

# Ten-Year Anniversary of the Forum on China-Africa

## 1. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, peace, stability and development have become a shared aspiration of people of all countries. It is against this background that the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was jointly set up by China and Africa in October 2000 as a major initiative taken to promote traditional China-Africa friendship and cooperation. In the ten years since then, a summit and four ministerial conferences have been held successfully.

Since the Beijing Summit, China-Africa cooperation opened a new chapter with both China and African countries' dedication in a new type of strategic partnership featuring political equality and mutual trust, economic win-win cooperation and cultural exchange. Today, the Forum serves as an important platform and effective mechanism for conducting collective dialogue, exchanging experience in governance and enhancing mutual trust and cooperation in practical terms between China and African countries. The development of the Forum has become a shining example in south-south cooperation.

China-Africa political mutual trust has been reinforced with more frequent high-level exchange of visits and even closer diplomatic consultations and strategic dialogues. China continues to provide assistance for the development of African countries without any political strings attached, and supports the legitimate interests and rights of African countries in international affairs. African countries stand firmly in line with the Chinese side as for the issues concerning the core interests of China. China-Africa coordination in major international and regional affairs has safeguarded the common interests of the developing world.

China-Africa economic cooperation has seen rapid growth as the trade volume surged to more than USD100 billion in 2008 compared with USD10 billion in 2000. By the end of the year 2009, the number of export items to China eligible for zero-tariff treatment from the least developed countries in Africa increased to up 478, resulting in growing export volume to China. China's investment in Africa increases steadily, the scale of contracted project and labor cooperation has been enlarged greatly, while financial cooperation is still unfolding. China's fulfillment of its commitments to African countries played an active role in helping Africa to combat the international financial crisis and in enhancing its development capacity; at that time, though, China also suffered a lot from



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the crisis.

Cultural and people-to-people exchanges between China and Africa enjoy sound development with the friendly interactions in the areas of culture, education, health, human resources training, youth, women, NGOs and sister cities growing in a booming manner.

Africa a centre attracting more attention from the international community.

As FOCAC begins its second decade, the world is experiencing complex and profound changes. On the one hand, with the deepening of economic globalization, peace, security, development and cooperation



The China-aided Primary School in Omuthiya

The China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Program has provided a long-effect platform for the exchange and cooperation between academic circles from China and African countries. China-Africa mutual understanding and traditional friendship have been deepened in an all-round way.

China-Africa cooperation under FOCAC has been improved greatly through the three complementary mechanisms the Ministerial Conference, Senior Officials' Meeting and Consultations between the Secretariat of the Chinese Follow-up Committee of FOCAC and the African Diplomatic Corps in China together with the political dialogues between Chinese and African foreign ministers. The FOCAC mechanism, bestowed with new meaning and impetus during its development, has become a banner guiding the development of China-Africa relations in the new era, and has made

have become the shared values of the world; on the other hand, international financial crisis, climate change, food insecurity, challenge of the MDGs remain as top concerns. With new opportunities and challenges lying ahead, China will firmly continue to improve the mechanism of the Forum, adhere to its policy of developing China-

Africa relations, strengthen our cooperations in various areas, advance the new type of strategic partnership between China and Africa to a new height, so as to compose another brilliant chapter of China-Africa friendship.

## 2. FOCAC Summit 8 Measures Fully Implemented In Namibia

During the FOCAC Beijing summit in November 2006, Chinese President Hu Jintao announced eight measures, including increasing its assistance and providing preferential loans and preferential buyer's credits to Africa, training African future professionals, sending 100 senior agricultural experts to work in Africa, building 30 hospitals and 100 rural schools in Africa through Chinese aid etc.

Four years later, with joint efforts of Chinese and Namibian Governments, the eight measures have been fully implemented in Namibia with flying colors.

In terms of grants, accord-



H.E. President Hu Jintao, at the Opening Ceremony of Beijing Summit

into use for over a year and have greatly improved the education conditions of the local areas. Besides, the eight newly-added classrooms in Tsumkwe are under construction and expected to be completed by the end of this year. In order to enhance local health services, a comprehensive hospital was aided to be built in Omuthiya which is now under construction and to be completed by April, 2011.

In the meantime, interest-free loans are continuously provided by the Chinese Government. The Defense Academy and the Youth Training Center are in the pipeline to benefit from the interest-free loans. Furthermore, the EDRMS (Electronic Documents and Records Management System) Project is successfully implemented with Chinese preferential loan, which has won numerous acclaims from the Office of Prime Minister and the related ministries. Also, a certain amount of preferential loans and preferential buyer's credits are still available to the Namibian side.

The human resources cooperation is also thriving during the past four years. More than

200 Namibian officials have been sent to China for short-term seminars. In particular, an aquaculture expert has been dispatched by the Chinese Government to serve in Namibia for one year. During her stay in Namibia, the expert visited many fishery projects in different regions, conducted series of important reports on Namibian aquaculture development and offered training courses to local fishery technicians, which were highly appreciated by the Namibian side.

To build on China-Africa past endeavors, the Chinese Government announced eight new measures in the Fourth Ministerial Conference of FOCAC in Egypt, November 2009. The eight new measures, which succeeded the eight old measures of the FOCAC Beijing Summit, focused more on bettering African people's livelihood, including helping Africa strengthen financial capacity, constructing clean energy projects in Africa, training agricultural technical personnel and offering assistance on education, human resources development, health and medical care.

To map the way forward for Namibia to benefit from the eight new measures, the Chinese Government has made the following plan, which includes building a middle school, providing medical equipments for the Omuthiya Hospital, building a solar energy project and drilling wells, providing preferential loans and preferential buyer's credits, and training officials and professionals for Namibia. We are confident that, with continued and concerted efforts of both sides, the eight new measures will be another impetus for the deepening of China-Namibia all-weather friendship.



The Omuthiya Hospital under Construction