



Canada-China Friendship Society®
La Société d'amitié Canada-Chine

Ottawa Chapter
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Invitation to a presentation

Perspectives on China-Africa Economic Relations

by Dr. Moses Kiggundu, Carleton University

Friday, March 18, 2011

Library and Archives Canada, Room A
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

at 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments following the presentation.

All are welcome.

The November 11, 2010 online edition of *The Economist* states “China’s state-owned firms are on a shopping spree” in the global market and everyone should stay open for their business. Indeed, the Chinese have entered many African countries with attractive aid, investment and trade proposals. They are credited for filling development gaps in the areas of infrastructure, mining, agriculture, manufacture and other sectors. China has now become Africa's largest trading partner, with the value of two-way trade increasing to US \$110 billion from US \$91 billion in 2009. However, many argue that the Chinese have adopted a mercantilist foreign policy aimed at getting African resources to fuel their rapid economic growth and industrial expansion. More importantly, the Chinese influence may lead to the narrowing of space for citizen participation, especially if one considers China's communist political culture and the fact that the country remains interested only in making business deals with African state and political elites. Could they be undoing decades of democratization efforts supported by Western donors? There is also the whole issue of encouraging the Chinese to work with bilateral and multilateral development agencies to achieve policy synergy and harness development results in Africa. Moses Kiggundu will draw on his experience of research and public discussions on Sino-African relations to help us understand these and other issues.

Moses Kiggundu is Professor of Management and International Business at the Sprott School of Business, Carleton University. His research focuses on the challenges and opportunities of managing globalization and creating conditions for the development of a competitive economy and open society in developing countries and emerging economies. He regularly travels to China, teaching in the MBA joint programme in Shanghai, doing research in Beijing, and visiting the provinces outside the big cities. One of his recent research interests includes a study of China’s internationalization of business including examination of China’s global profile of its outward foreign direct investment and China’s South-South economic engagements including Africa.

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