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China-Nigeria Economic Relations

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摘要

本论文检讨中国—尼日利亚经济政治关系。1971年2月10日，中尼之间开创了一个历史性阶段，这个历史性阶段不仅是双边关系的建立，而且是两国相互的尊重。虽然这种关系已有30多年，但最近的发展要求对这种关系进行认真和详细的分析。为此，我们力求就与这种关系有关的投资、贸易、援助和经济合作等提出分析。最近中尼关系的发展并非与这两个大国间加强的联系无关，因为尼日利亚已成为中国在非洲最重要的贸易伙伴之一。当代外交关系的潮流显露出一种适当范围的互利合作。尼日利亚的进取性吸引外资作为其发展动力的追求已开放了其经济，在这种经济中，中国被视为一个理想的商业伙伴。

作为发展的结果，中国在2011年2月正式超越日本成为世界第二大经济体。随着在市场力量和工业方面的发展，新的领域需要开拓，以往的联系需要加强，而正是这样一个原因中尼关系进入了运作。而且，由于尼日利亚把与中国的关系视为其经济增长/发展的推动力，我们力求知道：中国在多大程度上与正常的贸易伙伴有着不同？以及为着使这种正在开花结果的关系产生双赢的结果，我们从过去两国的关系发展中学到了什么经验教训？

更为重要的是，成立于2000年的中非合作论坛为加强双边交流与合作提供了制度化的平台。在过去于2000年、2003年、2006年和2009年召开的4次中非合作论坛上，中国提供了一系列优惠措施以提升中非关系，如对非洲国家取消债务、对一些出口到中国的商品免除关税额，以及设立和增加非洲人力资源发展基金。而且，中国对提供的优惠不附加条件的政策，使双边在外国援助和贸易的关系上更可管理，对使用者也更为友好。最后，中尼经济、政治关系正朝着他们经济的不同侧面发展。然而，本研究认为，虽然双方同意这种伙伴关系带来的好处比传统的贸易伙伴更多，但如果一些负面的波折能得到克服，中尼在诸多领域的经济关系还能进一步改善。

关键词：中国，尼日利亚，经济政治关系

Abstract

This paper examines China-Nigeria economic-political relations. On February 10, 1971 a historical stage was set between China and Nigeria, one of not only bilateral relations but of mutual respect for each other. Although this relationship dates back to more than three decades, recent developments call for a careful and detailed analysis of this union and to this end, we seek to provide analysis of the relationship with respect to investment, trade, aid, and economic cooperation. Recent developments in China and Nigeria relationship are not unconnected with the renewed ties between the two giants as Nigeria has become one of China's most important trading partners in Africa. The contemporary waves of diplomatic relations appear to a reasonable extent mutually beneficial. Nigeria's quest for development with an aggressive campaign for FDI as one of the motivating /driving forces has opened the economy which China is seen as an ideal business partner.

Consequently, February 2011, China formally overtook Japan to become world's second largest economy in the world, with this development in market forces and industry, new grounds needed to be exploited, previous ties needed to be strengthened and it was one of this that China-Nigeria relations comes into play. More so, Since Nigeria view its relations with China as the driving force for its economic growth/development, we seek to know, to what extent is China different from the formal trading partners? And what lessons can we learn from the past in order to make the blossoming relationship produce a win-win outcome?

More importantly, The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, established in 2000, provides an institutionalized platform for enhancing bilateral exchanges and cooperation. Over the last four FOCAC meetings in 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2009, China has offered a series of incentive measures to boost China-Africa ties, such as debt cancelation to African countries, tariff-free quota for some African commodities exporting to China as well as establishing and increasing the fund for African human resources development. Additionally, China's no-strings-attached policy made relations on foreign aid and trade more manageable and user friendly. Finally, the economic and political relations between

China and Nigeria are orchestrating developments in different facet of their economies. However, the findings suggest that there are areas in which China-Nigeria economic relations can be improved if the negative wrinkles are tackled, though there are consensus that the partnership could offer greater benefits than collaboration with the traditional trading partners.

Keywords: China, Nigeria, Economic-Political Relations

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Acronyms

ADB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CCECC	China Civil Engineering Construction Cooperation
CNOOC	China National Offshore Oil Cooperation
CSCEE	China's States Construction Engineering Cooperation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
Exim	Export-Import
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FOCAC	Forum on China-Africa Cooperation
GBP	Great British Pound
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LDC	Least Developed Country
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEND	Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger-Delta
MNC	Multinational Cooperation
MOFCOM	Ministry of Commerce
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCC	Nigerian Communication Commission
NEEDS	National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy
NGN	Naira
NIPC	Nigerian Investment promotion Commission
NNPC	Nigerian National Petroleum Cooperation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Assistance
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PRC	People's Republic of China
RMB	Renminbi
SAP	Structural Adjustment Program
SPDC	Shell Petroleum Development Company
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
WTO	World Trade Organization
ZTE	Zhong Xing Telecommunication Equipment

Chapter 1: Introduction

Since the founding of People's Republic of China in 1949, China has made tremendous efforts to explore a development road designed for her own needs and suitable to her own national conditions, which was finally summed up by Deng Xiaoping, the architect of the opening-up in 1978. The past three decades have been a critical period for Chinese people to seek harmonious scientific and sustainable development at national and international level to strengthen cooperation and embrace globalization with the world. In its quest to be part of globalization, China- Nigeria established diplomatic relations on February 10, 1971. But the internal crises faced by both countries reduced the pace of economic integration like Nigeria, the trade policy since 1960 witnessed extreme swings from high protectionism from the West in the first few decades after independence and also placed high restrictions on the importation of capital goods that could have enhanced local industries like machineries to boost agricultural production and other sector of the economy¹. The relation of the two countries grows closer as a result of international isolation and condemnation of Nigeria's military regimes 1970-1998. While on the other hand, the Chinese open door policy embarked by the communist party in 1978 led by Deng Xiaoping which gives equal commercial and industrial rights to all the nationals also precipitated the economic relations between the two. These cooperative relations which seem to be enjoying a rapid progress are based on the principles of equality respect and mutual benefit, with the friendship and exchanges of visits between the two countries consolidated with the time. Under the framework of the forum on China-Africa cooperation, known as FOCAC which started in 2000, more importantly, with the follow-up actions of the distinction Beijing summit of the FOCAC in 2006, the bilateral relations between China-Nigeria get further boost and enjoy rapid development.² China and Nigeria have a couple of unifying characters in common.

¹ Wikipedia Encyclopedia. People's Republic of China-Nigeria Relations. Retrieved 16 October 2011 from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China_%E2%80%93_Nigeria_relations

² Chinese leaders who visited Nigeria are as follows: Vice Premier Geng Biao (October 1978), Vice Premier Huan Hua (November 1981), Vice Premier Tian Jiyun (November 1984), Vice Premier Wu Xueqian (March

First of them all, is their natural advantage in population with China's population estimated at 1.34 billion and China holds as the second largest economy in the world after United States of America. While on the other hand, Nigeria is the largest market in Africa. It has a population put over 158.3 million people in 2010 and the largest in Africa.

The recent boost in Nigeria-China economic relations is as a result of a number of factors among the most important factors is the recent phenomenon of increased income for both China (More sustained) and Nigeria³. Also, there are economic complementarities between the two countries. A dimension of this is the market opportunities which drive the relationship. Thus, while Nigerians (Consumers) are looking for cheap products from China, Chinese growing manufacturing firms are seeking market opportunities for their intermediate and final manufactured products from Nigeria. Also, the input sourcing and export promotion drive of the two nations is another dimension of the economic complementarities. As the growing Chinese firms are seeking raw materials (oil and other minerals, agricultural products, etc for inputs and generation of energy), Nigerian exporters are seeking market opportunities for their primary products. China's ability to provide the financial and technical assistance (at concessionary interest rate or /and with aid) to Nigeria which is in need of such is another critical factor. The recent repeated political visits by Nigerian government and the reciprocal visits by the Chinese Government which led to the signing of bilateral Trade Treaties and Memorandum of Understandings between the two nations have also strengthened the relationship.

Although before now, Nigeria has established bilateral trade relationship with China, but the magnitude of the trade was not as it is now. Available data from the

1990), Vice

Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen (January 1995), State Councilor and Secretary General of the State Council Luo Gan (September 1996), Premier Li Peng (May 1997), Special Envoy of President Jiang Zeming, State Councilor Ismail Amat (May 1999), Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan (January 2000), President Jiang Zemin (April 2002), and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Han Qide (December 2003). China's foreign Minister, Li Zhaoxing (January, 2006), President Hu Jintao (April 2006)

³ Nigeria population, Retrieved 20 November 2011 from www.Tradingeconomic.com/Nigeria/population/density-people.per-sq-km-wb-data.html

World Bank (2007) show that in 2000, four broad commodities were exported totaling US\$307.3 million, with the main export commodity being mineral fuel and lubricants which represented US\$273.7 million (90% of total exports) and next important export in 2000 was crude materials excluding food and fuel which totaled US\$33.3 million. The remaining two broad commodities exported to China were quite insignificant with values between US\$0.1 million and US\$0.2 million. Nigeria's exports to China increased to US\$526.9 million in 2005; the increase was more than 50%. The China's share of Nigeria's total exports fell from only 1.5% in 2000 to 0.79 in 2007. In terms of imports, Nigeria's total imports increased from US\$5.3 billion in 1996 through US\$5.8 billion in 2000 to US\$17.7 billion in 2005. The dramatic increase of Nigeria's total imports between 2000 and 2005 was also reflected in the country's imports from China which rose phenomenally from as little as US\$252 million in 2000 to US\$2.3 billion in 2005. Nigeria imports almost all of the broad categories of products from China. In 2005, imports of machinery and transport equipment ranked first followed by manufactured goods, miscellaneous manufactures, chemicals and food and live animals. China's share of Nigeria's imports rose from 3.5% in 1996 to 13.44% in 2007. Nigeria's import from China is more diversified than its exports and Nigeria is a small player compared to other countries exporting to China.

Given the trade pattern, China had a trade surplus with Nigeria during the period 2003-07. The trade surplus rose by almost 91% in 2005 and 24% in 2007 for agricultural, while it rose by about 41, 45 and 27% in 2005, 2006 and 2007, respectively for non-agricultural. The total trade surplus of China against Nigeria was about \$3.3 billion in 2007. On product basis, China recorded trade deficits in a few products. Among the economic consequences of the recent growing trade relations between the two countries are the fact that there is a rise in the price or terms of trade (TOT) of primary products of interest to Nigeria and a decline in the price or TOT of manufacturing products produced by China, which resulted into intense competition in the World market. The consequence of all these are the issues of gains/losses and gainers/losers.⁴

Hitherto, traditional development partners mainly from Europe and the Americas (U.S. A and Canada) have dominated trade, investment (in terms of foreign direct investment FDI) and grants and financial as well as technical aid to the country. These are governed by various bilateral and regional agreements that exist between these countries and Nigeria. Although Nigeria and these countries have come a long way in their relationship, it is debatable if such has in any significant way assist the country in its quest for development. The relationship appears to be exploitative at least from the trend in the structure and pattern of trade and FDI inflow to the country. This is based on the fact that oil and gas sector dominates the country's exports to the tune of about 98% and FDI inflows to the oil and gas sector accounted for about 40%.⁵ However, the research seeks to know how is China different from other trading powers? What lessons can we learn from the past in order to make the blossoming relationship produce a win-win outcome?

1.1 Objective of the study

The main objective of this study is to analyze the impact of China-Nigeria economic relations as Nigeria has become an important source of oil and petroleum for China's rapidly-growing economy and Nigeria is looking to China for help in achieving high economic growth. Above all, the researcher seek to examine China's economic and political impacts on Nigeria economy owing to China's contemporary role on the international scene. To identify and analyze the opportunities which can be derive by the country from its trading relations with China. To also look at the evolution of the country's trade regime and trade policy focusing on the key sectors of its imports from and exports to China, and with particular reference to the market access conditions of imports into the country.

⁴ Adeolu O. Adewuyi, et al, Impact of China-Africa Trade Relations: The Case of Nigeria. The Africa Economic Research Consortium, January 2010 p. 3, 4

⁵ Abiodun S.B., et al, *China-Nigeria Economic Relations: Scoping Studies on China-Africa Relations*, Trade Policy Research and Training Program (TPRTP) Ibadan, Nigeria, 2008

1.2 Research Methodology

The researcher opted to integrate the qualitative approach in this study due to its significant advantages. The use of qualitative data gathering method is advantageous as they are more open to changes and refinement of research ideas as the study progresses; this implies that qualitative data gathering tools are highly flexible. Qualitative is analytical so using primary and secondary sources. Under primary source, I shall conduct various interviews across Nigeria and government officials concerning their perception about China-Nigeria economic relations if need be. While the secondary source shall come from archival materials, published books or scholarly works, internet, international organization official documents, journals, press release, news papers etc. Finally, I shall employ quantitative approach if need be but the research is purely an international relations perspective.

1.3 Literature Review

There are abundance studies on China-Nigeria economic relations with divergent opinions. However, Ogunkola et al. (2008) in their book “Nigeria-China Trade and Economic Relations” pointed out the recent developments in China-Nigeria relation present Nigeria with both opportunities and challenges. Opportunities to learn from China’s growth, development and poverty-reduction strategy and maximizing the spill-over from China’s growth in terms of supply of required inputs and services are important for Nigeria’s development strategy. This is important for Nigeria given the size of Chinese market and its growth trajectory in recent time. The relation with China also provides the country with alternative markets for sourcing inputs for the industrial sector and finished products for consumption purposes. Hence, it has potential of meeting Nigeria’s quest for the much needed diversification of markets for Nigeria’s merchandise. The authors noted that Nigeria’s exports to China spread over many and varied products and increase from \$20.3 billion in 2000 to \$44.4 billion in 2005. They identify the top 10 exports to China to include: pulp of wood/of other fibrous cellulosic matt; tanning/dyeing extract, tannins and derives; preparation

feathers & down, artificial flower; lac, gums, resins & other vegetables saps & extract; oil seed, oleagi fruits miscall grain, seed, fru; cotton and cocoa preparations; copper and articles thereof; ores, slag and ash; and mineral fuels, oils and product of their distillation. Following the dramatic increase of Nigeria's total imports between 2000 -2005, the country's imports from China rose phenomenally from as little as \$252 million in 2000 to \$2.3 billion in 2005 (Ogunkola et al, 2008)

In another vein, Pat Utomi, (2009) "China and Nigeria", he argued that local businessmen commented that they greatly benefitted from the willingness of many Chinese partners to arrange financing for their projects. This was seen as an opportunity to engage in joint ventures while also learning from Chinese business practices. Another incentive for doing business with the Chinese is the willingness of Chinese expatriates to accept the same living conditions offered to local workers. The author opined that though contrary to the previous experienced, Nigerians commented that this was often an impediment when dealing with expatriates from other countries. He argued that the reduced costs of hiring Chinese expatriates made Nigerians more competitive with large Western multinational corporations. Furthermore, for many years, China's economic engagement with Nigeria was limited. Relations stayed at the government-to-government level consisting of aid agreements and development projects. However, relations have since greatly expanded into the private sector, with investment often directly encouraged by both the Nigerian and Chinese governments. The Chinese business presence, previously limited to the venturing of Hong Kong textile producers and steel processors, is increasingly being replaced by big commitments from Chinese financial institutions.

Another comparative study was conducted by Adeolu O, *et al*, (2010) that looked at the effects of global financial meltdown as it affects China-Nigeria cooperation. The author opined that the global financial crisis was triggered by the sub-prime mortgage lending crisis in 2007 in the United State of America (USA). The global financial crisis is characterized by credit squeeze and this has affected the world economy in no small measure since it became a full-blown crisis towards the end of 2007. The crisis got to a peak in September 2008 when several major financial

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