

China Rwanda

November
2021

GROWTH OF DEVELOPMENT FRIENDSHIP



Celebrating 50 years of Diplomatic Relations



Dr. Gahima John, Director General Kibungo Hospital (middle) receiving medical supplies donated by China 21st medical team in Rwanda. (Photo/Africa China Review Aug.12, 2021)

Celebrating 50 years of Diplomatic Relations

Dear readers,
China and Rwanda are celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations. This special edition and the first Edition of Africa China review Magazine, focuses on key highlights of the cooperation between the two countries especially since 1994. Good read.

Publishing Credits

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INSIDE

President Paul Kagame and First Lady Jeanette Kagame receives Chinese President Xi Jinping at Urugwiro Village Kigali.



9



China and Rwanda jointly fight against Covid-19 for a community with shared future

7 4



China and Rwanda: A friendship higher than mountains

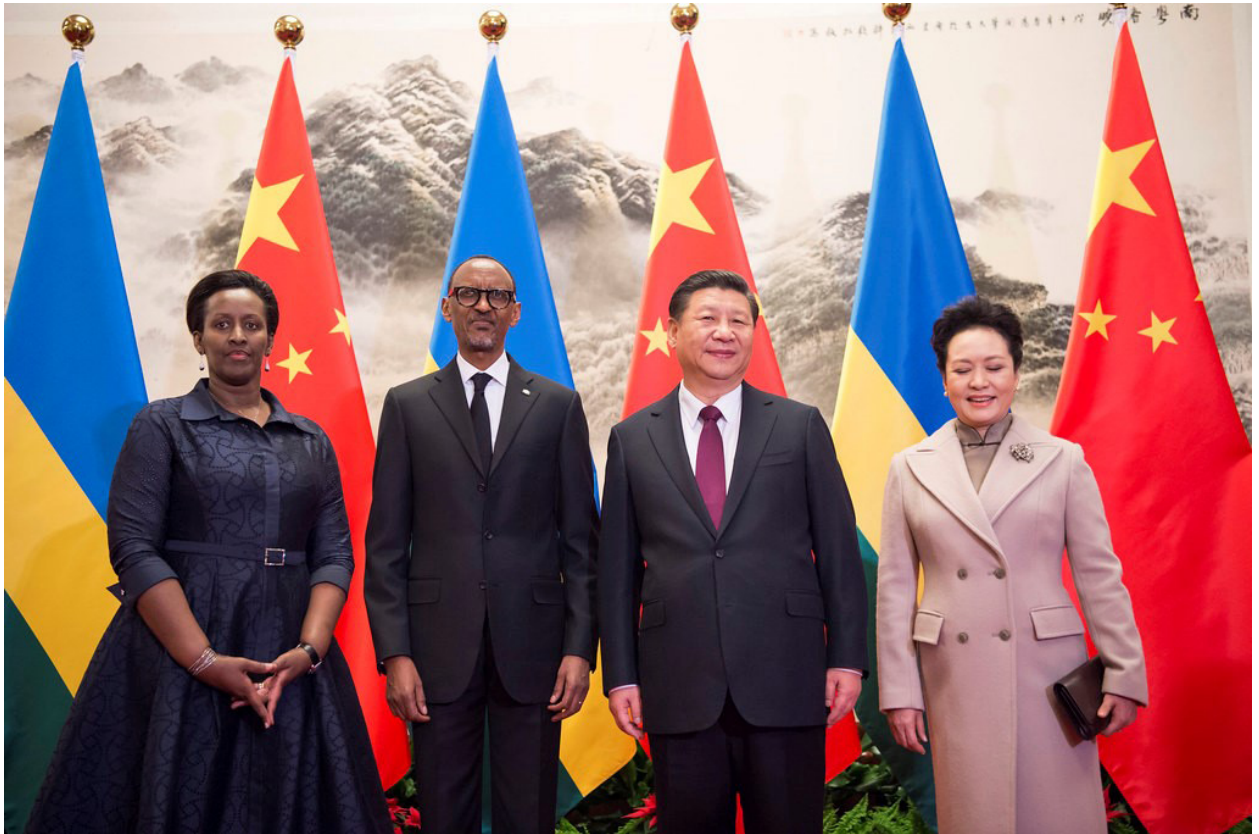


Chinese medical team at Masaka Hospital commended for advancing healthcare in Rwanda

27

China Road and Bridge Corporation boss speaks out on his 30-year stay in Rwanda, contribution to infrastructure development





Chinese President Xi Jinping and the First Lady Peng Liyuan welcomed President Kagame and First Lady Jeannette Kagame in Beijing on March 17, 2017. Photo: Ju Peng (Xinhua).

Rwanda and China established bilateral relations on November 12, 1971, and since then, the two countries have embassies in each other's capital. China supports Rwanda through concessional loans, grants, technological support and scholarships in various fields which include among others; health, education, technology and agriculture. China is one of Rwanda's largest contributors of foreign direct investments (FDI) especially in areas of manufacturing, textiles and real estate among others. China is engaged in infrastructure projects especially roads construction in Rwanda. In recent years, a number of roads both in rural and the Rwanda capital have been constructed mainly by China Road and Bridge Cooperation. Technological and cultural exchanges have also taken

place over the years between Rwanda and China.

President Kagame visits China

On March 17-18th, 2017, President Kagame accompanied by his wife Jeannette Kagame, paid a two-day official visit to China, which is a

sign of strong bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. President Kagame praised the good relationship between Rwanda and China, and the contribution of China to Rwanda especially in infrastructure and development projects.

President Kagame called on Chinese companies to collaborate with Rwandan private sector and build industries in Rwanda. He further said that, "China has a special place in our foreign relations. Building prosperity and uplifting your people, your solid ideological grounding and respect for African partners"³. Kagame also pointed out that China's commitment to Africa is welcome, and Rwanda is keen to engage fully in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation process.

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Bilateral Relations

During the visit, President Xi acknowledged the flourishing bilateral ties over the last 46 years and emphasized the need to share governance experience and close cooperation in global and regional affairs. The Chinese President pledged to support the building of Rwanda's Special Economic Zone and called for closer cooperation in the areas of industrialization, agricultural modernization, capacity building, infrastructure, tourism and security (Xinhua, March 17th, 2017).

President Paul Kagame appreciated China's contribution to Rwanda's reconstruction and development and the friendly ties between the two countries. The Rwandan president called for more Chinese investment in Rwanda, especially in areas of agriculture, mining, tourism and infrastructure. He welcomed growing Chinese investment in Rwanda's agriculture, mining, tourism and infrastructure. "Rwanda appreciates China's friendly policy towards Africa, and spoke highly of China's adherence to equality and mutual respect while developing ties with Africa," Kagame said.

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If we implement this belief, there is nothing stopping us from succeeding.”

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During the visit President Kagame met with African Ambassadors based in Beijing and urged them to work together with the aim of achieving a common goal. "Africa is large and complex, we want to look at Africa as one, even when we are aware that it has different aspects to it, we refer to it as one. This oneness is very important. I would like to emphasize that unity amongst Africans is key, all working towards a common goal. Now the task remains how we implement the needs of the people, our people," Kagame told African ambassadors. He also wondered why some African countries are doing well while others are struggling.

"Why should only a handful of African countries do well, while others continue to struggle and yet we are so interconnected and interdependent? As African ambassadors, you need to keep the message alive that we need to keep working together at all levels of leadership. We need to keep looking out for each other's best

interests. If we implement this belief, there is nothing stopping us from succeeding."

During the inauguration ceremony of President Kagame in August 2017, President Xi Jinping sent his special envoy and vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Mr. Liu Xiaofeng.

The special envoy conveyed a congratulatory message to H.E President Paul Kagame from his Chinese counterpart, which is a gesture of the strong ties between China and Rwanda. The following year, a Chinese delegation from the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, led by Dr. Ji Zhiye, the president of the institute were received by Rwanda's ministry of defense, and the two sides discussed ways of strengthening defense cooperation.

President Xi Jinping visits Rwanda
On July 22nd and 23rd 2018, President Xi Jinping accompanied by his wife



President Paul Kagame and First Lady Jeanette Kagame receives Chinese President Xi Jinping at Urugwiro Village Kigali. (Photo credit: Urugwiro)

Peng Liyuan, were in Rwanda on a two day state visit. President Xi noted that the visit was his first overseas trip since his re-election and Rwanda was an important stop. The visit was also historic for the fact that Xi has been the first Chinese president to visit Rwanda since establishment of bilateral relations in 1971! Chinese President noted that, "I have seen a vibrant and well organized country that enjoys significant progress, and I extend to president Kagame and the people of Rwanda our heartfelt congratulations".

A record fifteen bilateral agreements were signed between the two countries. President Kagame noted that, "the signing of bilateral agreements speaks for itself for what is possible between our two countries and between China and the continent of Africa. I am especially happy to witness the signing ceremony and commitment in many bilateral

agreements between China and Rwanda". In the last 12 years, Rwanda has registered 61 Chinese investment projects and joint ventures estimated at US \$419.556million.

President Kagame further appreciated the historical contribution of China to the development of Rwanda in particular, and Africa in general in crucial areas that improve the wellbeing of citizens. He also noted that Rwanda is looking forward to building more partnerships and gaining from China's experience and capacity in many fields.

President Kagame pointed out that on the historic suffering of the two countries mentioned by Chinese President, created endurance and experiences that shaped national characters of Rwanda and China, as well as the determination to protect and preserve the gains made.

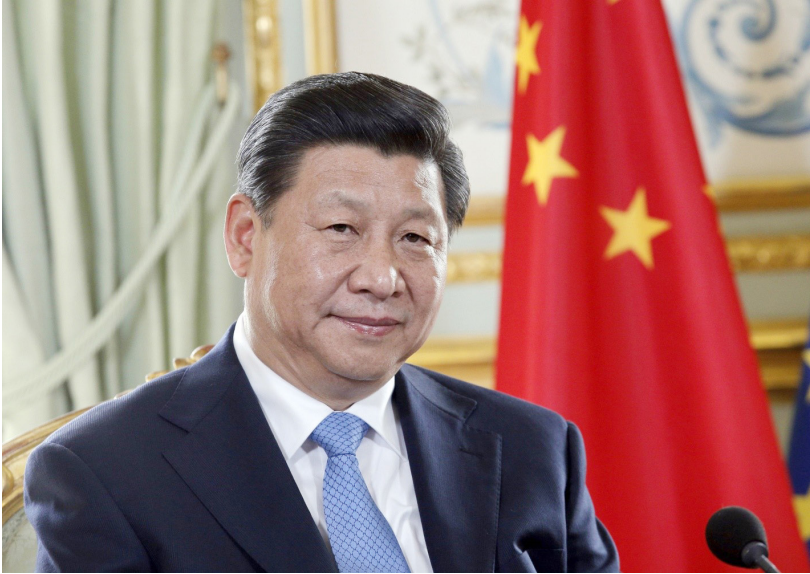
Chinese President wrote an opinion letter in the Rwanda leading

newspaper, The New Times, a day before his arrival. Xi expressed how the friendship between Rwanda and China is higher than mountains! The article touched the hearts of many Rwandans including president Kagame. In his speech, Kagame said that, " Mr. President, in your moving letter to Rwandans, published a few days ago, you quoted a Chinese poem about how friends recognize each other, no matter how great the distance", attracting a big applause from the audience.

President Kagame commenting on Africa- China relationship said that China relates to Africa as an equal partner and that, "China's actions demonstrate that you see us in the same way". According to Kagame, such a relationship is a revolutionary posture in world affairs and it is more precious than money. For China and Rwanda, it is indeed a friendship higher than mountains.



China and Rwanda: A friendship higher than mountains



By H.E. Xi Jinping

On the eve of his visit to Rwanda, Chinese President Xi Jinping published an article in the leading English daily in Rwanda—The New Times. The article won hearts of many Rwandans. Below is the full text of the article published on July 21, 2018.

At the invitation of President Paul Kagame, I will pay a state visit to Rwanda from July 22-23. It will be not only my first visit to Rwanda but also the very first visit to Rwanda by any Chinese President. I am full of expectation for this visit.

Known as the “land of a thousand hills”, Rwanda is blessed with picturesque sceneries, a spring-like weather all year round, and rich endowment of natural resources. Thanks to the unremitting efforts of the brave and hard-working Rwandan people, this country has remained a vibrant land on the African continent.

In recent years, under the leadership of President Kagame, the government and people of Rwanda

have made pioneering efforts to blaze a development path that suits its national conditions. Enjoying good governance and social harmony, Rwanda is making progress on every front of development. With sustained stability and robust economic growth, Rwanda has seen a continued rise in its regional and global influence, and has set an example for countries who face the similar tasks of national development and rejuvenation in Africa and beyond. I am heartened to see these accomplishments and sincerely wish Rwanda still greater success on its way forward.

As a Chinese poem reads, “Good friends feel close to each other even when they are thousands of miles away.” Despite the vast geographic distance and differences in size, system and culture between China and Rwanda, our peoples enjoy a deep traditional friendship. Both our two countries endured great sufferings in history. That is why we cherish the national stability, ethnic unity and economic development we now enjoy, and take pride in what we have accomplished along the way.

China and Rwanda established

diplomatic relations in 1971. Over the past 47 years, our two countries have treated each other as equals with sincerity and friendship.

Based on mutual trust and assistance, our friendship has stood the test of the changing international landscape and taken root in our people’s hearts. In recent years, thanks to the concerted efforts of both sides, our bilateral ties have achieved fast expansion and demonstrated fresh vitality with fruitful cooperation in all areas. China has become Rwanda’s biggest trading partner and project contractor. We are glad to see that the Amahoro National Stadium built by China has hosted many spectacular sports games and become a popular recreation and entertainment venue for the Rwandan people.

The Musanze Integrated Polytechnic Regional College has grown into the biggest professional training centre in Northern Province. The project of drilling 200 wells, soon to be delivered, will help ease water shortages for over 110,000 people. The garment factory that a Chinese entrepreneur has set up in response to President Kagame’s “Made in Rwanda” development initiative is playing a positive role in growing Rwanda’s manufacturing sector. Another Chinese company has made itself a household name in Rwanda as it undertakes 70 per cent of Rwanda’s national highway construction.

People-to-people friendship holds the key to good state-to-state relations. The rich and diverse people-to-people exchanges between our two sides have led to a growing interest in China and Chinese culture among the Rwandan people. Each year, several hundred talented young Rwandan students go to study in China on Chinese government scholarships. The number of registered students in the Confucius



Institute at the University of Rwanda is approaching 5,000. The Rwanda Kung Fu/Wushu Federation has over 2,000 participants.

At the Masaka Hospital and the Kibungo Hospital – two hospitals built by China – caring and highly-skilled members of the Chinese medical teams are providing much needed services to more than 600,000 local people. Digital TV services will soon be brought to 300 villages in Rwanda under an ongoing project of providing access to satellite TV to a total of 10,000 Rwandan villages, enriching the cultural life of over 150,000 rural residents. With Rwanda actively implementing its Vision 2020 Umurenge Program and China working toward its centenary goals, historic opportunities beckon for our cooperation. During his visit to China in March 2017, President Kagame and I reached important consensus on deepening cooperation in various fields under the new circumstances and made overall plans for the future growth of relations between our two countries. I hope my upcoming visit will inject new impetus to our traditional friendship and all-round cooperation, take bilateral relations to a new level, and produce fruitful results to the benefit of our peoples.

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- We need to uphold mutual respect and deepen political mutual trust. We should view and grow our relations with a strategic and long-term perspective. By way of enhancing exchanges and cooperation at all levels and sharing development experience, we will be able to cement the political foundation for the sound, steady and sustained growth of our relations. China firmly supports Rwanda in following the development path it has independently chosen.

- We need to connect our development strategies and expand cooperation in all areas. By leveraging our complementarities and broadening the scope and channels of cooperation, we will be able to advance practical cooperation in infrastructure, mining, trade and investment, translating our friendship into concrete outcomes and delivering more benefits to our peoples.

- We need to promote mutual learning between civilisations and further enhance people-to-people exchanges. Deeper exchanges and cooperation in education, culture, health, tourism, aviation and human resources training will help cement the social foundation for bilateral relations and gain increasing public support for our friendship.

- We need to strengthen collaboration in international affairs through closer communication and coordination. China commends and supports the efforts of Rwanda, the current chair of the African Union (AU), to play a bigger role in preserving Africa’s unity and promoting its development. Our two countries will continue to firmly uphold the common interests of developing countries through close communication and coordination in regional and international affairs.

The friendship between our two countries is an epitome of the friendship between China and Africa. For decades, China and Africa have treated each other with sincerity and friendship. We are a community with a shared future and common interests, featuring solidarity and win-win cooperation. Going forward, China will continue to deepen communication, mutual trust and cooperation with Rwanda and with other friendly African countries, based on the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith and the approach of upholding justice and pursuing shared interests. In just over a month’s time, China will host a summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing. I will welcome President Kagame to the summit in his capacity as President of Rwanda and as the current AU chair. I look forward to meeting with him and other leaders of FOCAC members to draw up a blueprint for furthering China-Africa friendship and cooperation and promoting our future development.

The decades-old Umuganda culture in Rwanda encourages joint efforts and mutual help for common goals. A Chinese saying contains a similar message, “People with one mind and heart have the power to move a mountain.” In a world of increasing inter-connection and inter-dependence, countries are faced with many common challenges. It is important for China and Rwanda to join hands for mutual benefit and common development and for a community with a shared future between our two countries and between China and Africa as a whole. I am convinced that with the joint efforts of our two governments and peoples, China-Rwanda relations will embrace an even brighter future.

Xi Jinping is the President of the People’s Republic of China.

China and Rwanda jointly fight against Covid-19 for a community with shared future

By H.E RAO Hongwei

On October 21, 2021, Chinese ambassador to Rwanda H.E. Rao Hongwei wrote an article in The New Times on joint effort by China and Rwanda in the fight against COVID-19. Below, is the full text of the article:

The year 2020 is extraordinary and significant for China, Rwanda and the whole world. As the Covid-19 is still raging around the world, China and Rwanda have been working hand in hand to face challenges, seize opportunities, tackle risks, enhance mutual trust, strengthen win-win cooperation, and promote common development for a community with shared future for our two peoples.

In the tenacious fight against Covid-19, China and Rwanda have extended helping hands to each other and engaged in extensive mutual support. China will never forget the sincere assistance from Rwanda during its most difficult period to defeat the virus.

President Paul Kagame and Secretary-General Francois Ngarambe of Rwanda Patriotic Front sent letters of solidarity and support to the Chinese government and the Communist Party of China respectively.

Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation issued a statement to express trust and support for China. Rwanda-China Alumni made special video, sending Chinese people their sympathy and best wishes.

Since Rwanda initiated its all-



Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda H.R. Rao Hongwei handing over emergency COVID-19 medical supplies to Rwandan health minister Daniel Ngamije. Photo (Ministry of health)

out fight against Covid-19 from middle March, China has been repaying goodwill to Rwanda with greater kindness. Through different channels and at different levels, the Chinese government and people have continuously donated dozens of batches of medical supplies to the RBC, RPF, RDF, parliament, as well as the emergency food to low-income households.

The Chinese medical experts also share the epidemic control practices, diagnostics and therapeutics with their Rwandan counterparts. All these fully demonstrate the precious friendship between our two countries in times of adversity.

At the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against Covid-19, the meeting to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations and on other multi-lateral occasions, both President

Xi Jinping and President Kagame insist solidarity and cooperation as the only way to defeat the virus, rejecting stigmatization or name-calling associated with the virus, supporting WHO's lead role in global response efforts, and keeping global industrial and supply chains secure and stable for economic recovery.

On October 8, China officially joined COVAX and solemnly pledged to make vaccines developed and deployed by China a global public good and ensure early access for developing countries.

It has been welcomed and supported by the international community, especially African countries, as we all believe only through global efforts and commitments can we win the fight against the pandemic.





HEALTH

Thanks to our effective leadership, strong action and unwavering commitments in responding to Covid-19, China and Rwanda are among the few countries to keep the pandemic under control.

As the country firstly hit by Covid-19, China knows the significance of trustful institutions, universal health coverage, well-supported health workers and transparent public health communications in this fight¹. China highly commends Rwanda for the achievements in these aspects. Hand in hand, China and Rwanda have shown the world our determination to defeat Covid-19 with solidarity and cooperation, writing a new chapter in the bilateral relations.

Geographically far apart as China and Rwanda are, as developing countries, both countries pursue the goal of poverty eradication and boosting the economy.

We share the aspiration to
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achieve national prosperity and a better life for our peoples. At present, China and Rwanda are facing the daunting task to beat the virus while stabilizing the economy and protecting livelihoods.

Although the virus has brought about many restraints to the bilateral exchanges, the cooperation still keeps a strong momentum and shows huge resilience.

Partners from both countries have kept in touch and coordination through various channels, thus ensured steady progress of major projects such as Nyabarongo II Hydro-power station, Masaka Hospital Renovation and Expansion, Smart Education, just to name a few. Also, to facilitate travel for reopening the economy, Rwanda Air has resumed the direct flight between Kigali and Guangzhou.

E-WTP is another successful story during the pandemic. Last May in an online promotion event organized by Alibaba Group and Rwandan Embassy in China, 3000

bags of Rwandan coffee beans were sold out just in seconds. Under the e-WTP program, Rwandan farmers can now earn 4 more US dollars per kilo at T-mall because of the direct sales channel to Chinese consumers.

On September 28th, 2020, the 8th session of Rwanda-China Joint Committee on Economic, Technical and Trade was

“ On October 8, China officially joined COVAX and solemnly pledged to make vaccines developed and deployed by China a global public good and ensure early access for developing countries.

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The Minister of Health Dr. Ngamije Daniel receiving some of the PPE supplies donated by China.
Photo: (Africa China Review: Aug.12, 2021)



successfully held virtually.

This session is the first meeting held under a trade and economic mechanism between China and an African country since the Covid-19 outbreak began.

Thirteen Rwandan cabinet members attended the session, discussing with the Chinese counterparts on topics of bilateral cooperation in trade, infrastructure, investment and development assistance, especially in aligning Rwanda's Vision 2050 and China's Belt and Road initiative, accelerating the registration of Rwanda's agriculture products exporters in China, and deepening cooperation in digital economy etc.

All these will contribute to the enhancement of bilateral ties in the Post- Covid-19 era.

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Though a lot has been changed because of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, but not the friendly exchanges and cooperation between China and Rwanda.

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Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Rwanda. Though a lot has been changed because of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, but not the friendly exchanges and cooperation between China and Rwanda.

The two sides will not only celebrate the anniversary in flexible and diverse ways, but also take this chance to open up new chapters of common development and prosperity, so as to make further contributions to a community with shared future for mankind.

H.E RAO Hongwei is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Rwanda



The Minister of Health Dr. Ngamije Daniel and the Chinese Amb. H.E. Rao Hongwei exchange signed documents of the SINOPHARM, COVID-19 Vaccines donated by China. Photo: (Courtesy).

Chinese Embassy Supports Imbuto Foundation's COVID-19 prevention efforts

By Africa China Review Staff writer

On May 7, 2021, the Chinese Embassy in Rwanda donated various items to Imbuto Foundation, including face-masks, hand sanitizer, thermometers and locally-made smartphones, in support of Rwanda's COVID-19 prevention and response efforts in community level. These items will be mainly distributed to hundreds of Community Health Workers, and vulnerable households in rural areas. The handover ceremony took place at the Chinese Embassy.

On behalf of H.E. Ambassador Rao Hongwei, Ms. Xing Yuchun welcomed Mrs. Ndejuru and Ms. Umutoni to the function. Ms. Xing said, Chinese embassy has been cooperating closely with the Office of the First Lady and Imbuto Foundation, with dozens of disadvantaged students with scholarships supported in recent years. Hope items donated can provide a better protection for community health workers and better educate local Rwandans about the pandemic. This year marks the 20th anniversary for Imbuto Foundation, as well as the 50th anniversary of China-Rwanda diplomatic ties. As two countries would strength collaboration in various fields this year, we look forward to doing more for the people of Rwanda in our future cooperation.

Mrs. Ndejuru said, the Chinese Embassy in Rwanda has been working with Imbuto Foundation for long and provided lots of support in the education area. As Rwanda and China enjoys friendly ties, it is hoped that the Embassy will continue to deepen its partnership with the Foundation.



Ms. Xing Yuchun, DCM, Political Counselor at the Embassy handed over the donations to Mrs. Radegonde Ndejuru, Senior Advisor in the Office of the First Lady and member of Imbuto Foundation Board, as well as Ms. Sandrine Umutoni, Imbuto Foundation's Director General.

Ms. Umutoni thanked the Embassy for the donation and said that Community Health Workers have made a difference in Rwanda's COVID-19 response; they will be benefited with the donation. Beyond COVID-19 prevention efforts, the Foundation is committed to stimulating the potential of youth and empowering them. The Foundation thanks the Embassy for supporting

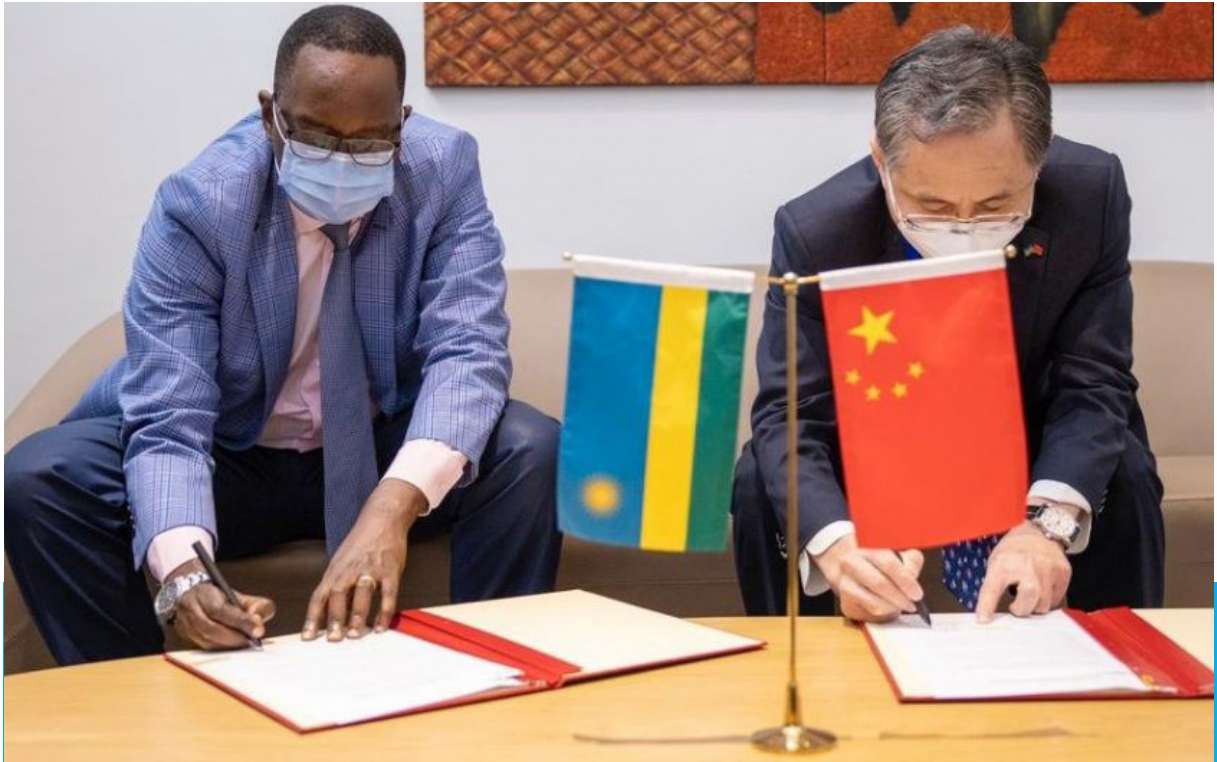
educational projects, and is willing to continue to work together in supporting youth development.

Launched by Rwanda's First Lady Her Excellency Jeannette Kagame, Imbuto Foundation is a non-governmental organization focusing on fighting against HIV/AIDS, improving life of Rwandan poor families, as well as early childhood development.



Ms. Xing Yuchun and Mrs. Ndejuru hold signed document of donated items.

China donates 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Rwanda



Rwanda Minister of Health Dr. Ngamije and Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda H.E. Rao Hongwei, signing delivery documents of the SINOPHARM, COVID-19 Vaccines. (Photo/ The New Times)

Africa China Review Staff writer

On Thursday August 19, 2021, a consignment of 200,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses arrived at Kigali International airport from China as part of the Chinese government donation to Rwanda in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. The consignment was received at the Kigali International Airport by Health minister Dr. Daniel Ngamije alongside the Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda H.E Rao Hongwei.

The Director-General of the Department of African Affairs, at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Wu Peng, had tweeted Wednesday: "The airplane carrying the first batch of China-

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Since the out-break of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has donated various medical equipment and supplies to Rwanda

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donated vaccines for Rwanda has taken off this morning! Hope it will boost Rwanda's vaccination campaign."

At Kigali International Airport, the Minister of health Dr. Ngamije and the Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda H.E Rao Hongwei, signed delivery documents of the SINOPHARM vaccines manufactured in China. The consignment is the first one from China to arrive in Rwanda. According to media sources, the Minister of Health said that the vaccines donation from China will be used in eight districts considered to be the "hotspots of new infections."

Since the out-break of the COVID-19 pandemic, China



↪ has donated various medical equipment and supplies to Rwanda including nucleic acid diagnostic kits, face masks, protective suits, and surgical gowns among others. Chinese experts from Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine in China also shared anti-epidemic experience in hospital management, emergency response, and medical staff training with frontline doctors in Rwanda through a webinar. The Chinese medical team to Rwanda also has been working hand in hand with their Rwandan counterparts in the fight against the COVID-19 infections.

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The airplane carrying the first batch of China-donated vaccines for Rwanda has taken off this morning! Hope it will boost Rwanda’s vaccination campaign.
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SINOPHARM, COVID-19 Vaccines being delivered in Kigali. (Photo/ The New Times)

Chinese medical team at Masaka Hospital commended for advancing healthcare in Rwanda



Nurse Wangyingmin (left) and Dr. Bailingxiao (right) examining a patient at Masaka Hospital. Photo: August 4, (Africa China Review)

By Africa China Review Staff writer

As China and Rwanda get closer to celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relationship, Africa China Review visited Masaka Hospital located a few kilometres outside the Rwandan capital city Kigali, which was built on China aid to Rwanda. The local population in the area fondly call the hospital a Chinese hospital. The Chinese doctors and nurses work along their Rwandan counterparts in diagnosis and treatment of hundreds of patients. Masaka hospital serves as a referral hospital that admits patients from 10 health centres located in Kicukiro district and others from Rwamagana and Gasabo neighbouring districts.

In an interview the Clinical Director for Health Sciences Dr GACUTI Hervé Patchéri told *Africachinareview* that Masaka hospital has a long period working with Chinese medical teams. “The hospital is very well known by the citizens as Chinese hospital, many of them don’t know the name of Masaka District hospital, Chinese started with this hospital and they help us in many services beyond giving us the specialised medical doctors every year. They give us different types of medical equipment such as beds, laboratory and diagnostic machines.”

Dr GACUTI Hervé commended the partnership they have built with the Chinese medical teams over the years, and in particular the role

of the Chinese doctors in sharing experiences on how to prevent the spread of the pandemic during the fight against COVID-19. “I appreciate very much that kind of partnership between the two governments.” He also expressed the desire for Rwandan medic doctors to go in China to learn more about healthcare technics and to learn about application of traditional medicine in health care services.

Dr. Wu Yao the leader of the 21st batch of Chinese medial team in Rwanda said that since the medical cooperation started in 1982, the Chinese medical teams are happy to serve in Rwanda to improve the health of the people. He also appreciated the cooperation between



the governments of China and Rwanda in advancing health care in Rwanda.

Masaka hospital has the capacity to serve both in-patients and out-patients. Services offered include internal medicine services, surgical, paediatric services, and neonatology, maternity, ear, nose and throat (ENT), Ophthalmology, dentistry and physiotherapy.



Masaka Hospital. (Photo/Africa China Review)

The Chinese doctors

also treat patients using Chinese traditional medicine and technics known as acupuncture. China and Rwanda have enjoyed excellent diplomatic ties in the last 50 years, and the cooperation in the medical field has been growing over the years. Apart from China sending medical teams to Rwanda, there are a number of Rwandan students who have been offered scholarship to study medicine in Chinese Universities. Some of the graduates are working in different hospitals and government departments in the country.



Dr. Wu Yao the head of the 21st Chinese medical team.



Chinese Medical team at Masaka Hospital. (Photo/ Africa China Review)



China medical team in Rwanda donated medical supplies to Kibungo Hospital



Dr. Gahima John, Director General Kibungo Hospital (middle) receiving medical supplies donated by China 21st medical team in Rwanda. (Photo/Africa China Review Aug.12, 2021)

By Africa China Review
Staff Writer

On Thursday August 12, 2021, the China 21st medical team in Rwanda donated various medical equipment and drugs to Kibungo referral hospital in Ngoma-Eastern Province. The ceremony was attended by Kibungo medical staff led by Dr. Gahima John, the Director General of Kibungo hospital and China medical team led by Dr. Wu Yao.

China medical partnership with Kibungo hospital started way back in 1982 and Chinese doctors work hand in hand with their Rwandan counterparts to provide health care services to hundreds of patients from Ngoma and other distant districts



Medical supplies. Photo: (Africa China Review: Aug.12, 2021)



in Eastern Province. “The materials received will help us to provide the needed healthcare services to our patients without transferring them to Kigali. The China medical supplies support help to bring medical services near to the citizens,” said Dr. Gahima the Director General of Kibungo hospital,

Rwanda partnership with China in the medical field is intended to deliver efficient and effective healthcare for all. “Rwanda needs to partner with even many other countries as we learn a lot from each other, that is what we want as Rwandans in order to continue improving healthcare delivery among our people,” said Dr. Gahima.

The China medical teams and Rwandan health professionals learn from each other and improve their knowledge so that they can offer high quality services to the patients. “The cooperation between China and Rwanda is very important for the benefit of the two countries. For Kibungo hospital in particular, the partnership helps Rwandans and our district of Ngoma and other parts of

HEALTH



Dr. Yang Wen Hui-Gynecologist- obstetrics examining a pregnant mother at Kibungo Hospital. Dr. Yang is also the leader of the China medical team at Kibungo hospital. (Photo/Africa China Review: Aug.12, 2021)

Eastern Province in particular.” The Director General Dr. Gasana John stressed.

As China and Rwanda celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations, partnership in the medical field is one of the strong areas where

the two countries have worked together to improve the well-being of the Rwandan people. Rwanda aspires to build its health system to international standards and China has been a reliable partner in this journey.

INVESTMENT

China and Rwanda cooperation attracts Chinese investors

By Gerald Mbanda

A few years ago it was not possible to find heavy-duty trucks being sold on the Rwanda market. Companies involved in road construction and long distance transportation would order mainly second hand trucks from other countries. Few companies and individuals could afford to purchase brand new heavy duty trucks.

A Chinese Company, Asia Machinery Investment Limited, ventured into heavy truck investment in Rwanda close to seven years ago. Rwanda business people can now



Mr. Alex Yam (Ren Wenwen) left, and Mr. Francis Ruzagiliza (Right), Chief Operations Manager and Country Manager respectively, at Asia Machinery Investments Limited, Kigali-Rwanda. Photo: Africa China Review. Sept, 2, 2021.



Rwanda and China @



pictorial



Pictorial





purchase trucks from Rwanda without spending more money on travel abroad. The company has on the Rwandan market construction dump trucks, heavy-duty long distance trucks and light commercial vehicles. The availability of the trucks sold in Rwanda has driven down the costs of real estate development, road construction as well as long distance transportation. Originally the trucks available in the country were few when the demand was very high.

“Rwanda is a very nice country different from many others in Africa. The government has provided good environment for investors and the Rwandan people are friendly. More Chinese investors will be attracted to come and open business in Rwanda,” said Mr. Alex Yam, the chief operations manager at Asia Machinery Investments Limited.

INVESTMENT

Apart from trucks sales, the company also offers after sales repair services at their garage in Nyarugunga on Kigali- Kayonza. Clients can also place their orders for other industrial machinery that can be imported from China.

Rwanda being a land locked country, most of the imports and exports are transported using heavy trucks. “Originally, many trucks that operated in the import export business in Rwanda were either from Kenya or Tanzania. Today, most of the trucks are Rwandan owned, and this is a good step for Rwanda business people,” said Francis Ruzagiliza the country operations manager. He also said that Rwandan business people are now able to exports some commodities like coffee, tea and chilli to China through the ports of Mombasa or Dar-es-Salaam using

heavy trucks sold by AsiaMachinery Investment Limited.

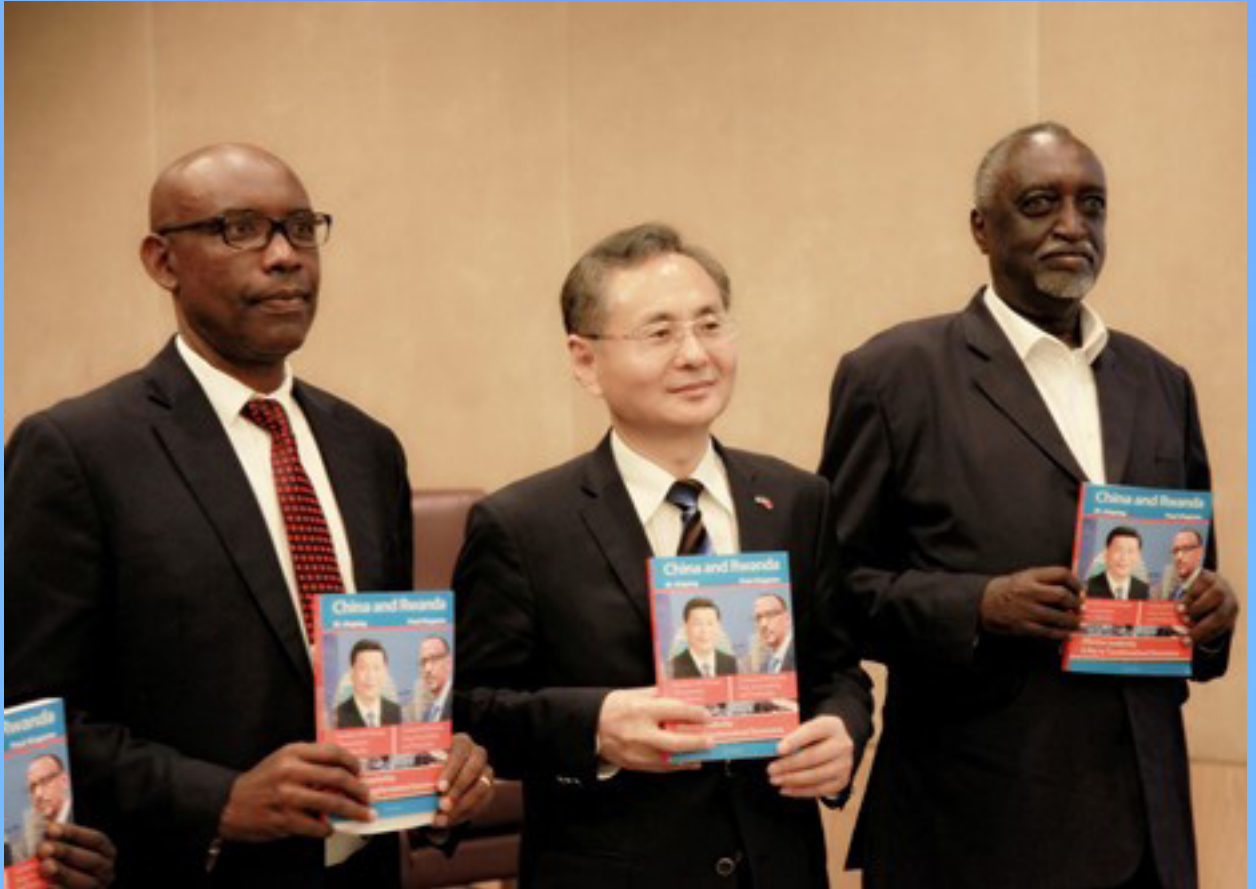
Rwandan mechanical engineers have also has a chance to learn from their colleagues from China the skills maintenance and repair of different types of heavy trucks. “I believe Rwandan young people can also be sent to China to learn various skills provided by advanced Chinese technology in different fields,” Ruzagiriza further said. In terms of job creation, the company employs 60 percent Rwanda staff.

As China and Rwanda prepare to celebrate 50 years of cooperation, the managers at Asia Machinery Investment Limited, confidently believe that the good relations between the two countries will continue to grow and more Chinese businesses are expected to be attracted to invest in Rwanda.



Brand new construction dump trucks and long distance heavy trucks sold at Asia Machinery Investment Limited- Rwanda. Photo: Africa China Review. September 2, 2021.

Book on China and Rwanda launched in Kigali



Mr. Gerald Mbanda(left), Ambassador Rao Hongwei(middle) and Guest of Honour Hon. Senator Tito Rutaremara(right)

On 20th June, 2019, the book of veteran Rwandan journalist Gerald Mbanda, titled “China and Rwanda: Effective Leadership is Key to Transformational Governance,” was launched at Hotel Marriot in Kigali. H.E.RAO Hongwei, Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda, and Hon. Tito Rutaremara who was the guest of honour made their remarks respectively. More than 100 invitees from Rwandan government, political parties, parliament, business and academic community, media circles, and diplomatic corps attended.

On the basis of exploring the





A section of invited guests who attended the book launch at Marriot Hotel.

⇒ transformational journey of the two countries, the book *China and Rwanda* reveals the importance of effective leadership and governance and demonstrates that all countries are capable of developing their own growth models without cloning the Western ones, providing a theoretical reference and a new option for other developing countries to explore ways suitable for their own development.

Mr Mbanda, head of media affairs and communication department of Rwanda Governance Board, noted at the launch that China has made great achievements in eliminating poverty. He refuted the so-called rhetoric of neocolonialism and debt trap and praised the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and the vision of “Community of shared

future for all humankind”

In his remarks, H.E. RAO Hongwei

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He refuted the so-called rhetoric of neocolonialism and debt trap and praised the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and the vision of “Community of shared future for all humankind”

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extended his congratulations to Mr. Mbanda for the first ever book in history about China and Rwanda written by Rwandan people. He said that, the book launch was a milestone and a new fruit of the people-to-people exchanges in the new era of China-Rwanda relations.

Senator Hon. Tito Rutaremara said the achievements of Rwanda and China highlighted in the book are a good demonstration that they have effective leaderships from the Rwandan Patriotic Front and the Communist Party of China respectively, who are still the engines of transformation and sustainable growth. The publication of *China and Rwanda* coincides with the new era of our bilateral relations, Rwanda is confident that Rwanda-China cooperation and exchanges will be further strengthened.

China agriculture projects in Rwanda promote Poverty alleviation



China-Rwanda Agriculture Technology Demonstration Center (C-RATDC)

By Africa China Review
Staff Writer

The agricultural technology using Juncao enables the growth of mushrooms, using grass. Juncao sometimes called the “China grass” is also used to feed livestock. The technology which was invented by Professor Lin Zhanxi from China’s Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University in the 1980s, has been shared with many African countries. The technology has played a major role in poverty alleviation, increasing food security as well as job creation.

China was able to win the war against abject poverty in 2020, and by sharing its agricultural technology with African countries; the purpose is for African countries also to be able to overcome poverty as well as achieve food security. It is estimated that 35 per cent of the world’s hungry people are on the African continent yet 70



Mushroom growing in southern Province of Rwanda using Juncao technology. (Photo/ Africa China Review. Tuesday 7, 2021).



percent of the continents adult working population is engaged in agriculture. The Chinese agricultural projects in Africa therefore, help Africa to kill two birds with one stone.

In Rwanda, the Juncao technology was established through China-Rwanda Agricultural technology

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My clients are mainly in Kigali especially with hotels. I sell one kilogram at 2,500 Rwandan Francs and I want to expand my business to Risizi while targeting to get clients across the border in Democratic Republic of Congo

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AGRICULTURE



Demonstration Center(C-RATDC) which opened doors in 2011. The center has so far offered 57 training courses which trained 2,109 participants. A total of 1,600 visitors eager to learn about the Juncao technology have visited the center while more than 3,700 farmers have been supported, according to an official statement from C-RATDC. Juncao is now considered as a flourishing local industry with over 20,000 beneficiaries. The technology and

products have also spread from Rwanda to Central and Eastern African countries. Ndayizeye Ernest, a university graduate learnt the Juncao technology from China-Rwanda Agricultural technology Demonstration Center(C-RATDC) and also went for further training in China, shared with Africa China Review his success story in mushroom business. Having started 2 years ago with a capital of only 200,000 Rwandan Francs (200 USD), he now boasts of a capital in excess of 5million Rwandan Francs (5,000USD). He is employing 5 people in his business.

According to Ndayizeye, Juncao technology has become an income generating business to the local communities but has also provided food security and job creation. “My clients are mainly in Kigali especially with hotels. I sell one kilogram at 2,500 Rwandan Francs and I want to expand my business to Risizi while targeting to get clients across the border in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC),” Ndayizeye told Africa China Review.

As China partners with African countries to increase food production and end poverty, rich western countries and multinational organizations like



Ndayizeye Ernest. A mushroom grower in Southern Province of Rwanda. (Photo/ African China Review Tuesday 7, 2021.



the World Bank, have been put on spot light for conspiring to keep the African continent in a vicious circle of poverty.

“I come from a country that not only doesn’t care about its own poor, one in seven Americans is hungry right now and they do not care...” Jeffery Sachs told delegates from more than 100 countries at the UN food systems pre-summit on July 27, 2021, in Rome.

Jeffrey Sachs, an American economist and a campaigner to end global poverty, says that the world is able to eliminate extreme poverty by 2025 with proper planning and funding. However, the prevailing world food system is controlled by large multinational companies from powerful countries that are only interested in making profit. Sachs calls for a new system based on “principles of human dignity in the universal declaration, principle of sovereignty as well as principles of economic rights.”

According to Chinese experts,

AGRICULTURE



Mr. Zhu Su, Chinese expert at the China-Rwanda Agricultural technology Demonstration Center(C-RATDC)

over the past 20 years, China’s Juncao technology has been transferred to more than 100 countries around the world, and has tremendously improved the economic well-being of millions

of people. The technology is a good example of knowledge sharing practice that promotes China’s foreign poverty reduction cooperation.



Rice growing project supported by China at Isar-Rubona- Southern Province–Rwanda (Photo/ Africa China Review, Tuesday, 7, 2021).

China Road and Bridge Corporation boss speaks out on his 30-year stay in Rwanda, contribution to infrastructure development

By Africa China Review
Staff Writer

Li Jianbo, the Director General of China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) has stayed in Rwanda since the late 1970s, working in different capacities in the construction and development of the country's infrastructure.

CRBC is a large-scale, international contractor owned by the Chinese government, serving as a flagship and platform for the overseas operations of China Communications Construction Company Ltd (CCCC).

It is the company behind a number of big projects in Rwanda for example: the construction of the Kigali-Rusumo Road as early as 1974, the Kigali International Airport, the Amahoro Stadium, to mention but a few.

China-Africa Review magazine sat down with Mr. Li for an interview where he shared his experience in Rwanda and CRBC's contribution to the country's infrastructure development, among other things. Full interview:

Question: When did you first come to Rwanda?

Our company China Road and Bridge Corporation has been here since 1974. However, for me, I first came here in 1989.

Question: How did you find yourself here, and how has your experience in the country during your long stay?

Answer: After completing my studies, I got employed as a worker for China Road and Bridge



Mr. Li Jianbo- Director General CRBC. Photo: Africa China Review.

Corporation. Then, the company sent me here for work, and I have been here for about 30 years. If you do not like a place, you cannot live there for such a long time.

This country has developed very quickly, especially after 2000. And here in Rwanda, the first thing I like is the security, and how the country is governed. We have good

leadership here. Also, the people are very kind. And the climate is the best.

Question: Now, talking about China Road and Bridge Corporation, what can you say has been the company's contribution in the infrastructure development of





CRBC road construction works at Kicukiro-Kigali. Photo: Africa China Review

⇒
Rwanda?

Until now we have built more than 70 percent of all the asphalt roads.

When our East African people

come here, they can see that the roads are very good.

Question: How serious have the infrastructural needs of the country been?

During the genocide against

the Tutsi, this country was almost destroyed completely. That means we need to work on many things, for example constructing many roads. We have an opportunity that the local people here they work very hard during this.

⇒



One of the many roads built by China Road & Bridge Corporation Limited. Photo: (Courtesy)

INFRASTRUCTURE



Question: How many kilometers has your company built so far?

About 1400 kilometers.

Question: This year, Rwanda and China will mark 50 years since they established diplomatic ties. You have been here for long, how can you describe the relationship between the two countries?

After 1994, the relations are becoming better and better. In 2018 our President visited Rwanda, and our relationship is something like a brotherly one.

Question: To what extent do you employ Rwandans in your company?

Before Covid-19, we used to employ between 3,000 to 5,000 local staff during our projects for China Road and Bridge Corporation.

Question: Can you speak some Kinyarwanda?

I can say some words like: Urakoze cyane (means, thank you very much), Amakuru? (means, how is the going?)

You know for me, I cannot speak Kinyarwanda well, but ukwumva nisawa (I can hear it). Even in a



Amahoro Stadium. Photo: (Courtesy)



Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation. Photo: (Courtesy)

meeting, I can know what they are saying.

Question: Have you taught some of your coworkers to speak a little Chinese?

Some of our people on the working site can speak some Chinese. Some of them can even have a meeting with us.

Other Infrastructure project built by support of the Chinese government.



Minister welcomed to Rwanda, His Excellency Zheng, the Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference who handed the new building to the Government of Rwanda. April 22, 2019: (Photo/Primature).

China and Rwanda strengthen Military Cooperation



4th from right, Major General Zhanga Yingli, standing between the Rwandan Minister of defence Gen. James Kabarebe on his right and Gen. Patrick Nyamvumba the Chief of defence Staff on his left. (Photo/ Rwanda Ministry of defence)

By Gerald Mbanda

A military delegation from China led by Major General Zhanga Yingli was in Rwanda in June 2018, where they held discussions with their Rwandan counterparts on improvement of exchange and cooperation between the Ministry of defence of the Republic of Rwanda and the Ministry of Defence of the People's Republic of China.

The bilateral discussions on defence issues took place at the Rwandan ministry of defence headquarters in Kigali. The Rwanda Minister of defence Gen. James Kabarebe and the Chief of defence staff, Gen. Patrick Nyamvumba led the Rwandan delegation.

The Rwandan Minister of defence Gen. James Kabarebe applauded the good relations between Rwanda and China, and the two sides agreed to strengthen the excellent military cooperation

that prevails. Currently, the two countries have military cooperation in training and logistics. A number of Rwandan officers have trained in China in various military fields.

China has increased its participation in multinational peacekeeping and has sent troops and civilian personnel on Africa peacekeeping missions. Gen. Zhanga commended Rwanda's participation in promoting peace



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With over 4,000 troops, and more than 400 police, Rwanda is the sixth major troop and police contributing country to the UN

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and security in Africa through peace keeping engagements. “This is clearly a common interest for China and Rwanda alike”, Gen. Zhang said.

With over 4,000 troops, and more than 400 police, Rwanda is the sixth major troop and police contributing country to the UN, the third highest contributor of female police officers and the second highest African contributor of female police officers. In United Nations Mission In South Sudan (UNMISS) Rwanda has over 3,000 troops and police in peacekeeping. The Rwandan Peacekeepers are appreciated for their professionalism and high level of commitment in their work.

China's participation in global security has been on the increase since 2015. President Xi Jinping announced China's commitment of 8,000 troops to the UN peacekeeping standby force and a contribution of \$100million to the African Union standby force and an





MILITARY COOPERATION

additional financial commitment of \$ 1 billion to establish the UN Peace and development Trust Fund. China and Rwanda therefore, are key players in peacekeeping operations aimed at improving peace and security on the African continent.

The setting up of China’s first overseas military base in Africa situated in Djibouti will enable quick troop and logistical deployment whenever there is need to contribute troops in peace keeping operations in Africa. Secondly, the Africa military base enables China to easily take part in joint military exercises with friendly countries on the continent and to combat terrorism.

China is a manufacturer of both light and heavy weapons and a number of African countries buy China made arms and ammunitions. In 2013, China started producing Chinese made People’s Liberation Army utility helicopters with a capacity of 10

tonnes. Military experts qualify the helicopters as of a superior quality and super performance in high-altitude, with five blades, compared to four of Black hawks.

According to reports by Global Fire Power’s Military strength ranking 2017, China is the third most powerful military in the world, with total military personnel of 3,712,500, total aircraft strength of 2,955 with 1,271 fighter aircrafts, 6,457 combat tanks, 714 naval assets, and a defence budget estimated around \$161.7 Billion.

The Chinese People’s Liberation

Army (PLA) is the largest military force in the world. China is said to be developing a modern “blue water” navy- a maritime force operating in open seas around the world and this is a step up in China’s contribution to global peace and the fight against terrorism. In terms of air defense systems, China has already tested the prototype of hypersonics, and is expected to be the first country in the world to have an operational hypersonic missile by the year 2020.



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The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) is the largest military force in the world

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Defence Officials from China and Rwanda during a working visit. Photo: (Courtesy).

China Funds Extension of Musanze Technical School

By Daniel Sabiiti KT Press
with additional reporting by Africa
China Review Staff
Published January 31, 2018

The People's Republic of China has pledged \$32 million grant to fund extension of IPRC polytechnic school in Musanze district and drilling of 200 boreholes in 11 districts of the country. The existing campus of IPRC Musanze was constructed at a tune of \$14 million, also fully funded by the Chinese government in 2014.

At the signing of grant agreement in Kigali, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Claver Gatete said that a half of this fund is destined to provide more infrastructure and equipment that will triple capacity of Institute of Polytechnic Regional Centre (IPRC) Musanze.

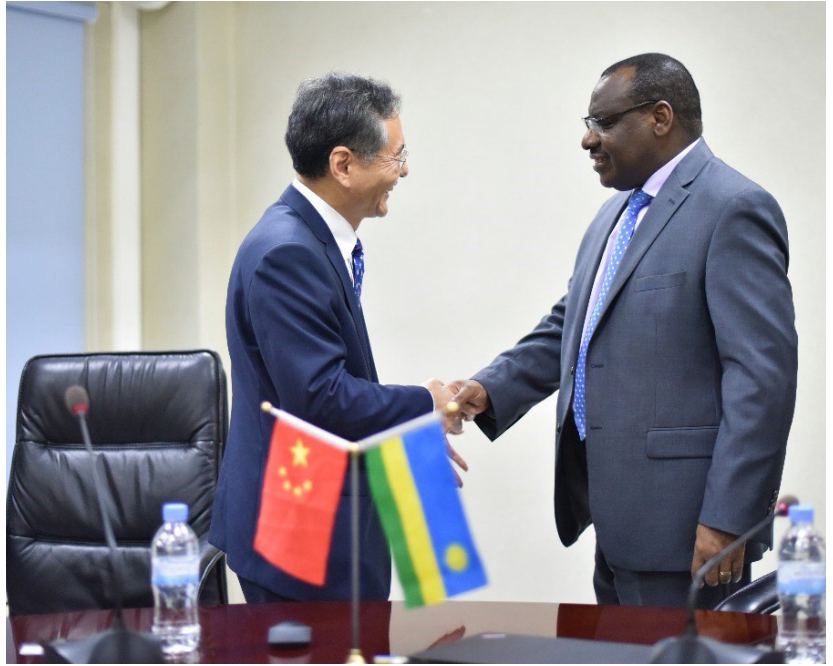
Upon completion, IPRC Musanze will have a capacity to enroll 1500 diploma students and 400 short courses up from 560 diploma and 180 short course students respectively.

The school will get \$16 million from the grant, while the boreholes project will get \$8 million. The remaining \$8 million will be budgeted for.

"We are grateful for China's support which is crosscutting in key targeted development areas on which we have set our efforts in our development agenda," Gatete said.

Olivier Rwamukwaya, the Minister of State in Charge of Technical Vocational Education and Training said that the sector has been lacking training equipment and facilities such as workshops.

Rwanda has a target to create 1.5million new jobs in the next seven years and 200.000 off-farm jobs annually, and technical skills have proved to be the way to go.



Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda Rao Hongwei(Left) and Rwanda's Finance Minister Claver Gatete after signing of the agreement.

"China is willing to enhance relation through communication, industrialization and mechanization. This year, we are looking at more collaboration in investment, people to people exchange, trade and industry

among others. We look forward to boost trade between two countries," said Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda Rao Hongwei.

Over the years, the Chinese government has also offered scholarships to Rwandan students to study in China with the latest a batch of 200 awarded scholarships in 2019. The students pursue courses including dental surgery, civil engineering, agriculture, development studies and electrical engineering, among others.

"China is committed to enhance educational cooperation with Rwanda. We both believe education is of great importance in the national building as well as personal development. It plays a unique and critical role in deepening friendship and understanding between our two peoples," said The Chinese

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**We are grateful for
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agenda**

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IPRC Musanze campus after renovation

Ambassador to Rwanda H.E Rao Hongwei during the sendoff ceremony of the 2019 China scholarship awardees.

The Chinese Government has over the years increased the number of scholarships to Rwandan students. It should also be

noted that the Confucius Institute at the University of Rwanda has close to 5,000 registered students.

Rwanda China cooperation boosts intercultural exchange

**Africa China Review
Staff Writer**

The cooperation between Rwanda and China has realised significant milestones in various areas including exchange of culture and language. The Confucius Institute located at the University of Rwanda Campus at Remera has been at the forefront of this important area that involves people to people diplomacy.

The Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda, H.E Rao Hongwei, while officiating the annual bridge competition in Kigali on

May 20, 2018, emphasized that cultural exchange plays a very unique role in forging mutual understanding and friendship between our great peoples.

Africa China Review spoke with the Deputy Director at the Confucius Institute at University of Rwanda Dr. Zeng Giangyu in an interview on a range of issue regarding culture and language exchange between China and Rwanda:

What role does the Confucius institute play in collar jobs and language development by learning from one another?

Started in 2009, Confucius institute develops folks and language teaching and intercultural introduction as well as the culture exchange between the two countries. Confucius Institute is not only between China and Rwanda; we also have the Confucius all over the world. So, Confucius institute actually works as a window open to the world to light the people from the world to know the real channel and now it works as the bridge to connect two countries; the people, the culture and all other connections.



Do we have any universities in China that teach Rwandan language to ensure there is a culture exchange?

Yes, we do have, there are two Universities in China, they are teaching Kinyarwanda, and other universities that teach foreign languages in the world, so in 2018, after the Chinese president visited Rwanda they had this measure, and right now, we have a student from China is studying Kinyarwanda, in the University of Rwanda, College of Education.

China and Rwanda are celebrating 50 years of cooperation, what do you see as the benefits of this cooperation?

To tell the truth, I focus on language teaching and culture exchange between the two countries. This year marks the 50 years anniversary of the two countries bilateral relations. For me I can see benefits from the students of Confucius institute because we have taught Chinese for almost ten years, over 5,000 students in Rwanda, hundreds of them got scholarships, they went to China

and now they are studying in China. Some returned to Rwanda, and there are among the students who graduated from China now working in Economic Zone as there are many Chinese factories. They are working together there; they are learning language and skills, technologies and also building their own countries and start their own enterprises. I think the benefits are bilateral, from language learning. We are also learning Kinyarwanda because it is good to know the culture from countries all over the world including Rwanda.

Do you have any other message



We started here on April 15th, 2009, with the first class of around fifty students. At the end of first year we had more than 200 students registered.



that you can tell Rwandan people or Chinese people on the people to people cooperation between the two countries?

As I said before, the Confucius institute mainly focuses on language, people to people like exchange, you need to understand each other's culture, and then you will see each culture, each country has its own climate, geography, history, and so. That is why there are different cultures and histories, this is also why they choose different ways to develop and how we communicate, how we treat each other. I think we need to treat well each other, that is the most important I think.

How many students have studies at Confucius Institute since its establishment?

We started here on April 15th, 2009, with the first class of around fifty students. At the end of first year we had more than 200 students registered. Now we have 13 teaching post all over the country including universities and secondary schools and we have more than 5,000 students in total across the country.

How do you feel when you are teaching your native language in another country?

I teach students in China and I also teach Rwandan students both in China and here, because Chinese is my mother tongue but I learned it as well. I do research on that, after teaching Rwandan students and other foreign students, I just know the difference between the two languages. So when I teach Chinese I know it better than before, and from my experience, Rwandan students learn Chinese very well.



Deputy Director at the Confucius Institute at University of Rwanda Dr. Zeng Giangyu. Photo: (Africa China Review).



Photo: Africa China Review





China plays a significant role in Mechanization of agriculture in Rwanda.



Rice growing project supported by China at Isar-Rubona- Southern Province-Rwanda (Photo/ Africa China Review, Tuesday, 7, 2021).