

New Challenges for China's Development Assistance to Africa

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As the largest of the developing countries, China considers the developing countries as the base for its foreign policy, and Africa as the base of that base. China has provided development assistance to Africa since the founding of the People's Republic of China and has made considerable achievements.

Chinese development assistance to Africa can be divided into two periods. The first is from the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 until 1978 (the year of the beginning of China's economic reform). During this period, China's development assistance to Africa was mainly focused on supporting national liberation movements. In the second period, from 1978 to the present, the emphasis has been on establishing a mutually beneficial relationship between China and Africa.

Chinese development assistance has several characteristics: an emphasis on equality and on the establishment of mutually beneficial relationships, closely linking development assistance to economic cooperation, a variety of forms of development assistance and a rapid increase in scope and fields. In fact, the concepts, structure, and practice of Chinese development assistance are quite different from those of the DAC of OECD.

China has three strategic interests in Africa, which are also the major objectives of its development assistance there: political interests, economic interests and the reunification of China (Taiwan issue).

In addition, with the rapid expansion of China's development assistance to Africa, China is facing new challenges:

- Dealing with domestic needs and the increase of China's development assistance to Africa.
- Promoting capacity building in Africa.
- Helping Chinese enterprises and entrepreneurs be more socially responsible towards Africa.
- Insisting on good practice in the past and introducing new good forms and practices of development assistance.
- Improvement of laws and regulations regarding development assistance.
- Strengthening international cooperation with other donor organizations, countries, NGOs and others.