



## RAPPORTEUR REPORT

### 2022 ABUJA FORUM

#### CHINA-AFRICA: UNIFIED ENGAGEMENT TOWARDS DURABLE PEACE AND COMMON PROSPERITY

**Date:** October 13, 2022  
**Time:** 10h00-13h20 West Africa Time (WAT)  
**Venue:** Online Zoom Webinar

#### 1. INTRODUCTION OF CO-HOSTS

- 1.1 The Gusau Institute (GI) was founded by Lt Gen Aliyu Gusau Mohammed (rtd), former Nigerian National Security Adviser (NSA) and Honourable Minister of Defence (HMOD), with the view of contributing qualitative inputs to security management and good governance in Nigeria, Africa, and the global community. The Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University (ZJNU) in China appointed General Gusau as a senior adviser in August 2017. The GI and ZJNU at the time also signed a memorandum of understanding that provides a framework for programmes of exchange and collaboration in areas of interest and benefit to both institutions.
- 1.2 The Abuja Forum (AF) was subsequently established in 2018 as a biennial conference (hosted jointly by the GI and the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies, ZJNU) that seeks to enhance collaboration between Africa and China in achieving common goals in the spheres of defence and security, development and capacity-building, economy and trade, and technology. The first conference took place in June 2018, and the 2022 webinar was the third joint event to be hosted in support of this agreement.

#### 2. RATIONALE FOR THE CONFERENCE

- 2.1 The eighth edition of Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) took place in Dakar, Senegal, from 29-30 November 2021 under the theme “Deepen China-Africa Partnership and Promote Sustainable Development to Build a China-Africa Community with a Shared Future in the New Era”. The forum adopted four key resolutions, namely the Dakar Action Plan (2022-2024); the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035; the Sino-African Declaration on Climate Change; and the Declaration of the Eighth Ministerial Webinar of FOCAC. The 2022 Abuja Forum will turn its attention to the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035.
- 2.2 In his virtual opening speech, President Xi Jinping said that in the run-up to FOCAC, the Chinese and African sides had jointly prepared the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035. Under its first three-year plan, he said, China will work closely with African countries to implement nine programmes. They are the following:
1. The medical and health programme
  2. The poverty reduction and agricultural development programme
  3. The trade promotion programme
  4. The investment promotion programme – allocation of SDRs
  5. The digital innovation programme
  6. The green development programme
  7. The capacity-building programme
  8. The cultural and people-to-people exchange programme
  9. The peace and security programme.
- These programmes will be implemented in tandem with China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and in line with the African Union (AU)’s Agenda 2063, Africa’s strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent.
- 2.3 The 2022 Abuja Forum focused on ways to enhance and expand activities related to four of the mentioned programmes, namely the peace and security programme; the poverty reduction and agricultural development programme; the trade promotion programme; and the digital innovation programme.

### 3. PARTICIPATION

- 3.1 Two goodwill messages delivered respectively by Lt Gen Aliyu G. Mohammed (rtd), the founder of the GI, and H.E. Cui Jianchun, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, were followed by keynote remarks presented by the Honourable Pres John Mahama, former president of Ghana. Four panel discussions followed where each topic was presented from both an African and a Chinese perspective. The event was moderated by Mr Emeka Izeze, a GI Steering Committee member.
- 3.2 The following panellists and experts participated in the event:
- 3.2.1 **SESSION 1: PEACE AND SECURITY**  
 Topic: Lake Chad Basin: Human Security Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategies  
 Facilitator: Amb Ahmed Magaji, GI Steering Committee member  
 ZJNU nominated speaker: Prof. Liu Hongwu, Director of the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University (IASZNU)

GI nominated speaker: Dr Musa Ibrahim, Former Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources

### 3.2.2 SESSION 2: POVERTY REDUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Topic: Capacity-building for Internally-driven Development: Sharing of Poverty Reduction Experience

Facilitator: Dr Michael Ehizuelen, Executive Director of the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies, ZJNU

GI nominated speaker: Dr Junaidu A. Maina, former Chief Veterinary Officer, Nigeria

ZJNU nominated speaker: Prof Tang Lixia, Deputy Dean of the College of International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University

### 3.2.3 SESSION 3: TRADE PROMOTION

Topic: Closing the Trade Deficit Gap: Complementary Advantages in Industry Partnering and Industrial Capacity Cooperation

Facilitator: Dr Michael Ehizuelen, Executive Director of the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies, ZJNU

GI nominated speaker: Mr Mohammed Hayatu-Deen, Founder, Alpine Investment Services Ltd

ZJNU nominated speaker: Prof Meibo Huang, Director of the International Development Cooperation Academy in Shanghai University of International Business and Economics

### 3.2.4 SESSION 4: DIGITAL INNOVATION

Topic: Safeguarding Public Security: The Role of ICT

Facilitator: Mr Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola, Chairman of Consultancy Support Services Ltd

ZJNU nominated speaker: Mr Yao Juwang, General Manager of SUPCON in Nigeria

GI nominated speaker: Dr Katherine Getao, Kenyan Consultant on Cyber Hygiene, Cyber Diplomacy and ICT Strategy and Governance

3.3 The webinar was followed online by about 120 political, academic, media and business representatives from Africa, China, and the US.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The webinar was a three-hour twenty-minute meeting hosted on the Zoom platform. The event formally commenced with the moderator, Mr Emeka Izeze, welcoming all tuned in. Two goodwill messages by the GI founder, Lt Gen Aliyu G. Mohammed (rtd) and the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, H.E. Cui Jianchun followed. The keynote address was then delivered by former Ghanaian president, the Honourable Pres John Mahama. Four panel sessions were conducted where a speaker from China and a speaker from Africa gave their respective views on the topics at hand. Each session was facilitated by an expert on the topic. Panel discussions were concluded with Q&A sessions. The votes of thanks were delivered by Prof Liu Hongwu from ZJNU and Mr Emeka Izeze from GI respectively. The moderator made the concluding remarks, signalling the end of the event. The proceedings were conducted in both English and Chinese.

## 5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 **Goodwill Message: Lt Gen Aliyu G. Mohammed, GI Founder**



- 5.1.1 Your Excellency, former President John Mahama,  
Distinguished panelists,  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen:  
It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this important webinar. It is the third in a series being jointly hosted by the Gusau Institute and the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University in China. The theme for this year, “China-Africa: Unified Engagement towards Durable Peace and Common Prosperity” could not have been more apt. Given the havoc wreaked by Covid-19 that we still grapple with, the global economic crisis engendered by the Russian war with Ukraine and the never-ending security challenges that now define the world in which we live, we need this kind of partnership.
- 5.1.2 Following the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Dakar, Senegal last November, it was agreed that China and Africa would work closely to further upgrade and improve the quality of China-Africa cooperation through nine programmes. These key areas are: medical and health, poverty reduction, agricultural development, trade and investment promotion, digital innovation, green development, capacity building, cultural and people-to-people exchange, and peace and security. I am delighted to say that we have already started to see the results of some of these efforts.
- 5.1.3 Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, permit me also to say that it is to China’s credit that it has placed Sino-African relations as an important component of its diplomacy and evidence of that abounds in the Belt and Road Infrastructure projects across the continent. It is indeed noteworthy that today, China is Africa’s largest trading partner. Increased focus on trade facilitation, in addition to infrastructure development, can only act as a catalyst to boost the economies of many African countries.
- 5.1.4 For those who witnessed the ceremony, history was made in July this year when a Chinese mega ship became the first vessel to berth at Nigeria’s first deep water port in Lekki. When completed, the port, being financed by the China Development Bank, will optimize the benefits of the African Free Zone Area. This is a pact that connects 1.3 billion people across the continent which the World Bank believes can help transform the economies of many African countries to the benefit of the whole world.
- 5.1.5 Meanwhile, today’s discussion will focus on four of the nine programmes spelt out in the “China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035” adopted at the last FOCAC Ministerial meeting. The commitments

made in Dakar point to strengthening China-African cooperation on the key areas that impinge on the economy, peace and security. We look forward to taking advantage of the opportunities that these will create for our two peoples.

- 5.1.6 Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to the extent that Sino-African relations should remain a vibrant two-way affair, this platform provides an opportunity to explore workable ways of achieving mutually beneficial goals. Africa is ready to play its part in enhancing peace and prosperity for all. And given the commitment I have seen thus far, so is China.
- 5.1.7 Once again, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you to this forum. I thank all the speakers and participants and I wish you all fruitful deliberations.  
Thank you.

## 5.2 Goodwill Message: H.E. Cui Jianchun, Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria



- 5.2.1 Your Excellency John Mahama, former President of Ghana,  
Your Excellency Aliyu Gusau Mohammed, former Defence Minister and National Security Adviser of Nigeria,  
Mr Emeka Izeze, former MD and editor-in-chief of the Guardian newspaper Ltd,  
Prof Liu Hongwu, Director of the Institute of African Studies at the Zhejiang Normal University of China,  
Distinguished guests and speakers,  
ladies and gentlemen,  
It's really an honor for me to join in and deliver a goodwill message to the 2022 Abuja Forum, a very important and significant arena for academics and think-tank exchanges between Africa and China. My thanks as well as congratulations are going to the Gusau Institute and the Institute of African Studies at the Zhejiang Normal University, being as co-host of this event, for your warm invitation to me, and for your marvelous efforts in the preparation work, and also for your smart designing of event's theme, which is *China-Africa: Unified engagement towards durable peace and common prosperity*. This theme very well fits the needs of the current times, and also the demands of Africa-China cooperation in the new era.
- 5.2.2 Ladies and gentlemen,  
Last year, Nigeria and China co-celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic ties, meanwhile, the two also set up the Intergovernmental Committee as a new platform for the overall cooperation in future, which is the first one by China with an African country. And in

the same year, I have the honor to begin my tenure as the 14<sup>th</sup> Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, which gives me a great opportunity to touch and feel the vitality and dynamics of Nigeria, a be-loved country which inspired my idea in putting forward The 5GIST Nigeria-China GDP Strategy.

5.2.3 Now one year later, together with efforts made by our Nigerian friends, we have witnessed gratifying progress on bilateral relations across the board. On political consonance, our mutual trust deepened. On economic cooperation, our efforts are bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples. On military and security collaboration, our joint efforts answer the call of the people. On international coordination, our common voice in international arena is getting louder. And on people's communication, our hearts are getting closer. I'm also very happy to share that, my newly-proposed concept of "Share the Chinese Harmony and Perform Nigeria-China Symphony" has been widely endorsed by Nigerian and Chinese people.

5.2.4 Ladies and gentlemen,  
Nowadays, the Africa-China relations are at their best in history. To deepen solidarity and cooperation with African countries is the important cornerstone of China's foreign policy. In the past decades, the two sides' cooperation has borne abundant fruit, which has not only brought tangible benefits to the African people, but also created better conditions for Africa's cooperation with rest of the world. About one year ago, at the opening ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), President Xi Jinping proposed the "nine programs", pointing out the direction for future China-Africa cooperation. And in this regard, I'm very happy to see that four of the nine programs have been absorbed as the sub-topics of today's event, which would definitely contribute to the growing relations between Africa and China.

5.2.5 At last, I sincerely wish the 2022 Abuja Forum a great success and look forward to the symphony to be presented by your two renowned institutes.  
Thank you.

5.3 **Keynote Address: The Honourable Pres John Mahama, former Ghanaian president  
THE EVOLVING AFRICA-CHINA AGENDA: WHAT TO EXPECT, HOW TO RESPOND**



**Short introduction:** *The Honourable John Dramani Mahama was the 4<sup>th</sup> President of the Fourth Republic of Ghana. He was popularly elected for a four-year term (January 07, 2013 – January 06, 2017) on December 07, 2012. He was born 63 years ago to Mr. E. A. Mahama and Madam Abiba Nnaba in Damongo, a rural community in the Northern Region of Ghana. John Mahama made history by being the first President of Ghana to serve in all levels of political office – Member of Parliament for Bole-Bamboi Constituency, Deputy Minister for Communication, Minister for Communication,*

*Vice President and eventually President of the Republic of Ghana. Indeed, John Mahama considers the combination of the study of history, communications, and social psychology – courses he studied for his bachelor's and postgraduate degrees at the university – as having had a profound impact on shaping his views, thoughts and understanding of the human condition and contributed significantly to making him the person he is today.*

*Ghana, under President Mahama, witnessed a massive infrastructure development drive in all sectors of the economy, including education, health, ports and harbours, aviation, rail, oil and gas, ICT and many more. His vision and strategic investments in these areas have, today, solidly positioned the country for its next phase of development as a Lower Middle-Income Country. Beyond investment in the socio-economic infrastructure, President Mahama also believes in investing in people in his desire to ensure social justice and equity, and this was reflected in his promotion of girls and women's interest at all levels. Indeed, it was during his administration that Ghana attained gender parity in basic education. He also ensured the appointment of many women to high positions in his administration and in his last Presidential bid, selected an accomplished woman as his Vice-presidential Candidate – the first time by a major political party in the country.*

*John Mahama is an avid reader, author, and historian. Over the course of his career, he has written for several newspapers and authored a number of publications. He has also published his first book, a memoir entitled 'My First Coup D'etat and Other True Stories from the Lost Decades of Africa'. Apart from his love of reading and acquiring knowledge, President Mahama also has a keen interest in technology, and being a farmer himself, in agriculture. President Mahama had intimate knowledge of and love for agriculture from a young age, when his father was a prominent rice farmer, teacher and minister in the government of Dr Kwame Nkrumah. He is particularly interested in finding the most effective ways to improve agricultural productivity and works to encourage more young people to see farming as a viable business, particularly through value addition, and not a subsistence activity. President Mahama has been married for over twenty years to Mrs Lordina Dramani Mahama. The couple are Christians who worship with the Ringway Assemblies of God Church in Accra.*

- 5.3.1 Thank you Emeka,  
And good afternoon to you all – Your Excellencies and distinguished participants – from Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, where I am to attend the Tana Forum.  
Let me thank you all for making the time to join us at the 2022 Abuja Forum and to also appreciate the Gusau Institute for the collaboration with China Zhejiang Normal University to put together this year's Forum.
- 5.3.2 Worthy of mention, ladies, and gentlemen, is General Aliyu Gusau Mohammed (rtd), founder of the Gusau Institute, for the invitation to be a part of today's insightful discussion.  
It is interesting that, I have over the last week, at various sessions in the USA, been talking about the contribution of China to Africa's development efforts, especially in critical social and economic infrastructure.
- 5.3.3 To touch on some history and give context to our discussion, the continent of Africa and China have longstanding historical relations traced back to, as early as 1405 when it is said that Chinese explorers carried out voyages to the East Coast of the continent. The famous Chinese Voyager, Admiral Zheng He, is known to have led large fleets of Chinese vessels to today's Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somali, Kenya, and further South to Mozambique. It is said that his purpose was to "acquire knowledge across the oceans and make new friends".

- 5.3.4 It is noteworthy that these early contacts were made almost 100 years before the arrival in Africa of explorers from Europe and America. This provides some pointers to the future expectations from the relations that has developed between the continent and China. There is yet another historic event that is noteworthy but often overlooked- the outcome of the Bandung Conference in Indonesia, which eventually became the cornerstone of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The Bandung Conference was the first large scale meeting between 29 Asian and African countries in April 1955.
- 5.3.5 Ghana gained independence from colonial rule in 1957 and became a Republic in 1960. In that same year 1960, Ghana established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Ghana's visionary leader Dr Kwame Nkrumah was particularly enthusiastic of the relations between Ghana and the PRC. Africa and China also have similar historical and contemporary backgrounds. Both are cradles of human civilization with empires that flourished and exported knowledge. China sees itself also as a developing country and therefore shows very close solidarity with the developing world including Africa.
- 5.3.6 In the current dispensation, Chinese African relations are guided by the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which meets every three years. During this meeting, China agrees with 53 African countries the trajectory and quantum of assistance it will provide.
- 5.3.7 Since 2001, it is estimated that China has provided almost \$130 billion in loans to African countries. Roads, bridges, railways, and other critical infrastructure have been built with Chinese support. In my country Ghana, the Atuabo Gas Plant owned and operated by the Ghana National Gas Company, which receives, processes and supplies gas to power plants and other industrial users in the country was built with a Chinese Loan. This cooperation has had a positive impact with a phenomenal increase in trade and investments between the continent and China.
- 5.3.8 China is Africa's largest trading partner. Last year, it was estimated that trade between the China and Africa grew by 35% and reached a whopping \$256 billion. China's main imports from Africa includes minerals, metals, crude oil, and agricultural products. It's main exports to Africa include industrial goods, construction material, textiles, electronics, household goods, machinery and equipment, vehicles, and food products.
- 5.3.9 Between 2000 and 2017, China lent to African countries about \$147 billion in long term financing. During that period, it also wrote-off about \$3.4 billion and restructured almost \$15 billion in debts to African countries. It is also important to dispel a false notion that has gained widespread currency about relations between China and Africa. There is no record of any asset of any African country that has been confiscated by China due to debt owed.
- 5.3.10 After many decades of close relations with China, it is time to retune the ties between the two sides to create a win-win situation for both partners. As a continent, either as individual countries or the African Union, we must focus on innovativeness, dynamism and develop a workable, youth-centred and futuristic industrialization plan that propels the continent and helps reduce the trade imbalance between the two sides.
- 5.3.11 What should be the next phase in the Evolving Africa- China Cooperation? What is true is that trade between us continues to increase year on year. Not even the recent COVID pandemic and the resultant lockdowns affected trade between us. African imports from China amount to roughly \$148



billion, while exports from Africa to China is estimated at roughly \$106 billion. It is important to work together to bridge this trade deficit.

- 5.3.12 With the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) taking off and looking positive, the trade experts are predicting that it will further bolster free trade between the continent and China. What we must be concerned about however is how this trade benefits countries on the continent as much as it benefits China. China is one of Africa's biggest bilateral trading partners and will remain so.
- 5.3.13 There has been some good news already with China setting a target to increase its import of products from Africa to \$300 billion by 2025. We are also going to see an increase in the number of products African countries can export, tariff-free to China. But what products will our countries be exporting to China? Will we still be exporting farm and agricultural products, raw materials, unrefined precious minerals, and metals? And in return import from China, technology, clothing, equipment, and electronics?
- 5.3.14 African countries must get to work, with the support of China to reduce our over-dependence on exporting our natural resources and create added value for African products. African countries must work with China to build manufacturing capacity, especially in light industry for food processing, textiles, garments, and leather goods. Africa has a large youthful labour force willing and able to work. The next phase of expansion in China- Africa relations should be in Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). Instead of just development cooperation, Africa needs FDI inflows from China to develop its manufacturing sector.
- 5.3.15 As was noted by Deborah Brautigam in a recent Reuters report, "Africa is trying to climb the same ladder. But more than half a century after independence, Africa remains stuck in the trap of raw material exports. Manufacturing makes up only about 10% of value added. Ghana decades after independence still sends cocoa beans to Europe and imports chocolate and cocoa products. Angola exports crude oil and imports nearly 80% of its refined fuel."
- 5.3.16 Ethiopia should be a model for relations with China. Today, it is reported that there are more than 400 Chinese manufacturing investments here, in Ethiopia, and the goods they produce are exported into the US and sourced by some of the major American buyers. Why should the rest of Africa not look up to that model and get the support of China to develop same and contribute to a great industrialization drive on the continent?
- 5.3.17 Senegal has built a special economic enclave to attract Chinese and other manufacturing companies. Rwanda, Mauritius, and South Africa are all making steady progress in manufacturing and value addition. We must take advantage of AfCFTA, grow our value chains, and get ready for increased international trade. Africa's largest exporter to China was South Africa in 2020. Next was Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nigeria remains the largest buyer of Chinese goods, about \$23 billion, followed by South Africa and Egypt.
- 5.3.18 Clearly Africa's relations with China are here to stay. African must take advantage and work to build our economies through the cooperation we have built over the decades with China.
- 5.3.19 Thank you and I wish you fruitful deliberations.

**5.4 Session 1: Peace and Security**  
**Lake Chad Basin: Human Security Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategies**  
**Facilitator: Ambassador Ahmed Magaji, GI Steering Committee member**



**Short introduction:** Ambassador Ahmed Magaji, who holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Political Science and International Affairs and Diplomacy from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), spent his entire working career in the Nigerian Foreign Service (1981-2016) where he served duty tours in Jeddah, Nairobi, Rome, London and São Tomé. He was Deputy Head of Mission at the Nigerian Embassy in Saudi Arabia (2010-2011), and Nigeria's Ambassador to São Tomé and Príncipe (2011-2016). From 2006-2010, he served as Director of Research and Analysis in the Presidency in Nigeria during which period he also served on the board of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). Ambassador Magaji currently serves on the boards of several Nigerian and foreign companies as well as in an advisory capacity to some Nigerian and foreign institutions.

**5.4.1 ZJNU nominated speaker: Prof. Liu Hongwu, Director of the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University (IASZNU)**



**Short introduction:** Prof Liu Hongwu is the Founding Director of the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University (IASZNU). He also is a Changjiang Scholar (appointed by the Ministry of Education of the PRC), a Chief Expert (appointed by Zhejiang Provincial Government), a Qianjiang Scholar (appointed by Zhejiang Provincial Government), a member of the Steering Committee of China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Program, a Specialist of the Ministry of Commerce of the PRC Advisory Committee for Economic & Trade Policy, a Council Member of the Chinese Council of the BRICS Think Tank, Vice-President of the Chinese Society for Asian and African Studies, Vice-President of the Chinese Society for African Studies, Vice-President of Chinese Society of African Historical Studies, as well as the Vice-President of Zhejiang Society for Political Science. He has

*published over 100 academic papers and more than 20 books. Prof Liu has won several state-level awards for teaching achievements to date, and he was also awarded for Contributions to China-Africa Friendship.*

- 5.4.1.1 **Transcript of translation from Chinese:** Your Excellency, John Mahama, former President of Ghana, General Aliyu Gusau, former Nigerian Defense Minister, and Ambassador Cui Jianchun, the Chinese ambassador to Nigeria, good morning/evening, ladies, and gentlemen. My name is Professor Liu Hongwu, a Chinese Changjiang scholar and the Director of the Institute of African Studies, at Zhejiang Normal University, China. It is a great honour for me to attend the third Abuja online forum. I am grateful for the opportunity to present the “Global Security Initiative and its Impact on China-Africa Security cooperation”.
- 5.4.1.2 Before I start my presentation, I would like to thank Ambassador Ahmed Magaji for his fascinating introduction and my dear brothers and sisters from Africa, specifically from Nigeria. From the perspective of African studies, I often say that if we know Nigeria, we basically know most African countries. So, based on this mindset, I came to Nigeria over three decades ago to study. Over the past three decades, I have established Chinese research institutes in China with the help of African professors, and we have trained many Chinese students to study at various universities in Nigeria, such as the University of Ibadan, the University of Lagos, and the University of Abuja. The African students who have studied in China such as Dr Charles, Dr Enuke, and Dr Ubi, are currently some of the backbones of China-Africa studies in Nigerian think tanks.
- 5.4.1.3 As a Chinese who studied in Nigeria, I have always taken Nigeria as my motherland. It is worth noting that many years ago, I had the opportunity to meet my highly respected brother, General Aliyu Gusau when I was studying at the University of Ibadan. During that period, General Aliyu Gusau, who was young and energetic, was working for President Ibrahim Babangida. Since then, the General has held several positions in Nigeria. So, when General Aliyu Gusau came to Zhejiang Normal University during the inauguration of the Center for Nigerian Studies, I was super happy to meet him. We are honoured he is the senior adviser to the Center of Nigerian Studies and the Institute of African Studies, at Zhejiang Normal University. We are also honoured he proposed we co-create the Abuja Forum. Based on his idea and with the support of the Chinese embassy in Nigeria and the Department of African Affairs at the Chinese embassy we held our first Abuja Forum. It was an honour for me to lead a Chinese delegation to Abuja for the first Abuja Forum. After the conference, we visited Gusau Institute in Kaduna. The first Abuja Forum was a successful forum that launched the start of high-level cooperation between Chinese and African think tanks.
- 5.4.1.4 This year is the third Abuja Forum, with the support of Aliyu Gusau, the Chinese embassy, and scholars from China and Africa, we are honoured to have with us His Excellency John Mahama, the former President of Ghana, to deliver a speech, and Ambassador Cui Jianchun, who is with us to also deliver a speech on behalf of the Chinese embassy in Nigeria, which set a very good direction for today’s forum. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have often said that Nigeria is one of the most promising, dynamic, and vigorous countries in Africa, not only because it had historically created the ancient

and splendid civilization of Africa, but because it is also the hope for the continent's revival and development today. Ladies and gentlemen, although Africa's development is facing many uncertainties, we need to know that regardless, Africa is a continent full of potential and hope.

5.4.1.5 With that said, due to the time limit, my speech will focus on two areas. The first one is China's new stage of development under the leadership of President Xi Jinping in the past ten years. The second one is the construction of Chinese modernization which has reached a new historical height in the past ten years. This year marked the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which symbolizes China's entering a new stage of building a community of human destiny by focusing more on the common development with other countries rather than on the great renaissance of the Chinese nation in the past 100 years; the event will be held in China. It is against this background that President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative at the Boao Forum for Asia in September 2021, which focuses on development as the central theme of Africa and also of Sino-Africa cooperation. This global initiative for Sino-Africa development has been written into the United Nations document.

5.4.1.6 Today, one area of our forum will focus on is security issues in Africa as well as the security cooperation between China and Africa. I think it is very crucial to consider "development" as the foundation for addressing security issues in Africa, and it is also important to consider "security cooperation" as the basis for promoting development cooperation between Africa and China. I believe that today's forum will also bring together the views of our scholars from Africa and China. Just as Ambassador Cui and President John Mahama mentioned earlier, in order to strengthen Africa-China relations, the Chinese and African people need to work together in a community with a shared future for mankind, since this kind of mindset could open new opportunities for future development in Africa and China respectively.

5.4.1.7 It is worth saying that humanity is at a crossroad today, and the hegemonism and power politics given by Western countries are not only bringing great turbulence to the world, but also undermining the development and security interest of African countries. Therefore, it is crucial to strengthen the strategic solidarity between African countries and China. Likewise, since the Cold War ideology has led to global confrontation, conflict, internal strife, and division, it is essential to build the knowledge system of the community with a shared future for mankind which could counter the Western Cold War knowledge system. With the excellent scholars we have in this forum, I believe we will be able to propose some recommendations that will help solve security problems globally.

5.4.1.8 Thank you all for listening.

**5.4.2 GI nominated speaker: Dr Musa Ibrahim, Former Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources**



**Short introduction:** *Musa Wen Ibrahim, PhD was born in Mangar, Wamba Local Government Area of Nasarawa State on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1958. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English/African Literature from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, 1980, a Master of Arts Degree in Mass Communication and Journalism 1984, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Communication, Arts and Science from Howard University, Washington DC, USA, 1994.*

*As a young graduate, Dr Musa W. Ibrahim started his career as a Literature Master in Federal School of Arts and Sciences, Victoria Island, Lagos and in 1981, he became Assistant Manager, Personnel Department, Savannah Bank of Nigeria. In 1995, he contested for the Senate on the Platform of Grassroots Democratic Movement, and though he was elected, the political process was terminated due to the death of the then President.*

*Dr Musa W. Ibrahim was Special Assistant to the Chairman Interim Management Committee of the Petroleum Special Trust Fund from 1999 to 2002 before he joined the mainstream Federal Civil Service as a Deputy Director in 2003. He rose to the post of Director on January 1, 2011 where he served in this capacity in various Ministries including Federal Ministry of Water Resources as a Director, River Basins Operations and Inspectorate. On August 16, 2017, he was elevated to the enviable rank of a Federal Permanent Secretary and was posted to the Federal Ministry of Water Resources. He retired from the Federal Civil Service on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.*

*Dr Musa W. Ibrahim has participated in several Conferences and Workshops. He was the Head of the Nigerian Delegation to the AGRITECH 2018 Conference held in Israel between 6-12 May, 2018. He also led the Nigerian delegation to the Singapore International Water Week tagged "Water Leaders' Summit (WLS) 2018" held between 8-12 July, 2018. The Summit coincided with the World Cities Summit (WCS) and CleanEnviro Summit Singapore (CESS). Issues of water scarcity, increasing populations, climate change, rising water demands and how water management should evolve in growing cities, circular water economy, water reuse and smart water technologies were extensively deliberated upon at the Summit. Dr Musa W. Ibrahim equally facilitated the Ministerial Conference of the Lake Chad Basin Commission on Validation of the Regional Stabilization Strategy of Areas Affected by Boko Haram which held between 29-30 August, 2018.*

*Since retirement, Dr Musa W. Ibrahim has been actively involved in politics and he is currently the Labour Party Senatorial candidate for Nasarawa North Senatorial District for the 2023 General Elections in Nigeria.*

#### 5.4.2.1 Thank you, Ambassador.

Your Excellencies, distinguished participants, it is my honour to be at this summit. Let me first of all appreciate our host, the initiator of Gusau Institute, a truly nationalistic figure who has paid his dues in the development of our country, General Aliyu Gusau, who I can proudly say is somebody I know very, very well.

- 5.4.2.2 The receding Lake Chad has had costly socio-economic and security impact on the well-being of the estimated 40 million people that depend on it for crop and livestock farming, fishing, commerce, and trade apart from being a source of water supply for drinking, sanitation, and development. Many have had to migrate from the region to other areas causing conflicts while some have become ready tools and easily conscripted into Boko Haram.
- 5.4.2.3 As part of efforts to combat Boko Haram activities within the Basin, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) decided on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to support the efforts of Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin Republic by authorizing the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to synergize such efforts. The Taskforce was given the mandate to:
- promote and restore State authorities,
  - facilitate the return of displaced persons and refugees,
  - deliver assistance to vulnerable populations, and
  - facilitate humanitarian operations.
- 5.4.2.4 The efforts yielded some fruits. However, one of the root causes of the security challenge is the drying lake due to climate change which has made livelihood for millions of people that live in the Basin difficult. As such, efforts must be made to revitalize the Basin's ecosystem for sustainable livelihood, security and development. The Heads of States and Governments of the Lake Chad Basin at the International Conference on Lake Chad hosted by the Nigerian Government in February 2018 committed to this initiative by signing the "Abuja Declaration" and adopted a roadmap to that effect.
- 5.4.2.5 The Heads of States and Governments of the Congo Basins present at the event endorsed Inter-Basin Water Transfer (IBWT) between the Congo Basin and the Lake Chad Basin. The African Union also affirmed its support to the IBWT as a Pan African Project. I am aware that the Government of Nigeria has since then:
- Developed an action plan;
  - Made a visit to China to study the South-to-North Water Diversion Project of the People's Republic of China which is similar to the Trans-aqua Water Transfer Concept; and
  - Facilitated the signing of an MoU between the LCBC and Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea on Cooperation in the field of Climate Change Vulnerability, Risk Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation.
- 5.4.2.6 Other major recommendations at the conference include the following:
- The African Development Bank to facilitate the creation of the Lake Chad fund of US\$50,000,000,000 (Fifty Billion Dollars) to be sourced from African States and Africa's Development Partners to fund the Lake Chad IBWT and infrastructure projects.
  - Strengthen and build capacity of LCBC to handle the complex environmental and engineering challenges facing the project.
  - Strengthen security apparatus along the shores of the Lake to ensure commencement of studies and developmental activities.
  - Develop a database of the genetic resources and biodiversity within the Lake Chad Basin.
  - Undertake studies to establish the hydraulic conductivity of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer within the basin.

5.4.2.7 In essence, the Governments of the countries of the region are tackling the human security risk associated with the drying lake by the initiatives taken so far. Other strategies that may be considered include:

- Political solutions to the conflicts;
- Greater regional cooperation in confronting the challenges posed by Boko Haram and other insurgency groups;
- Significant investment in agriculture; and
- Climate Change relief.

5.4.2.8 I thank you very much for this opportunity and I want to appreciate the Gusau Institute for the initiative. Thank you for a very, very insightful summit and we thank the Chinese Government and other African countries for being part of this summit.

**5.5 Session 2: Poverty Reduction and Agricultural Development**  
**Capacity-building for Internally-driven Development: Sharing of Poverty Reduction Experience**  
**Facilitator: Dr Michael Ehizuelen, Executive Director of the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies at ZJNU**



**Short introduction:** *Dr Ehizuelen Michael Omoruyi is a university lecturer, an associate research fellow, and the executive director of the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University. Dr Ehizuelen Michael Omoruyi obtained his PhD in World Economics from Xiamen University, an MA in Chinese Political Economy as well as a BSc in Economics and Statistics. He created the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University, China.*

*His current research focuses on foreign aid, international trade, manufacturing, skills transfer, poverty alleviation, investment, and China's Belt and Road Initiative. He has assisted some International Journals such as the Asian Journal of Comparative Politics (SAGE) and the Journal of Chinese Economics and Business (Taylor and Francis) to review their manuscripts for publication. He is currently working on 6 books on China-Africa economic engagement and one book on the Benin Kingdom. Since he joined the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University in October 2015, he has published more than 100 academic and Op-ed papers in the above field.*

**5.5.1 GI nominated speaker: Dr Junaidu A. Maina, former Chief Veterinary Officer, Nigeria**



**Short introduction:** *Dr Junaidu Maina served in various capacities and retired in 2009 as Director, Federal Livestock Department/Chief Veterinary Officer, Nigeria, and official delegate to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). He started his career as a Research Veterinarian with the International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILRI), the precursor to the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and was Project Manager of the successful World Bank assisted Second Livestock Development Project. He is also a Fellow, College of Veterinary Surgeons Nigeria (CVSN), and former President, Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN). He retired from the Federal Civil Service of Nigeria in 2009.*

*Dr Maina is the chairman of FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee (JAC). Rinderpest, or cattle plague, was eradicated and a declaration of global freedom from the disease was made in 2011. Rinderpest is the first animal disease and second disease after smallpox that has been globally eradicated.*

*Dr Maina is Board Vice Chair of The Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed). Maina is Chairman, The Guiding Group of AU-IBAR Animal Health Strategy for Africa (AHSa) and Vice Chair of Forum for African Animal Resources (FAAR), a leading futuristic African platform that promotes constructive dialogue towards implementable evidence based-policies and strategies for a thriving and healthy animal resource industry for Africa's economic growth, food and nutrition security and the preservation of environment and its genetic diversity. He is also a steering committee member of The Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of African Union (AU-PANVAC) and was former steering committee member of DFID funded Pro-Poor Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) risk reduction research project and member of World Veterinary Association Advisory Group on Zoonotic diseases.*

*He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest, Hungary in 1977, a Certificate in Agricultural Project Planning from University of Bradford, UK in 1989 and a Fellowship diploma from College of Veterinary Surgeons, Nigeria in 2004. He is the recipient of many honours and awards.*

*Dr Maina is an independent livestock consultant and an OIE accredited Technical Expert on evaluation of performance of veterinary services (PVS). He also has skills and competences in livestock value chain development and interventions in pastoral production systems.*

*He has completed short-term consultancy assignments for FAO, OIE, WHO, World Bank, ECOWAS, several NGOs and Federal and States Governments.*

#### 5.5.1.1 Thank you very much Facilitator.

Your Excellency, the former President of Ghana, Mr. John Mahama, Your Excellency the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Your Excellency the founder of Gusau Institute, General Aliyu, I pay my respect. I will be speaking mainly on poverty reduction, and we will focus on Nigeria. Thank you very much.



- 5.5.1.2 According to a National Bureau of Statistics 2018-19 household survey, 40 percent of Nigeria's population, or 83 million people, live at or below the poverty line. The national poverty line was established at N137,430.00. If you are earning that or below that, you are considered poor. Furthermore, the majority of poor people are in rural areas with urban areas faring better. The majority of the poor live in large families, with only around 18 percent living in households of four or less. Access to education is an important factor in poverty outcomes, with poverty concentrated in households with primary education or less. The survey concluded that "Majority of the poor work in agriculture and farm related businesses."
- 5.5.1.3 Traditionally, in terms of categorizing agricultural development, it has always been a North-South cooperation. The North are the most developed countries with the financial institutions like the World Bank, IFAD, USAID, and so on. Later on, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC) was introduced to complement that model. The South-South dichotomy is a partnership between two or more developing countries in collaboration with a third partner, typically a developed/ donor/ emerging economy and/or multilateral organization. If you look at the map, the countries that are shown in blue are considered the developed ones, while those are the providers and the ones in green are termed the host countries - and Nigeria is one of those host countries.
- 5.5.1.4 FAO promoted the South-South cooperation, and the objective of this cooperation was to overcome the common challenges to achieving security, poverty reduction, and sustainable management of our resources. There are four pillars:
- Facilitate the exchange and uptake of development solutions.
  - Promote platforms for knowledge networking.
  - Mobilize upstream policy support.
  - Fostering an enabling environment for partnerships, strategic planning, and mobilization of adequate and sustainable resources.
- 5.5.1.5 The South-South cooperation was based on financing. As I said, the North is funding and the South is providing an enabling environment for hosting. Nigeria came into the South-South cooperation as a host and China is providing.
- 5.5.1.6 Nigeria provided the sum of 500 million USD and China on the other hand provided experts and technology to facilitate development. The first phase was between 2003 and 2007 and it focused on agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and food production. The main achievements in the first phase were rice-fish-culture technology which was unknown to Nigeria before then, but today is a thriving technology that is being adopted by the states, and also investing in poultry. There was an increase in the economy and an increase in provision of meat and eggs. However, there was also achievements in forestry, horticulture, and animal husbandry.
- 5.5.1.7 The second phase was between 2009 -2015 and the objective of the second phase was to be demand driven with individual states requesting for specific agricultural type support in the areas of strengthening the building capacity of farmers, processes, farm management and extension staff. In the second phase, the major areas of achievement were consolidating the achievements of the first phase like I said, and also increasing the small-scale producer capacity mainly in various aspects of agriculture and also construction of small dams for irrigation.

5.5.1.8 So, this South-South cooperation, North-South cooperation for poverty reduction, if you put all this together, we have observed certain skills gaps and the intention is to mention six key areas of capacity building and internally driven development of small-scale producers. Addressing these issues is important for the advancement of internally driven poverty reduction.

- Climate change and climate-smart agriculture: Small producers understand the effect of climate change on their farms by experiencing declining soil fertility, poor yields, changes in rainfall pattern with increased frequency of flooding etc. They now need to understand the concept of 'climate-smart' agriculture; be introduced to climate-smart technologies to complement indigenous knowledge; and understand sustainable land use and 'climate-smart' agriculture (livestock, fisheries, and forestry).
- Improved livestock husbandry methods: Chickens, small ruminants and pigs are what we call inflation free money saving. Most farmers when they keep their money, they keep them in small ruminants. They keep chickens, ruminants, or pigs and if they need cash, they sell them. The joke is that this is "the ATM of farmers", but the ATM only operates on money, because they keep them in place of money. The point we are making here is that this is where people keep their money. I think we should try to understand the issue of rural funding. Once these animals are taken away, it is like the rural bank collapses. In the peak of the dry season when there is no rain for farming, rearing animals is the only agricultural activity that can take place. In fact, this explains countries like Botswana, because of poor rain, this is what they go into. So, this is an activity that is very relevant for poverty eradication in areas where there is no other form of agriculture to engage in. Now what do we do? We should develop agricultural small holder business models; mitigate against diseases and CC induced conflicts; and promote crop/livestock enterprises. Currently, banks do not finance these small producers while they are keen to supply products like poultry, sheep, cattle, goats, and pigs. They also provide capacity on seedlings and climate change induced crops. There are also common diseases that hinder them such as the African swine fever. Farmers need access to vaccines and global programmes for poverty eradication to promote crop and livestock enterprises.
- Post-harvest processes: This is critical, because whatever you produce, if the harvest is poor by the end of the day, you don't get income from that and for livestock products. It is important that the processing must be done in a hygienic way because of public health issues. So, there are four areas to be considered: good agricultural practices and reduction in post-harvest wastages; improved quality standards and public health regulations like I said for livestock products; understanding export standards for small producers to get premium prices; and organic agriculture.
- Farmer organization and financial management: Cooperatives are one of the best ways for negotiation and getting access to essential services and so on. So, formation of associations for farmer groups should teach skills for better pricing, use of the latest equipment, and how to access funds and financial negotiations for small scale cooperations.
- Accurate entrepreneur application: In the supply chain, small producers produce small quantities, so they sell this small quantity and aggregators take the aggregated produce to markets. Now, small farmers need to understand the realities of export markets, they need guidance from exporters on proper application of agro-pesticides. For the farmer the application

of agro-pesticide is not an issue as there are good extension services, but for aggregators, they are the ones who apply the agro-pesticides that are currently making some of our products not meet required standards. There is a need for capacity building on the proper application of agro-pesticides. There is also the need to understand the export standards. If you are going to export, you must stick to standards. If you fall below that standard, you are going to be rejected, so this is very important, and also how private agriculture business are adapting to climate change, the quality seedlings supply technology, and value supply chain.

- My last contribution is on gender mainstreaming: Women play a very critical role overall in agricultural production and processing of family nutrition, and if you remember what I mentioned about the small ruminants, they are mostly reared by women. Today we find rural banditry and cattle rustling, it is mostly the women who suffer from this. They are left with children and some of them having to live in IDP camps. The issue of gender mainstreaming is very, very important. We should provide them with certain capacity so that they will also participate in inclusive governance for agriculture, because they are in charge of commodities. We should also have general capacity building on management and on the issue of adult literacy.

5.5.1.9 Before I go, I will narrate the situation I once witnessed. A postgraduate of the university of Bradford and we visited a farm. It was into livestock, and crop farming. We saw what was happening on the farm, then sat with the owner to have lunch while discussing issues of what he intends to do next, He was explaining his programme for the next year, saying that he needs funding to buy machinery. Meanwhile, while we were discussing, the wife was in the kitchen - we could hear her making dishes. Now when he started discussing the issue of buying machinery, and expenditure, he suddenly realized that the lunch from the kitchen was not coming, so the wife was listening. So, he quickly corrected and said, "You know we have to consult Julie because she keeps the books" meaning, it is the women who hold the finances. They play a critical role in agriculture.

5.5.1.10 Thank you. I will conclude with this statement by Mandela. *"Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of Justice"*. Thank you, ladies, and gentlemen.

**(Notes:            PowerPoint slides with details and figures attached as Annexure A.  
                         Paper on the 'Virtues of Open Grazing' attached as Annexure E.)**

**5.5.2    ZJNU nominated speaker: Prof Tang Lixia, Deputy Dean of the College of International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University**



**Short introduction:** *Dr Tang Lixia is a professor and deputy dean of College of International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University. She got her PhD degree on Management Science from China Agricultural university in 2009 and her PhD on Agricultural Science from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in 2013. She was a visiting fellow in the Department of International Development, LSE in London. She has been involved in research on poverty alleviation and livelihood development, international development aid, China's agricultural engagements in Africa, and social policy analysis. She has been to Ethiopia, Malawi, and Zambia to do her field work.*

- 5.5.2.1 Thank you. It is my great honour to be here and to join this highly constructive and educating forum to share China's experience, Actually, I would also like to say thank you to the previous speaker, Dr Junaidu, I have worked as a senior consultant for China Affairs and Cooperation Programme. I worked for this programme, and I have heard a lot of valuable stories about China's contribution to Nigeria through the South-South cooperation. It was the first programme for China to join this kind of activity, so I think it is quite an important cooperation between China and Nigeria in agricultural development. So, thank you for your presentation - it brought a lot of memories. I have worked for this programme in different African countries, but it is a pity I didn't go to Nigeria. I have been to Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Conakry, and the eastern part so I hope in the future I can have the opportunity to go to Nigeria and see the host programme that we have helped under the South-South cooperation.
- 5.5.2.2 So today. I would like to focus on how to enhance the endogenous supply force of rural development. In the past two years due to the COVID-19 virus, I could not go to Africa. So, I decided to do some work in China. I had worked in local governance for two years in (in Chinese) capital city of (in Chinese) Province. While I was in local government, it was to facilitate the local government to implement development strategies. Maybe you know that it is a strategy for development and a guiding document for rural development in China's Institute of (Chinese) so these ideas are from my local government and from working experience.
- 5.5.2.3 I just want to talk on three issues. The first one is why it is so important to join forces and how to generate support within the village and what can be referenced by Africa. In China, I don't know if any or most of you have visited China, because we have so many and different types of cooperation and we also organize different types of study tours or dialogues. So, in our system, the village owns properties. It has plenty of land and natural resources. China is a state-owned country, but actually, regarding the land, we have two different types of property: some belong to the state, and some belong to the villages.
- 5.5.2.4 So, in the villages, we have this land and also, we own the land, and we also own the different natural resources, and public facilities. I think this arrangement is quite similar to some African countries. I was in Malawi and Tanzania where the chief in the village manages the land and helps the farmers to sell, to rent or to buy the land from others. So, in fact the village and the community just need to manage and maintain these resources, but now with more development, more responsibilities have been handed to rural villages. The economic expenditure of the village committee become more and more due to economic development. For example, now the villages need to provide healthcare services to the older people whose age are more than fifty years old, but without funds the villages cannot do that. The old people depend on the family members. It is left to adult kids to care for their parents so only the old people could live in the rural areas. Caring for the old people is becoming the responsibility of the village. The village has to make collective income to cover for the expenditure, so the motivation for the host is to live in the village to facilitate this kind of development.

- 5.5.2.5 Secondly, a lot of past development and public infrastructural facilities have been extended to rural areas such as the roads, the clinics, and the streetlamps. Before, two or three years ago, all these infrastructures could only be found in urban areas, but now you can also find it in rural areas. The maintenance of this public infrastructure is also quite high.
- 5.5.2.6 Thirdly, the public finance is much more in urban areas than rural areas where farmers have investments. The village committee has no strong administrative procedures. So, in China, the village committee administrative system is required to have three functions. These are upholding political values, social values, and economic values. So, the village committee head is not only party leader, but he or she is village representative, and the community head and chairman of operations and collective organizations. So, that means the village committees have a huge burden of functions. But in most villages the committee members don't have a strong position to generate income due to their educational background and working experience. Most village committee members and villages have tried positively to be involved in farming and it is economic because village committee members come from farmers. Most farmers are very talented and are good and are left behind in rural areas. Compared to others, they have no educational background. So, coming to the challenges, this is a kind of contradictory situation.
- 5.5.2.7 So, in the past two years, our team in the China Agricultural University led by a famous Professor have tried some new efforts in six villages in (in Chinese) municipality. So, what we have back in China, we help the village to own companies and the companies are only owned by the villages. The company can be managing the collective resources and assets while the formal organizational processes are handled by the villages assembly. Actually, in China at the villages we have assemblies, an institutional arrangement. So, the profit made by the company is being used to manage public affairs and can also be allocated to villages according to the formal contract the villages have signed as a pact between the companies and the villages. So, the companies are managed externally because the village committee has no resources or capacity to take on economic activities. The company could employ professional CEOs with the permission of the village committee and the CEO will help to make profit from the public consultants. The rural department needs different types of resources, either environmental financial resources or the villages resource. The village mobilizes different types of social resources which are necessary such as the project resources through the organizations or some external businesses and others. For example, the university professional can also bring some development resource to the village like the Professor has done which we have down in the different villages in China now. In China, universities are also participating in local development, not only working as consultants, but also as resource providers.
- 5.5.2.8 So in three years, all six villages in Kumying have made great progress generally as a driving force. The villages are becoming more beautiful, and development is increasing. More villagers are coming back to villages. Due to urbanization, they had previously moved to urban areas. Now some villagers choose to go back to their home villages and pick up some homebased businesses in the villages. Here are three examples. The first one is the host village in Yiliang County. So, in these villages we have the biodiversity and natural environment, colourful rice landscape, and minority group culture. So, we organized a company to develop countryside hotels, nature education for free and countryside sightseeing such as to watch the stars. So, some new images have popped up in these villages to bring new income sources to the local farmers. It also does not just focus on agricultural production, but also brings some new business.

5.5.2.9 Another village is Fu'an Village in Jinning County. In this village, the farmers rent out houses and have a food festival. It is close to a famous lake in Xinghua Province. This village is having good development based on its traditional house museum and organizes special festivals and cultural events to attract tourists to visit the traditional villages. It also generates new employment for local farmers.

5.5.2.10 The last one is Yanta Village in Anning County. They also have traditional houses and they have a habit of planting flowers which is used for countryside sightseeing. So, we use all these villages to transform from the traditional agricultural village into some new business development village.

5.5.2.11 So finally, what can be referenced by Africa. I feel this question should be answered by Africans here. From my personal perspective, maybe with these few points and the first one I discussed, even in China we cannot do similar things for all villages because we have about 500,000 villages in China. We only can select a few villages to build demonstration villages. The first thing is to use the countries' resources to build some villages. Due to limited financial resources, select some villages that can be made successful and other villages can ultimately follow. Start to identify useful resources for development for different villages. As I have mentioned, in three villages resources usually look quite similar, but if we research these villages carefully, we will find that they have different resources and will have different potentials to develop a new business. Finally, mobilizing different social resources to do what the government is planning is quite difficult. You cannot just depend on international donors or depend on the government for financial resources. A diverse source of resources is quite important and different stakeholders to join this important process and discussion on rural development. In China, even universities have provided people for rural development. So, that is what I want to share with all of you. Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your coming to China and you can come to (Chinese) to go to our villages. Thank you

***(Note: PowerPoint slides with details and figures attached as Annexure B.)***

## 5.6 Session 3: Trade Promotion

**Closing the Trade Deficit Gap: Complementary Advantages in Industry Partnering and Industrial Capacity Cooperation**

**Facilitator: Dr Michael Ehizuelen, Executive Director of the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies at ZJNU**



***Short introduction:*** Dr Ehizuelen Michael Omoruyi is a university lecturer, an associate research fellow, and the executive director of the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University. Dr Ehizuelen Michael Omoruyi obtained his PhD in World Economics

from Xiamen University, an MA in Chinese Political Economy as well as a BSc in Economics and Statistics. He created the Center for Nigerian Studies at the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University, China.

His current research focuses on foreign aid, international trade, manufacturing, skills transfer, poverty alleviation, investment, and China's Belt and Road Initiative. He has assisted some International Journals such as the *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics* (SAGE) and the *Journal of Chinese Economics and Business* (Taylor and Francis) to review their manuscripts for publication. He is currently working on 6 books on China-Africa economic engagement and one book on the Benin Kingdom. Since he joined the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University in October 2015, he has published more than 100 academic and Op-ed papers in the above field.

#### 5.6.1 GI nominated speaker: Mr Mohammed Hayatu-Deen, Founder, Alpine Investment Services Ltd



**Short introduction:** Prior to his establishing Alpine Investment Services, Mr. Hayatu-Deen was the Pioneer Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, FSB International Bank Plc (1990-2001), a Distressed Government savings institution that Mr. Hayatu-Deen was able to transform into a major Commercial Bank in Nigeria. It arguably represents the best case of turn around management and privatization in Nigeria. Chairman/CEO FSB International Bank Plc (2001-2004); Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, New Nigeria Development Company (1983-1988). The New Nigeria Development Company was the single largest diversified holding company in Nigeria. As Group Chief Executive, Mr. Hayatu-Deen provided leadership, direction and oversight to 140 subsidiary and associate companies under the group portfolio.

Mohammed Hayatu-Deen has in the course of his career been Chairman/ Director of several organizations including; Nigerian Stock Exchange (Council Member), Northern Nigeria Investments Limited, Nigeria Hotels Limited, Kaduna Textiles Limited, New Nigeria Construction Company, Benue Cement Company, Sokoto Cement Company Northern Nigeria, Virgin Nigeria Limited, Seven Up Bottling Company, PZ Cussons, Inlaks Computers Limited, etc.

Mr. Hayatu-Deen has been involved in a number of extra-curricular and national assignments as a member of the Institute of Directors, Director of the Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce, Director of the Nigerian German Business Council, Member of the Nigerian Industries Transparency Initiative, Member of the Africa Business Round Table, Member, West Africa Business Association, Member Presidential Advisory Council, Member President Buhari's Transition Committee & Chairman of Transition Committee on Economy and Chairman Nigerian Economic Summit Group – for two terms between 2003 - 2007.

Mohammed founded the Alpine Group in 2005 – a project development company focused on intervening in high growth sectors of the economy through direct investments. Alpine's flagship

*project, the Ado Bayero Mall in Kano which has just been commissioned is currently the largest shopping mall in operation in West Africa.*

*In recognition of his services to the nation, President Olusegun Obasanjo bestowed a national honor of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) on Mohammed Hayatu-Deen in 2000.*

#### 5.6.1 Thank you very much.

I acknowledge the presence of President Mahama, General Aliyu Gusau, and His Excellency, the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, my topic is closing the trade deficit gap and the major advantages of industry partnering and industrial capacity cooperation. I think it is important to begin by discussing some concepts. A trade deficit occurs when the value of a country's imports of goods and services exceeds the value of its exports. It is that simple. The concept of industrial partnership is similar in nature to a joint venture. It allows for collaborative efforts among producers/firms within and across different industrial sectors (e.g. ICT and banking), and countries (Africa and China). It is characterized by one firm providing the expertise, while the other firm provides the necessary resources (capital, land, or raw materials). Industrial partnering aims at improving productivity of countries or enterprises, building their capacity to innovate, and strengthening their competitiveness. Industrial capacity relates to the manufacturing and production capabilities of a nation or an enterprise. It is determined by the amount of resources (finance, equipment, workforce, etc) available for the production of goods and services.

5.6.2 Next, we look at how trade evolved between Africa and China through the last decades. China has become a major trade partner of Africa in the last two decades. Goods and services traded between Africa and China has grown substantially, surpassing US and EU countries. Between 2002 and 2020, the value of Chinese exports to African countries rose from \$12 billion to \$176 billion. Africa's low industrial capacity amid rising consumer markets has continued to worsen the region's trade balance.

5.6.3 This is a very interesting table if you look at the graphs. Despite the increase in trade, China's exports to Africa continue to exceed Africa's exports to the Asian country. As shown in the figure, trade balance between Africa and China was sensibly neutral from 2004 to 2013. From the year 2014, Africa encountered a large deficit due to decline in commodity prices on international markets. While the region's imports from China are diversified, its exports to China are largely based on primary products. Since most African countries depend on primary products, there is little that they are interested in importing from each other. Thus, the region's economic arrangements are characterised by low levels of domestic production and inter-country trade. For African countries to be able to capture more trade opportunities, they need to diversify their products.

5.6.4 Many Asian countries (including China) have experienced dramatic growth over the last five decades. The growth is driven by increased manufacturing exports to the rest of the world. Conversely, Africa has largely stagnated. Other than South Africa, manufacturing exports are notably absent on the continent. Before the adoption of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), many African governments sought to industrialize their economies through policies of import substitution. During this period, African governments used trade measures such as charging high tariffs on imports of goods produced domestically to encourage the local production of these products. In 1980, there were only 14 countries (out of 54) in sub-Saharan Africa with manufacturing value added per capita comparable to Indonesia. However, within the last four decades, the manufacturing value added per capita has deteriorated sharply - as most of the African industries are now moribund.



Compared to the 27.44% recorded by China in 2021, the share of manufacturing sector to total GDP averaged 12.52% in Africa as of December 2021.

- 5.6.5 Some of the factors that are responsible for Africa's under performance have to do with issues of infrastructure deficit, low domestic investments, stiff external competition, and acute shortage of manpower. All these issues contributed to the gulf in trade between the two continents. In the next set of slides, we will be looking at the complementary efforts of industrial partnerships and capacities between African countries and China. So, having painted those scenarios of low industrial capacity between China and Africa, what we need is a major shift in attitude - a new paradigm. Industry partnering between China and Africa is a way to go. As such, Africa and China have been working together to leverage China's competitive industries with their high-quality industrial capacity with a view to enhancing Africa's industrialization and economic diversification. Like Pres Mahama has said, this is evidenced in the China-Africa Industrial Capacity Cooperation Fund initiated by Beijing's China Foreign Exchange Reserves in association with the Export-Import Bank of China. The formation of this fund was announced at the 2015 FOCAC (Forum on China-Africa Cooperation) in Johannesburg, South Africa. The China-Africa industrial capacity cooperation mechanism is an attempt by both parties to assist African countries in the areas of economic diversification, achievement of technical expertise, mutual development, and foreign exchanges.
- 5.6.6 Such an industrial partnership between the African region and China will help us achieve a win-win cooperation for mutual development and addressing Africa's challenges. It will also bridge the gap in expertise and knowledge facing African countries leading to a more balanced, prosperous, and sustainable economic growth as the region's economic mainstay will be diversified. Furthermore, industrial partnership between Africa and China will provide a vital opportunity for the African continent to address the challenges of foreign exchange scarcity and volatility. It will provide the opportunities to the attainment of other notable benefits including access to new technologies, access to larger markets, and increased employment.
- 5.6.7 The last section now is the citing of strategies for effective industry partnering to achieve more balanced trade between Africa and China. Some of these strategies include developing a partnership agreement. It is crucial for the two sides to design a partnership arrangement firmly locked in place. The partnership agreement will identify the nature of the partnership, the role that each party plays, the duties and obligations among the parties, the rights of each party, the percentage of ownership, and the distribution of profits and losses between the two parties. Again, I refer back to President Mahama where he spoke so eloquently on the need to move away from loans towards foreign direct investments.
- 5.6.8 Another strategy is to pursue and implement integrated infrastructure services. This has already been discussed, and the key point here is that African policymakers need to pursue and implement productivity-enhancing policies on road, rail, electricity, digital, and other connectivity infrastructure in order to give African enterprises the opportunity to access export markets including China's. Very important, China also needs to give serious consideration to relax strict trade barriers with preferential market access agreements for African businesses seeking to export to the Asian country. African countries themselves need to broaden and deepen the private sector as expanding the private sector will create more output, more jobs, prosperity and therefore more trade.

- 5.6.9 There is need for Africa to really come of age at this time and embark on structural reform. To enhance Sino-African trade, African countries need to undertake bold domestic structural reforms such as reforming legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks (e.g. tariffs, lightening of regulatory burden through setting up of sector-specific regulatory bodies), contract enforcement and property rights protection, competitive exchange rates, low inflation, etc.) This will help in scaling up the supply capacity of the region. We should identify majority of priority sub-sectors and develop strategic initiatives to streamline import and export diversification. Other strategies include creating a new structure for a more profitable and diversified economy that is broad based in terms of the nature and quality of the products that we produce, moving from private production, promoting an ethos, and reducing the issues of micro taxation that are critical.
- 5.6.10 Africa should also embark on social reforms: this is the soft side of it. The hard part is your equipment, machinery, etc., but I think the most important initiative is to gather a major source of investment that is focused on the education and health sector, noting here that education is the wealth of any nation. Therefore, it is important to recognize that the rate at which Africa develops is determined by the quality of its human capital, so we need to unleash social reforms, promoting good governance, openness and transparency, and key participation. African governments increasingly need to encourage involvement that leads to a visionary, professional leadership that is strongly in tune with where the world is going, and locking Africa firmly in place and then opening up the democratic space to get citizens to participate to hold leaders accountable for their performance in governance.
- 5.6.11 The Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) has been signed into law by African countries. I think that this is the kind of locomotive that is needed. Africa's success in international trade is also dependent on regional integration. Deepening regional integration will help to build regional value chains, strengthen the complementarities of production/exports, and scale up supply capacity on the continent. The establishment of the AfCFTA is critical to achieving all these. While the AfCFTA has begun on 1st January 2021, no trade has taken place under the AfCFTA regime. Consequently, African governments should seek to build broad public support for AfCFTA and help businesses benefit from its provision.
- 5.6.12 There is the need for reviewing other trade policies and trade agreements too. African governments should review existing trade agreements/provisions (e.g. Chinese Duty Free Quota, free market access programme for LDCs) and utilize them as a spingboard to promote their comparative advantages. The promotion of entrepreneurial development is important and is a way also of reducing other economic problems. With entrepreneurial education, African governments can stimulate domestic production of goods and services, and it is one sure way of reducing the high rate of unemployment and other socioeconomic issues facing African countries.
- 5.6.13 We now come to the general conclusions. It is the objective of every nation to achieve a positive trade balance as it creates employment and influences the value of its currency in the global markets. However, low industrial capacity, huge infrastructure deficit, low domestic investment, inadequate funding, shortage of manpower among others have reduced supply capacity, creating huge trade deficit for African countries. This underlines the need for industry partnering between Africa and its major trade partners. The strategy of industrial partnering will not only enhance Africa's industrialization and economic diversification but will also promote mutual benefits for both parties. We believe a faithful adherence to the strategies proposed in this paper will ensure effective industry partnering between China and Africa for a more balanced trade.

5.6.14 Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

***(Document with slides attached as Annexure C.)***

**5.6.2 ZJNU nominated speaker: Prof Meibo Huang, Director of the International Development Cooperation Academy in Shanghai University of International Business and Economics**



**Short introduction:** *Prof Huang Meibo holds a PhD in Economics and is Director of the International Development Cooperation Academy in Shanghai University of International Business and Economics. She is a Deputy Secretary General of China Society of World Economics, and she works as a managing group member in China International Development Research Network.*

*Ms Huang Meibo had been associated with the Economics School, Xiamen University (China) from 1991 to 2017. She visited the Economics Department of Cornell University (USA) from January 1999 to February 2000 and did research in Global Economic Governance program in Oxford University (UK) from October 2006 to September 2007. From September 2010 to February 2011, she joined the Global South Scholar in Residence Program and did her research in the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Switzerland. From March to August 2013, she was a Senior Fellow in Centre for Global Cooperation Research, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. Ms Huang Meibo's current research focuses on South-south Cooperation and Chinese foreign aid, China-Africa trade and investment, development financing. She is author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of 15 books or textbooks on world economy, international finance, and international development cooperation. She has also published more than 100 papers in the above field.*

*Ms Meibo Huang found the International Development Cooperation Academy (IDCA) in Shanghai University of International Business and Economics in early 2018. Since then, the IDCA hosts the International Development Forum and China-Africa Economic and Trade Forum every year.*

5.6.2.1 It is a great honour for me to attend the second Abuja Forum. I did attend the first one in Abuja in 2018. It is an honour for me to be invited again to attend this very important forum to discuss partnership between China and Nigeria, and also between China and Africa. So now let me share my presentation.

5.6.2.2 My topic is about the China-Africa supply chain covering the cooperation, challenges, and opportunities. My name is Meibo Huang and I am coming from Shanghai University of International Business and Economics. My presentation is covering three parts. The first one is on the China-Africa supply chain and its investments. The second one is about challenges and opportunities of

the China-Africa supply chain, and the third one is about the suggestions for promoting China-Africa supply chain cooperation.

- 5.6.2.3 Now, let me introduce the first part. For the China-Africa supply chain, we can introduce its development into three points. The first one is the characteristics of Africa's participation in the global supply chain. From this figure we can see that the global participation in the supply chain of Africa is limited, but that it is increasing. African export products are mainly primary products and the regional supply chain within the continent needs to be increased. We can see from this line the intra-African exports are quite low compared to the export products to the other parts of the world.
- 5.6.2.4 The importance of the China-Africa supply chain and its position in the global sphere can be shown in these two figures. We can see the move and ranking position of China and Africa's positions as each other's trading partner is generally on the rise, and the China-Africa supply chain is an important link in the China-centered global supply chain. Here we can introduce the importance of China-Africa supply chain. First, is the mining industry supply chain. Here we can see China's dependence on some important mineral resources in Africa is really rating high.
- 5.6.2.5 The second important China-Africa supply chain is the agro-supply chain, including coffee supply chain, dried chillies supply chain, and the cocoa supply chain which are already established and play an important role in China-Africa agricultural products. For the China-Africa coffee supply chain, the importance is that it has already established a quality control system and the source can be traced. In the dried chilli supply chain, the importance is the foreign quarantine cooperation, and the importance of the cocoa supply chain is establishing a cocoa processing plant and cocoa bean warehouse construction project in Côte d'Ivoire.
- 5.6.2.6 The third important China-Africa supply chain is the manufacturing supply chain. Here I give two very important factory supply chains. The first one is the China-Africa automobile supply chain and the second one is the China-Africa textile supply chain.
- 5.6.2.7 Now, I would like to talk about the challenges and opportunities of Africa-China supply chain. First is the opportunities. The opportunity of the China-Africa supply chain in the post-pandemic era is the rapid development of e-commerce and e-payments. During and post the pandemic era, you can see the e-commerce and e-payments between China and Africa have developed really fast. The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System was launched. From this table, there are many major e-platforms in Africa being established. The second is the improvement of e-payment which can be shown in the fast performance of the e-commerce and the launch of platforms for payment and settlement systems and all the ICT infrastructure also provides very important patronage for support for China-African development of e-commerce and payments.
- 5.6.2.8 The second opportunity can be shown as the infrastructure construction. As you know, the infrastructure construction is important for logistics, efficiency, and quality. The China logistic companies are really working, and they have helped the China-Africa trade companies to shorten the delivery time of goods. Also, the African countries have also worked hard to improve the logistic foundations, for example the China-Africa Sea-Air Express Line in Djibouti Free Trade Zone, and Ethiopian Airlines increased investment in cargo services infrastructure and built an e-commerce warehouse. Many African countries have also invested in building road infrastructure. China has also

established a way to improve the China-African supply chain through establishing Hunan-Guangdong-Africa railway-sea combined transport channel as a two-way logistics channel.

5.6.2.9 The second opportunity is the digitalization of information sharing. The information sharing process has begun to take shape. For example, in October 2020 the Africa Trade Watch website was launched to identify and compare trade opportunities in Africa. The digitization of the e-commerce platform has also provided the creation of primary data for information sharing. Also, the China-Africa digital e-commerce economy cooperation has continued to increase.

5.6.2.10 The third opportunity is the continuous improvement of the enterprise supply chain management level. The COVID-19 has forced many countries, including African countries, to improve their post-sales services, inventory management, and logistics and distribution technologies. The next opportunity is promoting the effect of the African Free Trade Agreement. The African Continental Free Trade Zone will promote the construction of inter-regional logistic infrastructure and promote the digitalization and the promotion level of informational, capital and service flow so the e-commerce supply chain so that it can improve the supply chain service system in Africa. So, these are the opportunities for the Africa-China supply chain in the post-pandemic era.

5.6.2.11 Of course, there are many challenges for building the China-Africa supply chain. The first is the declining productivity and social unrest in the post-pandemic era. The Africa-China supply chain capital flow is quite high. What makes it so high are the supply chain security and sustainability issues. The first important issue is the supply chain security. The supply chain security could be defined as the resistance to destroy or damage the supply chain, and then the diversification and utilization of the products which are all really important to improve the China-Africa supply chain. About the supply chain sustainability, the United Nations (UN) divides the supply chain sustainability into four parts: human rights, fair labour, environmental protection, and anti-corruption. They are the strategies for maintaining the sustainability of the China-Africa supply chain.

5.6.2.12 Now we go to part three which are the suggestions for promotion of the China-Africa supply chain cooperation. The suggestions are

- To deepen the China-Africa supply chain infrastructure and key technologies through the digitalization of the supply chain. From the Chinese side, China should increase investments in African infrastructure, especially digital infrastructure. Also, China should transfer advanced technology, management, and operational experience to develop the Africa-China supply chain.
- To advance the sustainability of strategic energy supply. We mentioned a very important part of the China-Africa supply chain is the energy and manner of production, so China and Africa need to apply flexible, diplomatic strategies to maintain full relationship with the neighbouring countries. Chinese mining companies should expand the African market and strengthen investment in minerals needed for new energy development.
- To shorten the China-Africa supply chain and ensure security of resource products supply. Both China and Africa should work towards the two ends of the smile curve to achieve a successful intervention.
- To strengthen the quality of the China-Africa customs clearance efficiency. For quality inspection, China should help Africa build national quality infrastructure; industry associations should initiate quality certification projects; and China and Africa should jointly

promote the cultivation of talents in the field of laboratory testing and certification technology in African countries.

5.2.6.13 Thank you very much.

**(Note: PowerPoint slides with details and figures attached as Annexure D.)**

**5.7 Session 4: Digital Innovation**  
**Safeguarding Public Security: The Role of ICT**  
**Facilitator: Mr Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola, Chairman of Consultancy Support Services Ltd**



**Short introduction:** Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola (AhA), a global Cybersecurity resource is ranked #1 IFSEC, 2020 Global Cybersecurity professionals' influencers and thought leaders list, is:

- Chair, African Union Cyber Security Expert Group (AUCSEG), Addis Ababa.
- Delegation Leader, AUCSEG under the auspices of the African Union Commission input into the United Nations (UN) Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.
- Pioneer Chair, Working Group on Cyber Incident Management and Critical Information Protection of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise, The Hague.
- Pioneer Commissioner, Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace, The Hague.
- Expert, supporting United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs development of an online training course in "Cyberdiplomacy," New York.
- Resource person to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence.
- Consultant and resource person on ICT and Cybersecurity to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission.
- Resource Person, #ITU Arab Regional Cyber Security Centre through Oman National CERT Muscat.
- Resource person, South-East Asia Regional Centre for Counterterrorism, Kuala Lumpur.
- Resource person, on Cyber Security in Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism for the Organization of the OIC Headquarters, Jeddah.
- Resource person, virtual academic program, Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, National Defence University, Washington DC.
- Resource person, US Africa Command, Africa Endeavour 2022, Marrakech, Morocco.
- Member panel of experts at the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA), Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

- Resource person, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi, India on CyFy Conference, Raisina Dialogue, and Kigali Dialogue series in India, Morocco, and Rwanda.
- Founding member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation – Computer Emergency Response Team (#OICCERT) and initiator of the annual OIC-CERT Global prize, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

He is also:

- Chair, Nigeria Data Protection Bureau, Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP) Committee
- Chair, Nigerian National Cybersecurity Policy, and Strategy review committee,
- Chair, Nigeria Computer Society, Cybersecurity Advisory Group.
- Member, Committee on the Development of National Broadband Plan.
- Member, Group of Experts for the Nigerian Senate Committee on Cybersecurity, and ICT.
- Resource person, National Defence College, Abuja; Army War College, Abuja; Air Force War College, Makurdi; Admiralty University Ibusa; and Nigeria Defence Academy, Kaduna.
- Lead, sub-committee on Business Model and Process, National Identity Management Harmonization, and Integration Committee.
- Member, 2001 Nigeria National IT Policy Drafting Committee.
- Fellow, Nigeria Computer Society.
- Lead Facilitator, Cybersecurity Capacity Building, Executive Registration Programme, Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria (CPrN).
- Board Member, Backbone Connectivity Network (BCN) Nigeria Limited, Abuja.
- Chair, TruDATA Limited, Lagos.
- Director/ Secretary, HAKDA-Ajjola Foundation, Kaduna.
- Trustee, Alpha-Arewa Foundation, Kaduna.

He has attended development programmes in Nigeria and abroad including an Executive Program on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy at the prestigious Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government. He has special certifications from the MIS Training Institute, Massachusetts MA, USA in Large Scale Computer Forensics; Incident Response, International Security in the Interconnected World; and The Forum on Information Warfare. He is certificated on Digital Forensics with Forensics Recovery Evidence Device (FRED), Digital Intelligence, USA, and Cyber Security Capability & Capacity Building certification by Cybersecurity Malaysia.

Abdul-Hakeem is the Chairman, Consultancy Support Services (CS2) Ltd., a Cyber Security, Capacity Building, and Information Communication Technology Policy Consultancy Firm, in Abuja, Nigeria. He is working to kick-start the development of an Africa Cybersecurity Economic sub sector employing thousands of knowledge workers, below 35 years of age, who will profitably drive Cybersecurity solutions value chains.

#### 5.7.1 ZJNU nominated speaker: Mr Yao Juwang, General Manager of SUPCON in Nigeria



**Short introduction:** *Mr Yao Juwang is the General Manager of SUPCON company in Nigeria. He is also a nationally registered information security engineer. He has been engaged in project management for 24 years, served as a department manager for 10 years, and won various awards. SUPCON is a global supplier of automation, digitalization, intelligent technology, products, and solutions. His business areas involve industrial automation, intelligent manufacturing, and many other fields. With the implementation of the national "Belt and Road" Initiative, China Holdings has expanded its business in Africa. Overseas customers need us to provide timely and effective technical support and engineering services. The establishment of SUPCON in Nigeria has met the needs of customers in West African countries and has spread to many neighbouring countries.*

*Mr Yao Juwang helps African enterprises achieve industrial automation, and at the same time makes a forward-looking layout for information security construction. He personally led his team to Congo (DRC), Ghana, and other countries to assist in the construction of industrial information.*

- 5.7.1.1 **Transcript of translation from Chinese:** Your Excellency, John Mahama, former President of Ghana, General Aliyu Gusau, former Nigerian Defense Minister, and Ambassador Cui Jianchun, the Chinese ambassador to Nigeria, good morning/evening, ladies, and gentlemen. My name is Yao Juwang, I would like to thank the organizers of this forum for the great opportunity to share my thought on the role of ICT in defending public safety. Before I start my presentation, I would like to introduce our company. SUPCON is a Chinese company that is the first industrial automation supplier in China. The company provides cyber security services, and it is committed to providing industrial information security solutions to its clients.
- 5.7.1.2 We need to know that cybersecurity is a global challenge, and no country can stay out of it or work alone. This means that we need to work together to combat it. Therefore, maintaining cyber security is the common responsibility of the international community. The prerequisite for maintaining cyber security is recognizing and respecting the cyber sovereignty of each country. China is willing to work with African countries to strengthen cooperation in this area, and in turn, help to maintain peace and security in the region.
- 5.7.1.3 One vital area my presentation will focus on is information infrastructure. Information infrastructure such as public communications and information services are vital to any country when it comes to cyber security. This is because once these areas are sabotaged or even disabled, they may seriously endanger national security, the people's livelihood, and public interests.
- 5.7.1.4 Represented by the Stuxnet virus, a virus that targets supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems. This virus is believed to be a super destructive weapon. This is because it has the capacity to destroy nearly one-fifth of all centrifuges, infected 200,000 computers, and caused the physical degradation of more than 1,000 machines. Since the emergence of the Stuxnet virus, new types of cyber weapons have evolved, making them more complex and stealthier. No wonder information infrastructure has become a top priority for the international community when it comes to cyber security.
- 5.7.1.5 According to a report from research institutions, attacks against industrial control systems have been divided into eleven steps with more than 100 tactics. Attackers are fully capable of controlling production systems through standardized operations and can launch attacks from all levels such as devices, networks, controls, data, applications, etc. As such, it is worth saying that there is no perfect security information or country that can combat the security threat connected with cyber security the



world is facing now. Only by truly recognizing this can we come together to design an outstanding industrial information security solution that will continually address various cyber security threats the world is facing today. And because we know that cyber weapons are primarily based on computer program code, collectively proffering lasting solutions could provide a timely, peaceful, stable working and living environment for the world at large.

5.7.1.6 In our company, we believe that one of the best ways of finding solutions to the cyber security threat the world is facing today is to improve the overall security level of the industrial control system from the root through a built-in security system mechanism. Since our company has been working with several African countries to provide cyber security services, in the future, we intend to cooperate with more African countries with a view to cultivating a group of excellent African professionals in industrial safety systems, information technology, and automation. We also intend to conduct technical exchanges and introduce talent training with some local and well-known colleges and universities to collectively promote the industrialization and modernization process in Africa. Through this process, I hope we can make some contributions to the economic growth and social harmony of Africa.

5.7.1.7 Thank you.

**5.7.2 GI nominated speaker: Dr Katherine Getao, Kenyan Consultant on Cyber Hygiene, Cyber Diplomacy and ICT Strategy and Governance**



**Short introduction:** *Dr Katherine W. Getao, EBS, is often dubbed an “ICT Elder” in Kenya, in recognition of her 40 years of service in the private sector, academia, diplomacy as well as senior government appointments. Dr Getao currently executes consultancy assignments in the areas of Cyber Hygiene, Cyber Diplomacy and ICT Strategy and Governance.*

*She has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the ICT Authority in Kenya, the ICT Secretary in the Office of the President and subsequently at the Ministry of ICT. During her time in government, she led the design of the Huduma Centre one-stop shops for government services as well as the integrated implementation of optical fibre in collaboration with the Roads sector. Project Manager of the NEPAD e-Schools Project as well as the Director of the School of Computing and Informatics at the University of Nairobi. She has represented Kenya on UN Governmental Committees and has also served on the boards of private companies and universities.*

*Dr Getao is passionate about public service transformation using ICTs and the creation of industries and career opportunities for young people in the ICT Sector.*

- 5.7.2.1 Your Excellencies from Nigeria, from China, ladies and gentlemen from near and far. Good afternoon. My name is Katherine Getao and as you have been told, I am a retired public servant. I had to coin the term "ICT Elder" because titles are very important to me. So, you asked, what has Africa done right? I think we see bold projects across the continent, especially in the area of ICT. The issue of building infrastructure and maintaining it is critical for our health as a continent. The COVID-19 pandemic two years ago showed us how business, trade and education can come to a stop - something we did not expect in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The technology that kept us alive to such an extent was the ICT technology. The fact that we had infrastructure I think actually came about because of collaboration between China and Africa. I would say it's a visionary collaboration.
- 5.7.2.2 I think one of the reasons why Africa is underdeveloped is poor communication. We need ICT to talk to each other, and to move our goods and services across the geography. So, either way there is this worry about the debt crises, the investment in roads, the investment in infrastructure, and the investment in crops. It is all very important because any other investment we may start is going to be hampered by poor infrastructure and poor communication. Something else I can mention is that in Africa, we had a bit of a hangover. Our vision was limited within the mentality of our former colonial masters and when I ask questions about mentality and psychology, I believe that these are some of the areas that kept us less developed.
- 5.7.2.3 Now pertaining to what China has done, our vision actually turned around and we could see other parts of the world who could partner with us towards achieving what we want to achieve for our beloved continent. I believe that this really should become a 360-degree vision because we see a vision to partner with the rest of the world and not just Europe, not just the United States, not just Asia. Also, South America. There are so many different parts of the world and by working together all of us, appropriately in different areas. The reason why I mentioned that is that ICT has really opened up that opportunity to communicate with and partner with different parts of the world. I did not have to come to Abuja in order to participate in this Abuja Forum. I am participating right from my home right now in Nairobi, Kenya and this is a new opportunity which was not there before. So, those are some of the areas Africa is doing the right thing by partnering with China to develop infrastructure, and also to start new ways of doing business and reach out to a 360 degree of the rest of the world.
- 5.7.2.4 How could we build on this and make it better? I think we talked about capacity. People of course are an important part of this development and I have listened carefully to all the other speakers, and they are all talking about things that we can do to help people. Now the one thing I will mention because I know there is a time limitation is that I believe we need a broader view of capacity building. My capacity has been built by this forum, not technically, but operationally. As I listened to Professor Tao and her village companies, I could see an idea for me because I believe when we talk about capacity in Africa, we often just focus on the technical part. But if you look around us, it's not the part that is really failing. In Kenya we have a lot of technically qualified people, but the administration, the strategisation, the ideas for how to organize people so that they can work towards an end sometimes are weak.
- 5.7.2.5 Building capacity is not just about knowing how to do your cyber security, this is also about how to organize your company and how to carry out operations in a way that makes you cyber secure. Money is needed of course, and I would like to mention that we need new ways of exchange. I was very surprised as a young researcher to discover that our telecommunications traffic was being

routed through Europe. Then, when I wanted to speak to somebody in Uganda, my communications would first go to the Netherlands and then back to Uganda. Now that has changed with internet exchange points and so on. But in the financial area change must happen because we are still using intermediaries, and this is very expensive. So, this technology can be used to help people to transfer and to transact money directly in such a way that we don't need all sort of middle intermediaries in order to transact.

5.7.2.6 So, the last thing I will mention is that I worked with various Chinese companies, and this is something I really learnt from China. They send their private sector. I was managing some large infrastructure projects, mostly the building of fibre for telephone digital centres for Kenya, and my contractors in most cases were actually from China. So, another area where we can improve is really to empower our private sector, because wealth will never come from development partners. Wealth will come in empowering our people to also go and build in other countries. To keep transferring their capacities not only in universities and training institutions, but also in the work that they do on the ground. So, an area where we can improve is to build up commercial opportunities and opportunities to build our private sector, not only in partnership with the Chinese, but also in partnership with other African countries and ourselves. I am not sure I answered all your questions, but Ajijola you can provoke me by shutting me up or by telling me you want to hear a little bit more on something.

5.7.2.7 I worked for NEPAD for a while. That is the New Partnership for African Development, and it was formed by four presidents, I think now former presidents: Nigeria, Algeria, South Africa... I don't know I am forgetting the fourth one. That was an Africa vision for development at the time. Perhaps where we failed is in communicating that development vision not just to government, but to citizens. As I have been listening to our Chinese counterparts, I could feel their passion. That is required for where we are going, and the desire is part of our development story. So, I agree with you that we have the tools, including the technology, now around for (mostly young) people to engage continuously. Are we using the internet to communicate with them the vision of the new Africa, the vision of where we are we going? What will it look like? What do we need to get there? I believe using this technology is the easiest way because, maybe it's already a way we communicate. We should not just be there to be the icons in other countries. We should be there understanding the vision of the whole continent. I will stop here.

5.7.2.8 Thank you.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

6.1 The majority of questions were responded to in the chat room.

6.2 Two votes of thanks were delivered by Prof Liu Hongwu from ZJNU and Mr Emeka Izeze from GI respectively. The moderator then made the concluding remarks, signalling the end of the event.

6.3 The webinar concluded at 13h20 WAT.

6.4 The GI and ZJNU hope that this webinar will contribute positively to discourse, and eventual action plans, on issues of importance to Africa and China as well as the rest of the global community.

**Ends**