



# Emerging Donors and the Changing Landscape of Foreign Aid: Public Perceptions of Development Cooperation

## CHINA REPORT

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# Structure of Presentation

- Background information
  - Terms
  - History
  - Institutions and modalities
  - Public/ Stakeholders
- Key debates
  - Chinese discourse
  - Transparency/ good governance
- Recent changes and implications



# Background Information: Deconstruction of terms

- Media type:
  - International versus domestic
  - Domestic: State controlled- Xinhua and China Daily- justification of national policies
  - Internet: blogs. Example: Utopia blog (<http://www.wyzxsx.com/> 乌有之乡)
- Aid status: recipient versus donor versus aid deliverer
- Aid type: Development versus humanitarian
- Domestic, aid deliverer, development



# Background Information: History

- Era of Mao Zedong & Zhou Enlai (1949-76), ideological emphasis, principles of non-interference & co-operation in aid giving
- 1990s, China's massive domestic growth & demand for resources
- Communist regime: Vietnam, North Korea, Burma, Africa, Latin America
- Wen in FOCAC 2009: 76 billion Yuan total in September 2009



# Background information

- Institutions: MFA, MOFCOM (Department of Foreign Aid), provincial level, SOEs
- Modalities: mainly bilateral, Grant aid, interest free loans, and concessional loans into six categories, ranging from financial and technical assistance for key investments to peacekeeping
- EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) projects





# Stakeholders/ Drivers of Domestic media



Who are the public?

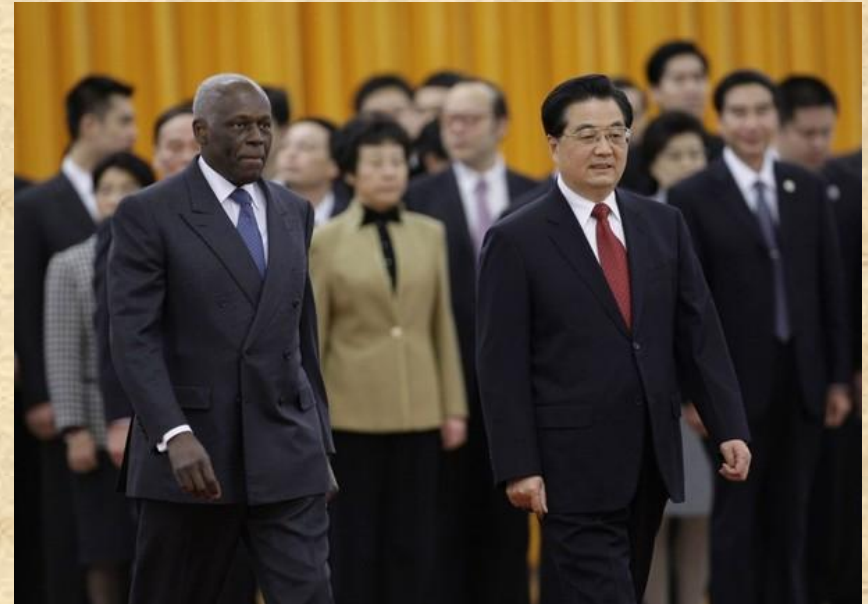
- Class and regions; middle class, Beijing/ Shanghai
- Internet bloggers
- Scholars/ Academics
- Lately: International NGOs (IRN, Oxfam)
- Absence of domestic NGOs

Who are the stakeholders?

- Central and provincial governments, SOEs

# Key debates- Chinese discourse

- Foreign Aid- domain of foreign policy- not for public debate
- Terms: Aid deliverer
- Win-win, south-south brotherhood, national pride, duties of 'rising China' rhetorics
- Lack of information- not to irate the Chinese audience
- Africa central of foreign aid discussion
- Lack of coherent mass media strategy





# Key debates: non-interference & good governance issues

- Non-interference and bilateral model main strategies of foreign aid-conflict with DAC good governance and transparency
- part payment for oil & other resources in infrastructure
- Transparency issues (type of public documents available)- language, cultural and recipients' regime/ amount issues
- Infant phase: Lack of proper accounting, monitoring systems





# Recent changes

- Government increasingly responsive (not to domestic (except internet blogs) but international media)
- Examples: Foreign Aid white paper, 17<sup>th</sup> party congress speech, stand on Sudan and Zimbabwe and CSR issues, increasing multilateral cooperation
- Strong feeling of 'change' in terms of foreign policy (90<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of CPC and 12<sup>th</sup> fifth year plan)



# Implications



- ‘Soft power’ diplomacy has been popular with African and other partners, alternative to IFI financing & conditionalities
- Evolving diplomacy- openness to advice, learning process
- Socialising China into global norms
- Complementary aid activities between China and DAC donors: Infrastructure (hardware) with human development (software)
- Assist China to put evaluating and monitoring systems in place

THANK YOU

Please feel free to ask any questions.

