



[Developing Africa](#)

China, South Africa, Ethiopia and Egypt can lead cooperation under the BRICS framework to transform China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035 into reality. The world has entered a period of volatility with the Russia-Ukraine crisis dragging on and a new round of the Palestine-Israel conflict flaring up. Despite the impact from geopolitical tensions, Africa has been pressing ahead with the African Union's 2063 Agenda. Looking back at 2023, Africa has been walking on its own path of development, affecting global advancement as a whole. The development of Africa has shown several distinctive features.

[How the Humble Donkey Became a Big Problem for China](#)

A popular remedy is made from hides imported from Africa—but the out-of-control trade is causing geopolitical problems for Beijing. Search on the Chinese food-delivery app Meituan for *ejiao*, and all sorts of goodies pop up. *Ejiao* was once a luxury consumed at the emperor's court, valued as a traditional remedy taken to strengthen the blood, improve sleep, and slow aging. Today, *ejiao* is for the masses. People drink it in a tonic that costs about \$2 for 10 vials; eat it in small cakes made with rock sugar, rice wine, walnuts, and black sesame at \$7 for a tin of 30; or snack on *ejiao*-coated dates at just under a dollar a packet.

[Africa needs China for its digital development - but at what price?](#)

Of the estimated 2.6 billion people who remained offline in 2023 a large part lives in Africa. A key partner in Africa in unclogging this bottleneck is China. Several African countries depend on China as their main technology provider and sponsor of large digital infrastructural projects. But what are the risks with becoming dependent on China? Digital technologies have many potential benefits for people in African countries. They can support the delivery of healthcare services, promote access to education and lifelong learning, and enhance financial inclusion.

[SSGI and KAIST Join China-led Moon Project, ILRS](#)

South China Morning Post [announced](#) that Ethiopia's Space Science and Geospatial Institute (SSGI) and the Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) have signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) to join the China-led International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), bringing the total to more than a dozen participating organisations globally. China's Deep Space Exploration Laboratory (DSEL, Tiandu Laboratory) representatives signed these MOUs with SSGI and KAIST. The ILRS initiative aims to establish a permanent base on the moon by the mid-2030s and has attracted participation from various countries and institutions globally.

[China-Africa cooperation in agriculture continues to deepen](#)

When visiting an egg production factory in Pinggu District, Beijing's northeastern suburb, African diplomats were amazed by the automated breeding process and quality products produced. During an organized trip on Wednesday, 28 diplomats from over 20 African countries visited the egg factory, a food technology company, and scenic spot known as "peach blossom sea". Modernization of agriculture and mechanization of agriculture at various levels of value chain is quite relevant to Africa, said Willy Bett, Kenyan ambassador to China.

[China-Africa trade gets a boost from critical minerals needed for EV battery production](#)

Trade between [China and Africa](#) defied economic headwinds in the first quarter of 2024, with two-way trade growing by 5.9 per cent year on year to US\$70.86 billion, according to the latest customs data. This was despite a property crisis in China which affected copper demand, with a downturn in copper prices towards the end of 2023. Experts have attributed the rise in trade to higher commodity prices during the period, as well as incentives introduced by Beijing to grow trade with [Africa](#), in particular, allowing more agricultural products into China tariff-free. China has also been buying more gold from Africa, adding to the increase, they noted.

[2 major space institutes in Africa join China-led moon project](#)

Ethiopia's Space Science and Geospatial Institute and the Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology have joined the ILRS. The China-led project aims to build a permanent base on the moon by the mid-2030s and is seen as a rival to the US-led Artemis programme. Two more African partners have joined the [China-led](#) International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) initiative, which aims to build a permanent base [on the moon](#) by the mid-2030s. Ethiopia's Space Science and Geospatial Institute (SSGI) and the Kenya Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) have this month signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) on ILRS-related cooperation with representatives from [China](#).