



**EFFECTING THE SPIRIT OF THE BEIJING SUMMIT OF THE FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION,
PROMOTING SHARED GOALS FOR THE FUTURE OF CHINA-AFRICA MODERNIZATION
2024 Abuja Forum, 6 November 2024**

Introduction

The Gusau Institute (GI) and the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University (IASZJNU) jointly hosted the highly anticipated **2024 Abuja Forum** on the **6th of November 2024** at Zhejiang Normal University (ZJNU) in **Jinhua, China**. This annual event, now in its fifth iteration, serves as a critical platform to deepen the collaboration between China and Africa in pursuit of common goals related to modernization, sustainable development, and mutual prosperity.

The Forum, themed "Effecting the Spirit of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation: Promoting Shared Goals for the Future of China-Africa Modernization," endeavoured to promote a shared vision for a harmonious future in the fields of security, trade, technological development, and education. The event aimed to build on the momentum of the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in September 2024, as well as the landmark **China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035** and the **Africa-China Dar es Salaam Consensus** adopted earlier this year. These documents lay the foundation for enhanced Africa-China cooperation with a focus on sustainable development, vocational training, economic growth, and global security.

Keynote Speaker and Syndicate Sessions

The keynote address was delivered by **H.E. (Dr) President Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan GCFR GCON**, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, whose leadership and vision for Africa-China relations continue to inspire new avenues of cooperation.

This year's Forum featured in-depth discussions across three strategic syndicate sessions:

- **Syndicate 1: Advancing Modernization through the Implementation of the Africa-China Dar es Salaam Consensus with Shared Goals**
 - Speaker 1: Prof. Diya'uddeen Basheer Hasan, Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) in Nigeria
 - Speaker 2: Prof. Zhang Qiaowen, Academic Vice Dean of Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University
 - Moderator: Dr Li Xuedong, Director of the East Africa Research Center at Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University

- **Syndicate 2: Addressing Maritime Security Challenges to Facilitate Africa’s Economic Integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement**
 - Speaker 1: Associate Prof. Michael Ehizuelen, Director of the Nigerian Research Center at Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University
 - Speaker 2: Mr. Olusegun Olutayo, Nigeria African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Coordination Office
 - Moderator: Mrs. Marlene Maritz, Director of Gusau Institute
- **Syndicate 3: Investing in Vocational Education and Industrial Capacity to Foster Africa-China Modernization**
 - Speaker 1: Prof. Engr. Abbati D. K. Muhammad, Project Manager of the World Bank supported Innovation Development and Effectiveness in the Acquisition of Skills (IDEAS) Project, and Country Consultant to the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA)
 - Speaker 2: Mr. Chen Jiquan, Chairman of Yalong Intelligent Equipment Group Co., Ltd.
 - Moderator: Prof. Xu Wei, Vice Dean of Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University
- **Afternoon Sessions:** Three group discussion sessions took place with representatives and experts from Africa and China participating. Details are as follows:
 - Session 1: The Role of the Private Sector and Business Community in Development
 - Session 2: The Role of Knowledge Sharing in Development
 - Session 3: The Role of Security Cooperation in Development
- **Ceremonial Sessions:** The actual programme was bookended by an opening ceremony and a book launch, and a closing ceremony. Prof. Liu Hongwu, the Director General of IASZJNU, launched his book titled "Seventy Years of China-Africa Relations: A Chinese Scholar’s Observations in His Academic Journey to Africa."

Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

The 2024 Forum explored how the Africa-China Dar es Salaam Consensus can catalyze mutual growth through sustainable development initiatives, enhancing knowledge sharing, and fostering modernization. Special attention was placed on the role of vocational education and skills transfer, seen as central to Africa’s industrial transformation and economic integration. Discussions centred on leveraging China’s successful vocational training models, such as the twinning system, to help Africa achieve its Agenda 2063 goals and the UN’s SDGs.

With a focus on maritime security, the Forum also examined how Africa and China can cooperate in combating piracy—one of the key threats to the successful implementation of the AfCFTA. Maritime security is critical to unlocking the economic benefits of AfCFTA, which has the potential to lift millions out of poverty and significantly boost intra-African trade.

A Vision for the Future

The Forum also focused on how China and Africa can better cooperate in the areas of peace, development, and fairness, in line with the vision of a Community of Shared Future for Mankind. Through practical dialogue, the 2024 Forum highlighted the strategic importance of collaborative research and diplomatic cooperation in building a more inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous future for both regions.

The conference brought together scholars, diplomats, policy makers, and business leaders from both China and Africa to discuss these crucial topics and contribute to the shaping of a new global discourse on

China-Africa relations. It also facilitated the exchange of ideas and built connections that can lead to actionable solutions and outcomes across multiple sectors.

Conclusion

The 2024 Abuja Forum represented a step forward in strengthening the China-Africa partnership, which is founded on shared values, mutual respect, and a common vision for a better future. The Forum provides a solid foundation for continued cooperation and will play a pivotal role in enhancing the global conversation around the future of China-Africa relations in the context of modernization and sustainable development.

About the Gusau Institute (GI)

The Gusau Institute, founded by Lt. Gen. Aliyu Gusau Mohammed (Rtd.), former Nigerian National Security Adviser and Honourable Minister of Defence, is dedicated to advancing the cause of peace, security, governance, and development in Nigeria and beyond. Through research, dialogue, and collaboration, the Institute aims to promote a more secure and prosperous Africa and world.

About the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University (ZJNU)

The Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University is committed to fostering mutual understanding, academic exchange, and research between China and Africa. With a focus on African studies, development cooperation, and cultural exchange, ZJNU serves as a leading institution for Africa-China partnerships.

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