, such a global order can hardly serve as the vessel of the common value and pursuit of humanity for peace and development. In order to shape a more just and reasonable global order, it is necessary to take the introduction of the Global Civilization Initiative as an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the significance of the exchanges and mutual learning for among civilizations and its due role in reshaping the global order.

Exchange and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations Has Shaped the World History

The evolution of human history has some common and fundamental momentum. Specially, in modern times, as the “world system” had come into being, in which every nation-state was involved, the factor of the “world” or “international” became the basic driving force and structural factor that propelled the evolution of the system and, consequently, the development of world history. Among all these internal, institutional or essential motives, as well as external, systemic or structural motives, the exchange and mutual learning among civilizations have been breaking the walls between the internal and external, by institution and system, and of essential and structural nature and have largely shaped world history. Exchange and mutual learning of civilizations is both a key to understanding world history and an important means to build an international order in the era of globalization.

In the world history, a variety of civilizations have emerged. The types of civilizations are extremely diverse due to different

geographical environments and historical stages that nurtured them. “Human history is the history of civilizations....This story stretches through generations of civilizations from ancient Sumerian and Egyptian to Classical and Mesoamerican to Christian and Islamic civilizations and through successive manifestations of Sinic and Hindu civilizations. Throughout history civilizations have provided the broadest identifications for people.”

Even in ancient times, when transportation was difficult, exchange and mutual learning between civilizations always occurred and developed. All civilizations that have developed and flourished have been the product of exchange and mutual learning. The reason for the decline of some civilizations, in addition to natural disasters and social unrest, also has to do with their failure to draw advanced elements from other civilizations to achieve sustainable development.

In the case of Western civilization, the ancient Greek civilization and its successor, the ancient Roman civilization, are often considered to be the source of today’s Western civilization, and thus the basis of contemporary “Western centrism” or “Eurocentrism”. In reality, however, Western civiliza-



On May 12, 2023, the exhibition "Looking Across the Ocean: China in the Paintings of African Painters" opened at the Senegalese Musée des Civilisations Noires.

tion has an "Eastern origin". "Ancient Greek civilization was in fact significantly derived from ancient Egypt", and "its rise of the West would have been inconceivable without the contributions of the East". "Historically, European civilization has been closely related to West Asian, North African and Indian civilizations". All these are reflected in the integration of languages, religions and the sharing of common myths and knowledge. The great achievements of Chinese civilization, such as the "Four Great Inventions" of the compass, paper-making, printing and gunpowder, contributed to the rise of Western civilization, as well as silk, porcelain, iron smelting techniques and Chinese masterpieces, which were spread to the West by the Central Asians or the Arabs.

In ancient East Asia, the process of Chinese civilization from its origin to its prosperity was also a process of continuous exchange and mutual learning with neighboring regions based on its agricultural civilization. The influence of Chinese civilization, mainly in the form of Confucianism, on the neighboring regions was not only reflected in "soft power" such as ideology, cultural masterpieces and religious beliefs, but also in the shaping of the international

order in ancient East Asia through and mutual learning among civilizations.

In recent years, the "Belt and Road" has become a buzzword, but in fact, the cultural roots of the "Belt and Road" initiative lie in the strong and distinctive temporal and spatial marks left by the historical Silk Road for the exchange and mutual learning of civilizations with the exchange of goods. Japanese scholar Kazutoshi Nagasawa writes in his book A Study of the History of the Silk Road that "the Silk Road, which connected Europe and North Africa via Syria from East Asia, was a road connecting three continents, so its area was exceptionally vast and complex, and countless peoples had relations with this road. Its scale is so grand that it would not be too much to say that the entire history of mankind is associated with it." In analyzing the reasons for the importance attached to the Silk Road by various countries, he discusses three aspects. First, the Silk Road, as a major artery through Asia and Africa, was central to the development of world history. Second, the Silk Road linked the womb of the world's major cultures. In particular, the ends of the road had produced many ancient civilizations

such as Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Khorezm, Indus, and Chinese civilizations. Third, the Silk Road was a bridge between the civilizations of the East and the West. The cultures that appeared all over the Silk Road, relying on caravans, spread to all parts of the East and West, while receiving a variety of different cultures and promoting the development of civilizations everywhere. The Silk Road was the artery of cultural exchange between East and West, which fully illustrates the role of the Silk Road in the exchange and mutual learning of human civilizations and its impact on the construction of the modern international order.

Summarizing the history of civilization exchange and mutual learning, the following characteristics can be found. First, the world civilization features diversity. It is precisely because of the diversity and differences that civilizations need to exchange and learn from each other, which is the necessity for a civilization. Secondly, every civilization is not flawless, and only through exchange and mutual learning can civilizations develop better. Third, the values that constitute the connectivity among civilizations in world history are the important support of international relations. To change the

acts of war and conflicts of interests in international relations, it is fundamentally necessary to build a value system of peaceful coexistence and to conduct an equal dialogue among civilizations. To sum up, exchange and mutual learning among civilizations both requires a world order with pluralistic and equal players and provides the driving force for the construction of such a world order.

The Urgent Need for Reshaping Global Order Has Its Reasons

We name world order or international order in the era of globalization as the global order. From the perspective of civilization and culture, the global order of the present era has produced many dilemmas such as “clash of civilizations”, so it needs to be reshaped in order to solve a series of problems brought by it.

From the historical point of view, there are two main reasons why the European regional order since the 19th century has been extended to the world and become a global order. The first is that the twists and turns of history has made the principle of sovereign states, established by the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, the UN Charter as the primary principle and the cornerstone of the norms of international relations after the Second World War; the second is that countries of different power and strengths have formed not only an international political power structure among themselves, but also a set of intertwined rules, norms, and value relations, as well as mechanisms that operate according to certain rules.

These two aspects together constitute today's global international order, where hegemonic states always have an urge to “dominate the world”.

Fundamentally, to understand the global order of the present era, we need to look at two aspects. The first is the dominant forces in the international political power structure, i.e., the great powers and the centers of power; the second is the rules and mechanisms that drive the operation of these powers, the primary one being the principle of sovereign state in the UN Charter. In the realistic order shaping, if large and small countries follow the principle of sovereign state equality, then the constructed global order is an equal one; if the relevant countries want to break the balance of power structure, but also want to master the dominant discourse over other countries in the formulation of rules, norms, values and mechanism operation, then the constructed order is an unequal one, or even a hegemonic one. The United States is in a hegemonic position in the international political power structure today, and has a “cultural hegemony” in terms of rules, norms, values and other cultural elements, and has built an unequal order on this basis. To a large extent, “Western centrism” has become “American centrism”.

Today's global order is characterized by the following points. First, the United States is the only global hegemonic power, and the existing international order is a global hegemonic order. Second, the U.S. has a stubborn ideological

concept of so-called “liberty and democracy” and hopes to uphold a “liberal international order”, which is inherently contradictory to the hegemony based on physical power but also has a mutually constructive relationship. Third, the post-Cold War international political power structure and international relations are undergoing great changes, and the global order based on it is volatile and unstable. Fourth, the existing global order is characterized by serious inequalities. There are gaps both in power between the hegemonic power and other countries, as well as in the say when it comes to rules, norms and values. Both of the gaps undermine the principle of equality of sovereign states as stipulated in the UN Charter. Fifth, the United States, the sole hegemonic power in the global order, generates a sense of civilizational superiority and contributes to the “clash of civilizations”. To build a more peaceful and stable world order, the present global order must be reshaped.

Global Civilization Initiative Boosts Exchange and Mutual Learning among Civilizations and Reshaping Global Order

In order to reshape today's global order, we must first of all examine the peculiarities of today's historical stage of globalization from the perspective of fulfilling the responsibility, morality and sentiment for peace and development for mankind, and figure out ways for different civilizations to get along with each other; secondly, we must have a clear understanding of the two major elements of

the characteristics and composition of the existing order, namely, the international political power structure and the international sharing of the say in terms of rules, norms and operation mechanisms; and thirdly, we must promote actions and solve problems through dialogue and exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations so as to rebuild the civilization order in the world.

The philosophical foundation of global order lies in the consideration of how human groups should get along with each other having different vision for civilization. International relations, with sovereign national states as the “basic unit”, is usually considered as a social science, but in fact it is first of all about how to get along with “people as collective” for nations or states. It can be said that international relations is actually a philosophical issue first and foremost, i.e. a question of culture and civilization. Nowadays, in the face of the unprecedented changes of the century, one should be conscientious to think about how different civilizations coexist.

The realistic basis of the global order lies in the system of sovereign national states and the interaction between them. Although the United States “has played a good hand badly” since the end of the Cold War, thus troubled by factors of decline, it is still the hegemonic power in the present global order. As a rising major country after the Cold War, China has undoubtedly improved its position in the international political power structure, but it has not yet “developed an international dis-

course capability that matches its comprehensive national strength and international status” in terms of international rules, norms and mechanisms, as well as dissemination of Chinese civilization and cultural spirit. This unjust and unreasonable global order needs to be reshaped around the concept and discourse power of international power structures and rules, norms, and mechanisms.

Today, China is “moving closer and closer to the center of the world stage,” presenting the great strength and inherent the spirit of Chinese civilization. Compared to other civilizations around the world with a monotheistic core, China’s secular civilization has its own unique claim to unite the common values of all humanity. The Global Civilization Initiative, proposed by General Secretary Xi Jinping at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting on March 15, 2023, is of particular significance. The Global Civilization Initiative advocates respecting the diversity of world civilizations, insisting on equality, mutual learning, dialogue and tolerance among civilizations, transcending estrangement with cultural exchanges, clashes with mutual learning, and superiority with inclusiveness; it advocates the promotion of common values of all humankind, understanding with broad-mindedness the cognition of different civilizations on the connotation of such values, and neither imposing one’s own values and models on others nor engaging in ideological confrontation; it advocates paying attention to the inheritance and innovation of civilizations, fully

exploring the contemporary values of the history and culture of all countries, and promoting the creative transformation and innovative development of the excellent traditional culture of all countries in the process of modernization; it advocates strengthening international cultural exchanges and cooperation, exploring the construction of a global civilization dialogue and cooperation network, enriching the content of exchanges, expanding the channels of cooperation, promoting peoples of all countries to get to know each other, and jointly promoting the development and progress of human civilization.

The Global Civilization Initiative reflects the gentle, inclusive, harmonious and symbiotic nature of 5,000 years of Chinese civilization and the impartial “greatest common denominator” of all human values. The dialogue and exchange of civilizations on an equal footing will definitely lead to a new form of human civilization. At a time when the injustice and unreasonableness of the unipolar hegemonic order of the United States is becoming more and more obvious, respecting diversified civilizations and promoting the development and progress of different civilizations can push the world out of the illusion of “clash of civilizations”. The Global Civilization Initiative has the significance of reshaping the hegemonic order in the era of globalization not only in terms of the power structure of realist international politics, but also in terms of the “soft power” of international rules, norms, values and mechanisms that constitute the international order.

Strengthening Regional Diplomatic Relations: Improving the Regional Integration

By Staff Writer

Analysts point out that political leadership is a missing link between many challenges the world faces on the one hand and the wealth of knowledge and technical solutions available on the other. It significantly influences the security, well-being, and prosperity of societies and citizens' confidence in governments.

A need for highly qualified leaders to face multiple and increasingly difficult challenges such as armed conflict, growing social and economic divides, geo-political shifts, the digital revolution, pandemics, and climate emergencies cannot be overemphasized.

The Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School was established in Tanzania to serve southern Africa in honour of the late founding President and former chairperson of the Frontline States Julius Kambarage Nyerere. The leadership college is a joint effort of six liberation movements from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), who are now governing parties, and whose countries gained independence with the support of Tanzania under Mwalimu Nyerere and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Liberation



Secretaries-General of the Six Sister Parties of the liberation movements in Southern Africa at their meeting at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School, in the Coast Region of Tanzania, from January 17th to January 20th, 2023. Pictured from left to right are Cde. Dr. O M Mpofu, Secretary-General of ZANU-PF; Cde. Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary-General of SWAPO; Cde. Daniel Chongolo, the Secretary-General of Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and Chair of the meeting; Cde. Prof. Marcelina Chijoriga, Principal of the School; Cde. Maquento Sebastiao Lopes - representing Cde. Paulo Pombolo, Secretary-General of MPLA; Cde. Iasalde das Neves Adamugi Ussene - representing Cde. Roque Silva Samuel, Secretary-General of FRELIMO; and Cde. Ndumiso Mgandi from the S.A Embassy in Tanzania - representing Cde. Fikile Mbalula, the Secretary-General of ANC. The photo was taken on January 19th, 2023.

Committee that was hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania.

Six liberation movement parties that came together for this initiative are Tanzania's Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), and the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) of Namibia, the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO).

The school, located about 50km from the commercial city

of Dar es Salaam is based in Kibaha, Coastal Region along Dar-Morogoro road. The construction foundation of the school was laid in 2018. All the parties were represented at the function by their respective secretaries-general who took up shovels to prepare the ground. It was agreed that they will work together to establish the Mwalimu Nyerere Leadership School, with financial support from China, and the government of Tanzania provided the land.

The Tanzania's fifth phase President the late John Pombe Magufuli officiated at the laying



A cross-section of participants to the Former Liberation Movements of Southern Africa Leading Cadres Workshop 2023. The workshop was held between June 8 and 15 2023 with over 135 attendees from the six sister parties ANC, CCM, FRELIMO, MPLA, SWAPO, and ZANU-PF.

of the foundation stone for the construction of the college with the Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, Song Tao.

The construction of the school began in 2008 and was completed in February 2022. It occupies about 10 hectares of land, with a floor area of 24,600 m². It consists of the main building, dormitory, canteen and service building and facility building, with accommodation capacity of 200 attendees.

The project that took two years to complete was carried out by the China Railway Jianchang Engineering Company (CRJE) at an estimated cost of USD 45 million. One needs to be informed that this is the same company that partnered the construction of the strategic Tanzania-Zambia

Railway (TAZARA) completed in 1976 to reduce dependence on the southern routes through then Rhodesia and apartheid South Africa, and regarded as a symbol of China-Africa friendship.

Chairperson of the CCM Revolutionary Party and President of the United Republic of Tanzania Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan inaugurated the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School on February 23rd, 2022. She led hundreds of citizens and representative leaders of the six countries of the Southern African Belt in the inauguration of the school.

The late Mwalimu Nyerere initiated relations with the People's Republic of China through the first premier, Zhou Enlai, soon after Tanzania's indepen-

dence in 1961, just 12 years after China's liberation. This relationship led to China's support for the liberation of southern Africa from colonial rule and apartheid era in South Africa.

The project came as a strong gesture towards raising a well-informed and prepared young generation into influential leadership positions, towards a common future based on regional development.

Contemporary relations continue to be strengthened through the Forum on China Africa Co-operation (FOCAC) established by Africa and China in 2000, which has provided a more structured platform for deepening the ties between China and Africa in a broad spectrum of fields from political to economic areas.

The School offers training in leadership skills and political principles with the aim of strengthening unity and cooperation in liberating African economies. It also seeks to achieve transformative leadership, by offering leadership educational courses which answer the need to improve regional concerns and integration.

The School strives to strengthen regional diplomatic relations and improve the yields of regional integration, accelerating economic development through informed curricula and inter-active discussions and lectures.

Scholars point out that the project was in response to the need expressed by SADC leaders to honour the legendary work of Mwalimu Nyerere, which has also resulted in the naming in his honour of the African Union's Peace and Security Building at its Addis Ababa headquarters.

President Xi Jinping, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), congratulated the inauguration of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere School of Leadership in Tanzania. He pointed out that the six parties have united and lead their citizens in gaining independence and development of their countries, Xi, in his congratulatory note said the launch of the Julius Nyerere School of Leadership will provide an important platform for the six parties to increase their administrative capacity and lead their countries well to achieve development and



benefit their people.

According to Chinese media sources, he emphasized that, when the world is facing changes that have not happened in the last century, China and Africa need to strengthen solidarity and cooperation more than ever to face risks and challenges, promote common development and improve people's welfare.

“Since its establishment, the School has managed to run two types of programs, which are party related short-term programs, and short-term tailor made and demand driven government and public institutions programs,” says Prof. Marcellina Mvula Chijoriga, Principal of the School.

She adds that as of today about 2400 participants have benefited from 21 short-term courses. These include seven programs for the Six Sister Parties (472 graduates) and 14 tailor - made and demand driven short courses with over 1,900 graduates. The School also holds several occasions such as me-

memorial events of the founding fathers, or party and government related events. More than 2,325 people have been attracted to these events held so far. The School has also attracted various national, regional and international visitors.

Whenever a project is established, one of the key concerns that arise is how that project will progress should the funding stop from the main supporter or decrease. “For sustainability purposes, the School allows the use of its facilities for public sector corporate board meetings, staff retreats, and other meetings without jeopardizing the School vision and mission”, adds Prof. Chijoriga.

To date, according to her, over 50 different party, government and public institutions have used the School facilities. Furthermore, the School managed to enter into three memorandum of understanding / cooperation agreements with likeminded institutions in China.

How Learning Chinese Magnifies Cultural, Economic Diplomacy Between Tanzania and China

By Prof. Aldin K. Mutembei

Mwl. Julius Nyerere Professor in Kiswahili and
Tanzanian Director of Confucius Institute. University of Dar es Salaam

Ten years ago on March 24, 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to start his first African visit. It was from Tanzania where he delivered his speech to Africa entitled: "Remaining Reliable Friends and Faithful Partners Forever". Later in the same year, October 2013, Confucius Institute (CI) was established at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) with a mandate to teach

Mandarin language in Tanzania. It is worth noting that it was in 2013 when President Xi launched the most "ambitious infrastructure projects ever conceived" popularly referred to as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

It is not a coincidence that the year 2013 remains a remarkable period between Tanzania and China. But then how does the learning of Chinese language in Tanzania enhance the Cultural

and Economic diplomacy? This article discusses the economic diplomacy behind China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the historical visit to China by the Tanzanian President and the cultural cushioning played by CI at the UDSM.

In November 2022, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania visited China at the invitation of President Xi Jinping.





Asha Fum Khamis, a Chinese language teacher from Tanzania's Zanzibar at the Confucius Institute within the University of Dar es Salaam, talks with a student at a Chinese language class in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Nov. 17, 2023. (PHOTO: Xinhua)

She becomes the first president to visit China after the 20th Congress of CPC. But this fact needs to be given its due weight. As was the case with the initial ideas of the Silk Road where China was opening its doors and making its capabilities known in East Asia and Europe, so China through the BRI is introducing itself to the world outside of East Asia and Europe. For Africa, the door to this identity began with the great TAZARA project. This was the first successful sign of the Chinese initiative that can now be seen as the BRI.

The TAZARA "initiative" as a type of BRI of the 1960s, could be seen now as China's commitment to build friendship and

promote cooperation with Africa, through a policy of working with Africa to pursuing peace and promoting development. The initiative that may be seen today as inclined towards a pillar of Economic Diplomacy.

On the other hand, the democratic position and procedure followed by China attracts several countries, especially from the African continent. It is a procedure that shows a strong desire to bring development to the people and build an economically stable country. This position and procedure is guided by the CPC's people-centered philosophy.

The thoughts of the Chinese leaders through the CPC look at the future of the Chinese people

and at the same time care about the development and welfare of the people of African countries. This is the reason, the visit of the Tanzanian president immediately after the 20th Congress of CPC carries a historical and diplomatic importance. In fact, it was a visit aimed at strengthening political diplomacy.

Between the economic diplomacy and political diplomacy there stands a cultural link aiming at smoothening the two. Confucius Institute at UDSM is the cultural link geared to promote cultural diplomacy by teaching Chinese language and culture in order to bring to reality the "Win-Win" thinking through mutual understanding

and cooperation.

China's engagement with Africa through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has included various initiatives to promote the teaching of the Chinese language in African countries. The intended benefits of this initiative are multifaceted, aiming at fostering cultural exchange, improve communication between China and African nations, and facilitate economic cooperation. Both the BRI and FOCAC are important initiatives for Tanzanian people to understand the Chinese and cooperate in business for mutual benefits. Through learning Chinese language and Culture these initiatives become relevant to Tanzanians and help them to know the Chinese better. The Confucius Institute is a link that facilitates mutual understanding while aiming to achieve social and economic development.

Indeed the timely visit of President Hassan at the invitation of President Xi immediately after the 20th Congress of CPC has something to explain the deep friendship between CPC and CCM when it comes to the politics followed by these two parties.

Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, a staunch African socialist, played a pivotal role in establishing strong ties between Tanzania and China in the 1960s. Nyerere's policy of African socialism and his advocacy for close relations with socialist countries, including China, laid the foundation for a longstanding partnership

between Tanzania and China.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to China indeed signifies the beginning of a new era of cooperation between Tanzania and China, and between contemporary CCM and CPU. It indicates the revitalization of the historical ties initiated by President Nyerere. This suggests a renewal of commitment to diplomatic, economic, and cultural collaboration between the Tanzania and China. It may also suggest a philosophical examination of the meaning of African socialism in contemporary era.

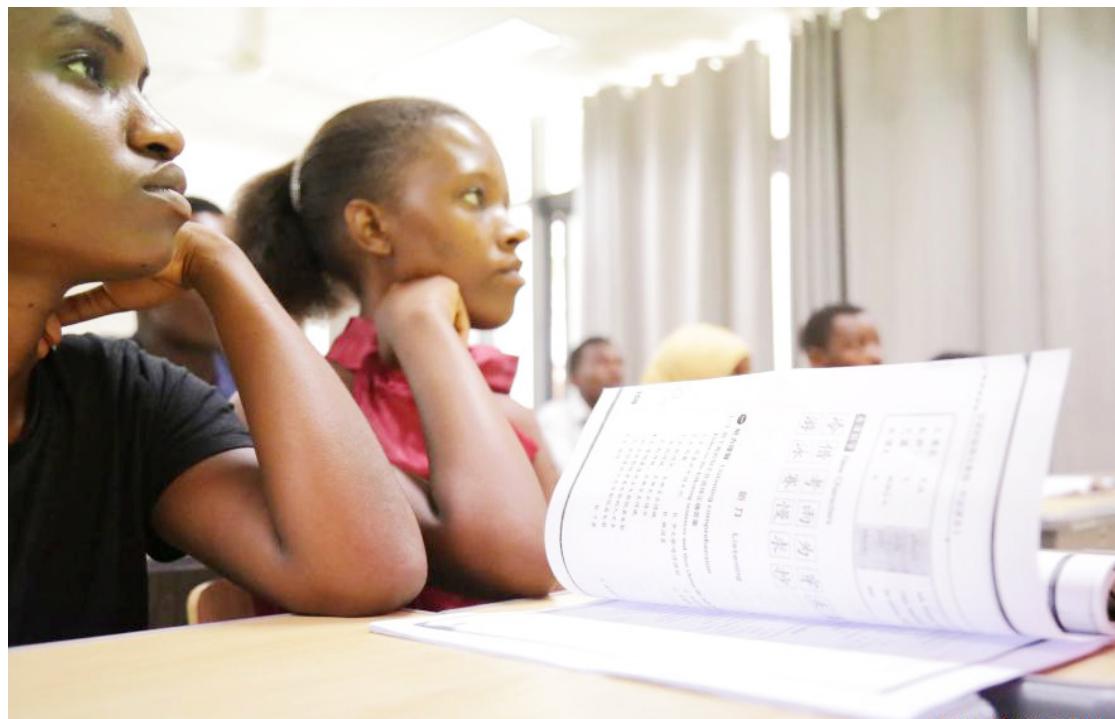
The visit symbolizes a strategic reaffirmation of Tanzania's interest in fostering closer cooperation with China in various sectors, such as trade, infrastructure development, technology transfer, and investment. Additionally, it indicates Tanzania's recognition of the importance of China as a significant global player and its desire to leverage Chinese support for its own developmental agenda.

The visit also underscores the shared commitment of both countries to addressing common challenges, such as public health, infrastructure development, and people-centered economic growth. It serves as an opportunity for the leaders of both nations to discuss and establish new frameworks for cooperation in the post-pandemic era, potentially focusing on areas such as sustainable development, and technology transfer.

Furthermore, the visit serves as a platform for Tanzania to explore opportunities for participation in China's BRI and other development programs, which could significantly benefit Tanzania's infrastructure and economic development. As Mandarin unites China, so does Kiswahili in East Africa. It started with a successful movement of uniting Tanzanians. Thus, a visit to China paves a road for a possibility of seeing more and more Chinese learning Kiswahili language for cultural and eco-



Li Yaya teaches a student Chinese characters in Zanzibar, Tanzania, on July 20, 2023. (PHOTO: Xinhua)



Tanzanian students attend a Chinese language class at the Confucius Institute at Dar es Salaam University in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Jan. 4, 2021. (PHOTO: Xinhua)

nomic diplomacy.

Indeed, President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to China could potentially be seen as a means of fostering a "win-win" situation, particularly if it leads to a reciprocal cultural and educational exchange between Tanzania and China. The teaching of Kiswahili in China and Mandarin in Tanzania can contribute to a deeper cultural understanding, improved communication, and enhanced people-to-people ties between the two countries. Here are a few examples showing some advantages which the Swahili speaking communities could enjoy if the Chinese were to learn Kiswahili in big numbers.

Cultural diplomacy seen through cultural exchange and understanding. To promote the teaching of Kiswahili in China like what the Chinese with Mandarin are doing through

Confucius institutes, can foster a greater understanding of each other's cultures, traditions, and values. This can help bridge cultural gaps and build stronger cultural ties between the two nations, leading to mutual respect and appreciation. This in turn would enhance communication and diplomacy. Equipping Chinese citizens with the ability to speak Kiswahili and Tanzanians with Mandarin can significantly improve communication between the two countries. This enhanced communication can facilitate better diplomatic relations, smoother business interactions, and more effective collaboration in various sectors such as trade, investment, and technology transfer.

China has continued to support both human resource and infrastructure development in Tanzania. The teaching and

learning of Kiswahili in China and Mandarin in Tanzania can further open up educational and economic opportunities for citizens of both countries. It can enable Tanzanians to better engage in trade, investment, and cultural exchanges with China, while providing Chinese citizens with the necessary linguistic skills to navigate the African market and explore potential business ventures in Tanzania and other Swahili-speaking countries.

Finally, the promotion of language learning can lead to stronger people-to-people ties, fostering friendships and partnerships between individuals from both nations. This can encourage more cultural and educational exchanges, tourism, and cross-cultural collaborations, ultimately contributing to a more robust and vibrant bilateral relationship.

Socialism with Chinese Characteristics as a Model of Development for Africa

By Esteves Hilário

Member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA Central Committee. Jurist, lawyer and professor of constitutional law and philosophy of law at the Catholic University of Angola

I. Introduction

After almost 80 years since the start of the Chinese revolution led by the Communist Party of China (CPC) and looking at the results achieved, it is of the importance to ask whether socialism with Chinese characteristics can be a development model to be replicated in most third world countries. However, we cannot ignore the resounding economic and social success observed in Chinese society as a result of the implementation of a socialist revolution with characteristics of Chinese culture.

The socialism initiated by the CPC in 1949 through the revolutionary process has, of course, undergone significant advances and also typical setbacks of the political process. However, there was a noticeable difference from the model of Marxist-Leninist socialism "imported" from the USSR, introducing typical elements of Eastern culture in general and Chinese culture in particular. Since the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the CPC in December 1978, there was a clear ideological shift towards the center, configuring a pragmatic left, which preserved, however, the ideas of building an

egalitarian and just society. The essence of socialism with Chinese characteristics, in the words of Deng Xiaoping, is to "liberate productive forces, eliminate exploitation and polarization, and ultimately achieve common prosperity". However, unlike the capitalist model in which equality and fairness in promoting prosperity are not the criteria, socialism with Chinese characteristics adds the comprehensive building of a moderately prosperous society. Moderate prosperity is, moreover, a guarantee of equal and equitable prosperity.

The question with which we began this dissertation is the compass by which we will guide ourselves in order to answer, in a few lines, whether socialism with Chinese characteristics really can be the guiding compass for building fairer societies, equality and, above all, prosperity in third world countries.

II. The Chinese political system versus liberal democratic systems

Since the early 1990s, the African countries governed by the founding parties of the Pan-African socialist movement have

adopted the Western-inspired system of liberal democracy, which immediately made them different from China, where remained immune to the effects of Perestroika. Chinese democratic centralism, led by the CPC, is in itself an important factor of political stability, capable of mobilizing all the factors of economic growth and simultaneously providing socio-economic development.

In most African countries, the adoption of systems of government "transplanted" from the colonial powers, without observing the criteria of a cultural and anthropological nature that would result in a clear ergonomics of political decisions, has proved to be a major factor in political instability. However, even in the most stable countries, it has not been possible to mobilize the development factors capable of bringing about the longed-for prosperity. In contrast, China, through the political stability provided by democratic centralism, has taken a different path. In our view, the central point of Chinese development is based on political stability, which is the main instrument for capturing the factors of economic and social development, combined with

a socialist ideological base that is ergonomically established to local cultural traits and an economic model that is open to the markets.

When analyzing the factors described above, which are seen as a brake on the development process in African countries, it should be pointed out that, given the impossibility of reversing the march towards a return to democratic centralism, it is important to find a symbiotic path that can enable the implementation of a political model capable of promoting significant socio-economic transformations. This process will have to begin in the structures of the political parties in order to realign them methodologically, which may have an important source of inspiration in socialism with Chinese characteristics.

As we know, despite the reforms implemented in the political structures of the states as a result of post-perestroika, these political parties have not made any major changes to their ideological matrices, even though they remain faithful to the ideas of socialism. However, this has not proved sufficient to promote equal prosperity, which leads us to conclude that the problem is not really with the model, but with the method.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics combines democratic centralism with the market economy in an sustainable way, which somehow answers our question since it unequivocally demonstrates that socialism is not necessarily antagonistic or incompatible with the market economy, so it makes us easy to understand that the great difference between

socialism with Chinese characteristics and African socialism lies in the method and not in the system.

III. Socialism with Chinese characteristics and the method of generating prosperity

The paths to development are necessarily disparate, in other words, there is no single model, so there is no path that is abstractly better than the other, and it is certain that the differences will exist and become advantageous or disadvantageous according to the method of application of the adopted development model. However, it seems clear to us that the Chinese method, implemented by the central structures of the CPC, has been absolutely efficient in specifically alleviating poverty and generating well-being and prosperity.

The numbers impress any analyst, and the speed with which the results are achieved reveals the effectiveness of the method. In our view, therein lies the great difference between the results of poverty alleviation in Chinese socialism and African socialism, if we consider their theoretical existence. Unlike African countries, China seems to have made a definitive break with the bureaucracy inherited from the Soviet Marxist-Leninist system, establishing a decentralized management model based on the essential features of its own culture.

The economic development model based on socialism with Chinese characteristics can also be understood as an industrialization program that has agriculture as its base. However, as we know,



Colombian President Lourenço cuts the ribbon for Huawei's Angola Science and Technology Park on November 14, 2022 in the capital Luanda.

compared to the African continent, more specifically the southern region of our continent, China has fewer resources and less arable land, and this may have been a determining factor in the industrialization of the agricultural sector.

Alongside this process of industrialization of agriculture with the inclusion of high technology that generates effectiveness and efficiency in production, China has promoted a major plan to build productive infrastructures. Productive infrastructures encourage production by significantly diluting production and logistics costs, so that families engaged in small-scale farming can move away from subsistence production towards surplus production and thus get out of extreme poverty.

IV. China-Africa cooperation as an instrument of mutual development



The basis of relations between China and the countries of southern Africa began in the 1950s, through the CPC's support for national liberation movements. However, there has clearly been an increase in this cooperation since the 18th National Congress of the CPC. Unlike the model of relations established with Western countries, which is based on prejudice stemming from the long process of colonization, the relations with China are based on a parity that stems, as we said above, from the friendly relations between the CPC and the liberation parties of southern Africa.

China has made a great effort to increase infrastructure on the African continent, by financing the construction of ports, airports, roads and so on. These infrastructures are already beginning to bring about a significant improvement in people's quality of

life, significantly increasing their sense of social well-being.

Despite these investments, the African continent continues to face major difficulties in accessing the financial markets, due to its very low credit ratings, which greatly slows down the normal growth of its production and logistics infrastructures. As we have said, this slowdown has an impact on production costs, which makes farming families less competitive and perpetuates poverty.

In this chapter, the major challenge for relations between China and the countries of southern Africa is centered on China's positioning, which must be absolutely different from institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank or the Paris Club. There need to be an agile system for accessing funding, without bureaucracy and political preconditions, does not interfere with the

sovereignty of these states. Another challenge lies in the typical financing model of the Exim banks, which is designed to stimulate the creditor country's exports rather than to promote the growth of a really solid economy in the debtor countries. These are important challenges that we must overcome in the relationship between the two blocs.

V. Conclusion

After several decades, the relations between China and the countries of the southern Africa show no signs of fraying. On the contrary, they continue to deepen and become increasingly solid. While in the beginning it was mainly about political and military support, which was fundamental to the independence of these countries, today it is mainly economic.

Despite this tradition and the need for a continuous increase in economic relations, we cannot ignore the urgent need to usher in a new era in political relations between the CPC and the parties of the southern African region. The concept of moderate prosperity and its implementation, which has led to the eradication of poverty in China's urban and rural areas, is an unmistakable sign that the model of political, economic and social organization based on socialism with Chinese characteristics is efficient and effective. Therefore, it would not be out of place to call for the continued transmission of experience so that each of our parties can develop its own model of socialism with its own characteristics.

The Journey to Youth Creation on Shared Prosperity: Sharpening Mutual Learning for Shared Future for Humanity

By Stephen Mothusi Tsitsing

Former District Secretary of SACP Yusuf Dadoo District National Organizer of YCLSA

From July 2 to 15, 2023, at the invitation of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), I visited China together with my brothers and sisters from Namibia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania, which was my second visit to China. I am very glad and grateful that China has set up a platform for us African visitors to discuss challenges and ways to participate in building the Belt and Road Initiative and the community with a shared future for mankind, and at the same time to draw on China's experience and wisdom in solving our own problems and promoting Africa's development.

During the seminar, I have actively promoted African civilization and learned how to cherish it. Representatives from the four member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) participated in the discussion both online and offline, and exchanged ideas on how to promote the development of Africa in general and SADC in particular.

In order to promote economic development, we should consider setting up new economic development zones, learning from China's practice of building infrastructure according to local conditions, especially building a complete railroad system and network system,

upgrading the level of economic and social development, and better benefiting the people; and building large-scale shopping centers to provide cost-effective and high-quality goods and services. We can make use of the GETO platform and other exchange platforms to learn from China's economic development methods, to promote cultural exchanges and people-to-people communication on the Belt and Road Initiative, and to publicize Africa's theoretical knowledge and cultural development.

Poverty alleviation is undoubtedly a serious challenge that all African countries must face together. The most pressing questions are: who and how should work on poverty eradication? What resources should be utilized to fight poverty? China has provided us with a good platform for learning and dialogue, which helps us gain a deeper understanding of China's poverty alleviation policies and theories. During our visits to China's rural areas, we not only learned from the experience of poverty alleviation, but also met many outstanding people who, with love for the Chinese people and the CPC, have changed the appearance of the countryside through their unremitting efforts and long-term dedication. Poverty alleviation is a long-term strategic plan formu-

lated by the CPC and the Chinese government, and is organized and implemented in accordance with local conditions, with the government providing policy support and relevant resources, experts providing professional technology, and grass-roots organizations in rural areas formulating specific solutions to problems according to the actual situation, dispatching all the resources needed, and wholeheartedly helping farmers to get rid of poverty.

Africa needs to learn from China's experience and practices, and looks forward to China's efforts to promote infrastructure construction in Africa through the Belt and Road cooperation projects, to help Africa develop and modernize people-centred economy of its own, and to help Africa promote green and low-carbon development and achieve harmonious coexistence between human beings and nature, and to continuously improve the level of Africa-China cooperation in this process.

Regarding agriculture and rural development, we have learned many interesting cases through visits and talks. For example, in Beijing's Pinggu District, some farmers accustomed to farming planted peaches according to local conditions, some young people with open minds used online platforms to help farmers sell peaches,

and some entrepreneurs with social responsibilities took the initiative to participate in rural construction, promoting stronger cooperation between enterprises and rural areas, and strongly promoting economic development. In Panzhou City, Guizhou Province, farmers have realized the scientific cultivation of crops on the poor conditioned mountains, which is remarkable. If South Africa could also master this type of hillside cultivation technology, it could help many local people to solve the problem of famine.

In China's rural areas, there are many people who are determined to serve their country and work hard, such as Mr. Huang Dafa of Unity Village, Pingzheng Gelao Township, Baozhou District, Zunyi City, Guizhou Province. When Unity Village was facing a shortage of water resources, Huang Dafa led the villagers for 36 years to build a 10,000-meter aqueduct around three major mountains, breaking the fate of the village's long-term water shortage and grinding a path to poverty alleviation and prosperity. It is touching that the CPC has never forgotten those who have made outstanding contributions to the country and the people. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, personally awarded Mr. Huang Dafa the "July First Medal", which is the greatest recognition and respect for the old man's lifelong dedication, and also greatly inspires people's determination and enthusiasm to do good and practical work for poverty alleviation and enrichment. No matter how big the challenges are, we are inspired by Mr. Huang Dafa's perseverance and determination to go forward and never give up.

The CPC and the Chinese gov-



ernment, upholding the principle of serving the people, have formulated a coherent plan to combat poverty and vigorously carry out infrastructure construction in various regions, especially in the most remote rural areas, so as to help the people get rid of poverty and solve the various problems they encountered in their economic development, which is astonishing. At the same time, China also has a number of models who serve the people wholeheartedly, many of whom are members of the Communist Party, contributing to the development of the country regardless of personal gain or loss, and leading the people in impoverished areas out of poverty and into prosperity.

After successive struggles, the great Communist Party of China has realized the millennial dream of the Chinese nation of becoming moderately prosperous, won the largest battle against poverty in human history, lifted nearly 100 million rural poor out of poverty, and relocated more than 9.6 million poor people from their hometowns, thus solving the problem of absolute poverty historically, which

has made a significant contribution to the world's cause of poverty reduction, and provided an important lesson for the cause of poverty reduction. This trip to China has touched me deeply and made me have a more profound understanding of China's poverty eradication and rural revitalization strategies. African countries should work towards a common goal, actively learn from advanced practices and continuously innovate development concepts. Learning from China, African countries should formulate their own rural revitalization strategies and implement them according to local conditions, strengthen communication and co-operation among governments and various departments, and especially attract more young talents to contribute their wisdom and strength to the development of their own countries and Africa. At the same time, Africa should reduce internal conflicts, work closely with each other, strengthen cooperation with China, accelerate the development of an open economy, and promote Africa-China relations to a new and higher level.

Interpretation of Namibia Politics and the Need to Intensify Agriculture for Economic Transition in Africa, a Lesson to Learn from China

By Rehabeam Iiyambo

Member of the National Executive Committee of the Youth League of the SWAPO Party of Namibia

It has been a beautiful last two weeks in People's Republic of China, I arrived in Beijing on the 02 July 2023 to attend a prestigious workshop for Shaping the Share Future: Young African Political Leaders which ended on the 14 July 2023 in Shanghai City. I am back in Windhoek, Namibia (Land of the Brave) with chilly weather and I am in a good spirit of patriotism. Let us dwell in it!! Namibia, a country located in southwestern Africa, has a rich history shaped by political struggles and economic challenges.

Since gaining independence in 1990, Namibia has made significant strides in terms of political stability and socio-economic development. However, there is still a pressing need to intensify Agriculture as well as Technology and Fintech sectors to drive the country's economic metamorphosis for the purpose of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

Namibia's political landscape is characterized by a robust democracy and a commitment to good governance. The country has established a multi-party system, ensuring a political pluralism and fostering a healthy competition of ideas. Additionally, Namibia has a strong legal framework that protects human rights, freedom of speech, and a free press. This political stability has been crucial in attracting foreign direct investment, fostering economic growth, and building a reliable environment for businesses to thrive.

While Namibia has made commendable progress in political stability, it faces persistent economic challenges. The country relies heavily on the mining sector, particularly diamonds and uranium, which

contribute significantly to its GDP. However, this over-reliance on natural resources leaves Namibia vulnerable to fluctuations in global commodity prices, which can severely impact its economy. To ensure sustainable economic growth, Namibia must diversify its economy and reduce its dependency on extractive industries.

Technology holds immense potential for transforming Namibia's economy. Embracing digitalization and investing in technological infrastructure can significantly enhance efficiency, productivity,



and competitiveness across various sectors. By leveraging technology, Namibia can improve access to education, healthcare, and government services, bridging the digital divide and fostering inclusive growth. Furthermore, technology can stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship, creating jobs and stimulating economic activity.

Agriculture is a sector that has the potential to drive Namibia's economic metamorphosis. Despite being arid, Namibia has vast untapped agricultural potential. The country can harness modern farming techniques, such as precision agriculture, drip irrigation, and hydroponics, to overcome its water scarcity challenges and increase agricultural productivity. Investing in sustainable agriculture practices

can not only boost food security but also create employment opportunities, reduce poverty, and generate export revenues.

Additionally, the financial technology (Fintech) sector has the potential to revolutionize Namibia's financial landscape. Fintech solutions, such as mobile banking, digital payments, and blockchain technology, can enhance financial inclusion, improve access to credit, and facilitate secure and efficient transactions. By embracing Fintech, Namibia can reduce the reliance on traditional banking systems, expand financial services to underserved populations, and drive economic growth.

To intensify the agriculture, as well as the technology and Fintech sectors, Namibia needs to prioritize investment in education and skills development. By equipping its workforce with the necessary technical and digital skills, Namibia can foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. Additionally, the government should create an enabling environment for private sector investment, offering incentives and support to businesses operating in these sectors. Collaboration between the government, private sector, and international partners China to be specific is crucial to developing a comprehensive strategy that addresses the specific challenges and opportunities faced by Namibia.

Agriculture is a field that demands collaboration and co-ordination among different actors to achieve optimal results. China's success in agriculture is largely attributed to the co-ordination and collaboration of its agricultural

stakeholders, namely government, researchers, and community, in what I referred to as the golden triangle. The golden triangle is a closely knit group that shares information and works together to address issues related to production and productivity.

The success of this structure is a testament to the power of co-ordination and collaboration in achieving success in agriculture as evidently as case in China. The specific examples of the golden triangle concept can be found in Yanbo Village in Yuni town under the leadership of Ms. Yi Liufen as well as the local young entrepreneurs farming with peach in Pinggu Districts.

The golden triangle in China's agriculture sector is not just a mere collaboration but a well-thought-out co-ordination of government, researchers, and community (farmers). Each component has a specific role, and they work together to address the challenges in their respective areas. Communities (farmers) are responsible for implementing the research findings, while researchers develop innovative solutions to the challenges facing government. Community serves as intermediaries between government and researchers, disseminating information to government and collecting feedback to improve research. This close relationship ensures that any issue is quickly addressed, and solutions are developed in a timely manner.

This close relationship between the three components of the golden triangle is not just a casual relationship, but a relationship built on trust, freedom of expression, and open lines of communica-



On July 10, 2023, Iiyambo (far left), author of this article, experiences tea picking at Yongxing Town, Meitan County, Zunyi City, Guizhou Province.

tion. Each component has a say, and their opinions are valued. This open communication enables government to give feedback to researchers, who can then tailor their research to meet the needs of farmers. Researchers can also provide government with up-to-date information on the latest research findings, enabling government to make informed decisions.

The reason China's experience is of great significance to African countries is that majority have a history like that of China. They follow similar quests and face similar challenges. Moreover, China and a number of African developing countries have in common is the experience of hardships and breaking the chains of imperialism and colonialism through national liberation movements. Although China is thriving economically, most of these African developing countries are economically and culturally behind and are now struggling to achieve modernization.

China and African developing countries are therefore sharing a common historical destiny. In addition, China is a socialist country and adheres to the development path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. China established a new path that fits with its national conditions and national system, implemented reforms, and accumulated a good deal of successful experience.

Therefore, China offers new choices to African developing countries that want to accelerate development and maintain their independence, and China also contributes wisdom and solutions

to human problems. Therefore, developing countries can learn from China's successful reform experience. SWAPO Party is the governing party of the Government of Namibia, lately, its Central Committee has been discussing an appropriate approach to implement socialism with Namibian characteristics.

Overall, the main lesson from China's past 40 years of reform and opening-up is that proper incentives and behaviour of the government, local and central, are important for economic growth and that lies within the coordination approach of bottom-up planning amongst other factors.

The bottom-up planning coupled with coordination, dedication and discipline has been key to China's success in building an inclusive prosperous nation they are today. The advantage of bottom-up planning is that due to the decentralized approach, planning starts directly from the community members whereby community members are directly involved in the planning process.

The success of China's agriculture sector is a testament to the power of co-ordination and collaboration among various stakeholders. African countries are encouraged to benchmark on China's model 'golden triangle' to improve their agriculture sector. In countries where appears to be a disconnection between government, researchers, and community, co-ordination and collaboration could be encouraged to improve the implementation and address challenges in the sector.

The Chinese government im-

plemented poverty alleviation actions that can be a model for successful reform worldwide and provides useful experience for developing countries, especially in Africa. It is also notable that the poverty alleviation policies formulated in China were adapted according to the country's national conditions and had been completed by 2020, whereby, the entire population has become moderately prosperous.

In conclusion, it is my conviction that agriculture is a field that requires co-ordination and collaboration among different actors to achieve optimal results. China's success in agriculture is attributed to the philosophy which is a well-thought-out co-ordination of government, researchers, and its community. This close relationship between the three components of the golden triangle is built on trust, freedom of expression, and open lines of communication. The success of this model could be replicated in African countries to improve their agriculture sector.

Most Africa's political stability has laid a strong foundation for economic development, but there is a pressing need to intensify technology, agriculture, and Fintech sectors to drive the country's economic metamorphosis. Embracing technology, investing in sustainable agriculture practices, and leveraging Fintech solutions can diversify Namibia's economy, create employment opportunities, and enhance financial inclusion. Through strategic investments and collaboration, Africa can unlock its full potential and achieve sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Road to Joint Construction of an Africa-China Community with a Shared Future

By Gilion José Gilion Michila
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Members of the Mozambique Rice Production Technology Workshop visited the Upper Yangtze River Breeding Station of Hunan Yawei Seed Science Academy to study rice breeding.

Despite all the important changes and achievements made by the CPC towards China, this document will summarize those that seem to us to be the most significant, followed by observations on one of the paths to follow towards the establishment of an Africa-China Community of Prosperity for All.

Main Considerations about the Workshop

In a very explicit and objective way, the CPC shared its Historic Achievements and its Historic Decisions.

It became clear that Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, although extremely efficient, is only valid for the reality of China and cannot be compared with any other system, as it is unique in the world, which has been gradually improved over time as new challenges arise.

The CPC also shared its Experience of Governance, where it became clear that ideologies and models of governance and economic development are not unique and that each nation should adopt the models that best serve the purposes of its people, of humanity

and do not harm its dignity.

The CPC also advocates that it is on the basis of respect for the diversity of peoples and their choices of governance and economic development that "Lasting Peace" "Global Harmony" or "Community with a Shared Future" can be achieved, which in turn would lead to "Prosperity for all" or "Social Welfare for All".

Constraints to Implementing a Common Project

Difficulty in defining the main constraints to be overcome and the main objectives to be achieved by the various African countries and uniting them around this same objective as a single entity or bloc, given the different socio-economic realities of each country.

The non-existence of this common objective hinders the full unification of African nations, creates several interlocutors and keeps them without much power in the context of nations.

Adoption of Ideologies and Models of Governance and Economic Development by African countries, for reasons of international conventions in the past, which so far have not produced

some of the results that were intended at the time.

These models have proved inadequate for the African reality, mainly because they were conceived in a totally different scenario in which African states were born, at the hands of liberating guerrilla movements, which were later transformed into political parties.

The possibility of international sanctions being imposed by former imperialist Western countries if African countries decide to change their ideologies and models of governance and economic development.

Constant distortions and/or versions of China's real objectives and agenda for African countries and the world.

The apparent and much-publicized lack of motivation of the driving force (the People) is driven by the agendas of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other unknown forces, financed by unknown international interests, motivated by a delay in solving the problems of the most disadvantaged or poorest classes (caused by the deficit budget of African countries).

Final Considerations

The implementation of measures by African countries that lead to the eradication of formalism and bureaucracy in the process of meeting the needs of the most disadvantaged people, just like the CPC, always bearing in mind that any government measure must have the preservation of human dignity as its ultimate goal, could serve as a driving force to inspire the people, not only to work, but also to accept a possible change in the Governance Model.

The diversity of realities in African countries cannot be considered a problem for the unity of African peoples, because even in this diversity there are aspects that are common and essential to all peoples, such as the urgency of availability of food, healthcare, infrastructure, education, employment, among others.

It is imperative that African countries define their priorities and act as a bloc to resolve them.

This unique insight and bloc action could lead African countries not only to change their agenda and better implement the FOCAC agenda, but probably to change their governance model or political system.

This change of governance model and breakup with the governance and development models imposed by the West, adopting those that best suit their specific reality, with the main objective of social welfare or prosperity for their respective people, will lead to the eventual imposition of economic sanctions by the former imperialist Western countries.

If, in the meantime, the African countries have not defined a Strat-

egy or Action Plan between themselves and/or with the CPC, which allows their Peoples not to suffer too much from such sanctions, the possibility of such a breakup is very slim and almost non-existent.

No matter how good a vision or plan may be, as long as some do not believe in it or benefit from it, they will not take it on board.

There is an urgent need to create a common objective that benefits both the African and Chinese peoples, with tangible/palpable results in the short, medium and long term, actions that involve and have a direct impact on the most disadvantaged people, especially in the areas of food production, employment and education, and the FOCAC could be praised to this.

China is currently the world's second largest power, and under the leadership of the CPC and with the economic growth figures presented, this position is not only being consolidated, but also tending to improve.

In this capacity and in the context of Nations, China is supposed to support African countries in making decisions that have the social well-being of their peoples and the world as their ultimate goal.

Bearing in mind that China respects the diversity of cultures and peoples and believes that no country should impose its ideologies or models of governance and development on another, it is expected that the CPC will take the decision to support African countries when they eventually decide to adopt their own models of governance and development, provided that their ultimate goal is the social well-being of their peoples and the world in general, and that they do

not in any way hurt human dignity.

In the context of nations, China apparently wants to behave as a benign power, which, according to its traditional culture and values, has an obligation to help others.

However, not only does the rest of the world know little about traditional Chinese culture and values, but it should also be borne in mind that the world adopted Thomas Hobbes' position that "man is a wolf to man", in other words, man is his own greatest enemy and, in the particular case of Africa, which has experienced Colonialism in the crudest way, despite its long-standing friendship with China and China's important contribution to the liberation movements and to the newly born African countries, it still can't easily overcome the trauma that has experienced, thus aggravating its suspicions about China's real intentions in Africa, aggravated by the misinformation of the former imperialist West.

The conception, definition and implementation of an Africa-China Agenda or Africa-China Community with a Shared Future, easily leads to the removal of the global suspicion that exists about Africa, a dark agenda of China and automatically creates conditions for more countries to adhere to the vision of a Community with a Shared Future, and the role of the young leaders present at the workshop can prove to be essential if they fully understand China's vision or project on Africa, considering not only the past, the current existing relations, but also the new challenges of the current generation.

Ubuntu!

Historical Relics: Lessons from the People's Republic of China

By Effort Mwatesela Magoso
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Volunteers from Zimbabwe (far left) and from Gabon (far right) introduce exhibits to children at the China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation for Innovation Demonstration Park on June 30, 2023 in China.



Deep within the heart of Guizhou province, China, lies the enchanting city of Zunyi—a place that echoes with the grandeur of Chinese history. In 1935, this humble city played host to the groundbreaking Zunyi Meeting, a pivotal event that forever altered the course of the Communist Party of China.

In the face of foreign intrusion and imminent annihilation, the Zunyi Meeting was decisive. The reins of power shifted, Chairman Mao emerged as the leader, steering the Long March, and eventually leading to the birth of the People's Republic of China.

Fast forward to this day, the sacred grounds of the Zunyi Meeting stands as a testament to the unwavering spirit and resilience of the Chinese people. Like a time portal to the birth of a revolution, this hallowed site offers captivating glimpse into history's tumultuous embrace.

On my recent visit to the People's Republic of China, I had the privilege to tour the site of Zunyi

meeting, the Memorial of the 1st National congress of Communist Party of China, the majestic Great Wall and the resplendent Forbidden City as part of the Shaping the Shared Future, Young African Political leaders workshop.

From the tours of these important sites, it became apparent to me that in their physical form, historical artefacts are more than mere objects—they are fragments of collective memory and identity. They beckon one to delve deeper into the past, to unearth its treasures and learn from its wisdom.

Every painstaking effort to preserve these relics ensures that future generations can bask in the glory of the past and draw inspiration from the struggles and triumphs of those who came earlier.

I drew many lessons from the tours of these Chinese historical relics but some stood out.

Lesson 1: The Chinese Government's commitment to historical preservation

China's government has shown

a remarkable commitment to not only restoring but also safeguarding historical sites. This dedication has resulted in the preservation of cultural heritage that serves as a testament to the nation's past. The Chinese government's unwavering dedication to restoring and safeguarding historical sites sets an exemplary standard for the world to follow. This commitment is reflected in the meticulous restoration work.

China's preservation of historical and cultural relics serves as a valuable lesson for Africa in safeguarding and taking pride in its own treasures.

Africa also boasts of some profound historical gems. From the ancient pyramids of Egypt to the rock-hewn churches of Ethiopia and the awe-inspiring Great Zimbabwe, these are all treasures.

One of the African countries with a rich tapestry of history is Zimbabwe. The country possesses its own profound historical gems, such as the Great Zimbabwe, the National Heroes Acre, and various

significant locations tied to the nation's history such as former President Robert Mugabe's Highfield house. These sites carry immense historical significance and deserve to be cherished, visited, and studied by Zimbabwean citizens. By fostering a sense of ownership and appreciation for these relics, Zimbabweans can contribute to their preservation and ensure that their vibrant history remains alive for future generations.

Lesson 2: The befitting love for historical relics by Chinese Citizens

Chinese citizens display a deep passion for their history and relics, actively visiting and interacting with historical sites. During tours of the site of Zunyi meeting, the Memorial of the 1st National congress of Communist Party of China, the Great Wall and Forbidden City, one would marvel at the fact that majority of the visitors were Chinese people. Not only that, but the exuberance on their faces was touching. Such love fosters a sense of pride and ownership, driving individuals to protect and promote their cultural heritage.

Citizens across the globe can emulate this by taking pride in their own cultural heritage and actively engaging with historical remnants. The love and the volumes of visits to the historical sites by Chinese citizens is admirable and a standard African countries including Zimbabwe ought to adopt. Zimbabwe can foster a similar sense of pride and ownership among its citizens by raising more awareness about the significance of its cultural heritage and

encouraging active engagement in preservation efforts. While the government has made good efforts to preserve the country's historical relics, the interest among citizens is not inspiring.

Lesson 3: Valuing Cultural and Historical Sites can bring economic benefits

China has recognised the economic potential of preserving and promoting its historical heritage, attracting tourism and boosting local economies. These remarkable treasures serve as magnetic beacons, luring millions of awe-struck tourists each year and breathing life into local economies. The Great Wall of China alone stands proud, drawing over 10 million visitors annually. Such staggering numbers reveal that these cultural relics hold not only historical significance but also economic potential. Through their preservation and promotion, nations can attract visitors from every corner of the globe, fostering prosperity and cultural exchange.

Zimbabwe can also learn from how China has successfully leveraged its cultural heritage to attract tourists. By investing in infrastructure, hospitality services, and tourism promotion, Zimbabwe can unlock the economic potential of its historical relics while ensuring their preservation.

Lesson 4: Importance of Cultural Exchanges and People-to-People Initiatives

In the context of historical relics, international collaboration and people-to-people initiatives

can foster knowledge exchange. Cultural exchanges between China and Africa have played a crucial role in facilitating knowledge sharing and mutual understanding. It can also play a crucial role in entrenching a love for historical remnants. By promoting cultural exchange programs, such as workshops, performances, and educational tours, Zimbabwe can deepen its citizens' appreciation for both their own heritage and that of other nations.

By promoting dialogue and collaboration in the realm of culture and history, these exchanges strengthen the bonds between nations and enrich the collective human experience. Through shared knowledge and appreciation, a deep understanding and respect for each other's cultural heritage can be cultivated.

In conclusion, one can definitely say, China's approach to the preservation of historical and cultural relics is a blueprint for Africa and the rest of the world. China's commitment to protecting its cultural heritage is evident in its successful restoration and maintenance of iconic sites. By adopting a similar mindset of reverence displayed by Chinese citizens, Zimbabwe and Africa at large can ensure the longevity of its own historical sites. Preserving cultural relics extends beyond the protection of physical structures and artifacts. It is an act of reverence for the stories and memories woven by ancestors. It is an investment in the future, as it ensures that future generations will have the opportunity to treasure and honour their vibrant history and unshakable identity.

Within the framework of Belt and Road cooperation, Tanzania, South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe have strengthened project cooperation with China.



Tanzanian and Chinese staff Inspecting the Impounded Reservoir, a Water Supply Project in Tanzania



Beijing Automobile Group South Africa



Maputo Bridge of Mozambique Built with Chinese Assistance



New Capital Airport in Angola Built by Chinese Business



China Helping Namibia Building its Green "Mineral Economy"



New Parliamentary Building in Zimbabwe Built with Chinese Assistance



Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School.

