



[Chapa Founder's insight: Africa's startup evolution mirrors China's growth trajectory](#)

“Africa is like China 20 years ago, you see where China is now, so Africa is moving there,” Nael Hailemariam, Founder/CEO Chapa tells global leaders, and investors at AIM Congress 2024. Africa's startup evolution is on, fueled by innovation and a youthful demographic dividend. This comparison of Africa to China's meteoric rise serves as a compelling narrative for investors seeking untapped markets brimming with promise. A panel discussion titled “The New Geographical Focus of Startups: Spreading Digital Innovation to Africa and Other Places” at the ongoing AIM Congress 2024 in Abu Dhabi has shed light on the startup evolution unfolding across Africa. The Exchange Africa.

[Benin blocks China's first oil shipment from Niger over border feud](#)

China's first crude shipment from Niger has been blocked due to an ongoing dispute between the landlocked West African nation and Benin. China's first crude shipment from Niger has been blocked due to an ongoing dispute between the landlocked West African nation and Benin. Benin restricted the export of fuel from its port after Niger's junta-led government declined to open its land border to goods coming from the south. The shipments are part of a \$400 million commodity-backed loan provided by China National Petroleum Corp. Benin restricted the export of fuel from its port after Niger's junta-led government declined to open its land border to goods coming from the south, announced Benin President Patrice Talon on Wednesday. At least three vessels of crude from Niger was prevented from docking. Business Insider.

[China signs AEO customs agreements with Burundi, Iceland](#)

China signed customs agreements on mutual Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) status with the Republic of Burundi and Iceland at the ongoing 6th WCO Global AEO Conference in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, on Thursday. Enterprises with AEO status can enjoy a series of preferential management measures, such as priority processing, reduced frequency of supervision and optimized services, which effectively reduce the cost of international trade and enhance the international competitiveness of enterprises. The AEO system, initiated by the World Customs Organization (WCO), aims to facilitate customs clearance for enterprises through customs agencies' authentication of enterprises with high levels of legal compliance and safety, and a high credit status. Xinhua.

[Chinese companies break ground on Tunisia's photovoltaic power station](#)

Chinese companies on Wednesday broke ground on a 100-megawatt photovoltaic power station in central Tunisia's Kairouan Province, the largest photovoltaic power plant currently under construction in Tunisia. The commencement of the project represents a major step for Tunisia to implement energy diversification and fulfill its energy transformation strategy, Wael Chouchane, the secretary of state to the Tunisian minister of industry,

mines and energy and in charge of the energy transition, told Xinhua. China plays a leading role in the global renewable energy sector, and the Tunisian side has great confidence in the ability of Chinese companies to carry out this project, said Chouchane, adding that the Tunisian side could also benefit from the cooperation with Chinese companies regarding talent training and technology. Xinhua.

Huge convoy of Chinese and Saudi agricultural equipment arrives in Sirte – not made in the USA

The eastern based National Development Agency, an agency controlled by the Hafter family, reported today that an agricultural supply convoy, arriving from Benghazi, arrived in Sirte today. The convoy contains what it referred to as several advanced, modern agricultural tractors, agricultural machinery for ploughing, irrigation, pesticide spraying and other agricultural equipment. Eastern media sources reported that there were 87 pivot irrigation systems. The National Development Agency said “all of this and many other capabilities and support are being harnessed by the eastern based Libyan government, with direct instructions from the General Command of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, regarding enhancing national stability and achieving comprehensive development as alternatives to wars and destruction after the nation’s due battle against terrorism and those undermining security in our country”. Libya Herald.

Chinese language proficiency contests held in Namibia

The Confucius Institute at the University of Namibia (UNAM) on Tuesday hosted "Chinese Bridge" Chinese proficiency competitions for foreign college and secondary school students in Windhoek, the Namibian capital. Kenneth Matengu, vice chancellor of the University of Namibia, said the level and quality displayed at the 23rd "Chinese Bridge" competition for college students and the 17th "Chinese Bridge" competition for secondary school students in Namibia are steadily improving. "It's a wonderful opportunity that we can give to our students and learners," he said, adding that the enthusiasm and participation from secondary schools were particularly noteworthy, with the university sector also actively engaged. The competitions featured various activities, including speeches, song performances, quizzes, and demonstrations of various Chinese cultural talents, including calligraphy, with Sedney Teko winning university contest and Angela Shoombe the secondary school category. The two winners received tokens of appreciation in the form of cellphones and smartwatches and the opportunity to travel to China for the 2024 Chinese Bridge Competition. SCIO.

Nigeria Repays Chinese, IMF, Other Loans With \$1.12 Billion in 2024

The Nigerian government spent about \$1.2 billion on debt servicing in the first three months of 2024. A breakdown of the debt service figure shows that Nigeria spent about 70% of its dollar earnings on debt servicing in the first quarter of this year. The country’s external debt stock hit about N97.34 trillion in 2024, with the World Bank and China accounting for the highest. The Nigerian government spent about \$1.2 billion servicing foreign debts in the first quarter of 2024, showing the rising debt service burden on the country. According to data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), debt service payments have risen steadily over the past years. Legit.

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