

**Directorate of Information and Communication****MEDIA ADVISORY****Africa-China Poverty Reduction and Development Conference:  
Industrial Development: Cross-Perspectives from Africa and China****INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA**

**What:** Africa-China Poverty Reduction and Development Conference

**When:** 18-19 November 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, starting at 9:00 AM

**Where:** Medium Conference Hall, African Union Conference Centre - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Why:** To explore the current state of development work in Africa and identified key areas for joint initiatives.

**Background:**

The African Economic Outlook (AEO) 2014 presented a positive picture of the short-term and medium-term economic prospects of Africa. Statistics indicate that Africa's economy grew by 4% on average in 2013. It is projected to accelerate to close to 5% in 2014 and 5%-6% in 2015, thus to levels last seen before the onset of the 2009 global recession. In large part, this growth is considered as relatively broad-based and attributable to expansion in agricultural production, robust growth in services and a rise in oil production and increased mining activity mainly in resource-rich countries.

In spite of predicted growth, Africa faces high uncertainties in its pursuit of prosperity and stability. With less than one fifth of Africa's young workers finding waged employment, the cross-cutting theme on pro-poor growth and enhanced economic and social transformation still needs to be embedded in sectoral policies and programs of regional mechanisms and institutions. Just as China learned from the faster-growing East Asian newly industrialized economies and maintained rapid GDP growth of nearly 10% a year in the past 35 years, industrialization has the potential to drive Africa's transformation agenda and help tackle problems of poverty, inequality and unemployment. Thus the African Continental Priorities enshrined in the African Union's Agenda 2063 have put industrialization as a key driver, linked with agriculture and food security. African countries can seize the opportunities of labor-intensive industries relocating from China and other emerging economies.

The future of Africa's industrial development is therefore not just a result of choices among alternative paths offered from within or outside of Africa, but rather a combination of concerted global, regional and national efforts. In this process, it is

common understanding that the structural transformation in Africa is for inclusive and people-centred development. Policy frameworks require re-consolidation and re-structuring, and the quest for equitable and inclusive growth should always be high on the agenda. A top-level design for industrial transformation is essential to tapping the potential of the continent's comparative advantages and strengthening its inter-linkages with other sectors. Therefore, emerging economies are expected to play a bigger role in providing ideas, tacit knowledge, opportunities as well as development finances for Africa's industrial development. In the meantime, the cooperation between Africa and emerging economies, including China, will foster a win-win strategy for employment generation, capacity development, and transformation in the years to come in the continent.

## **Theme and Objective**

The overall theme for the week of commemoration of the Africa Industrialisation Day is Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development: African Agro-industry for Food Security.

The Africa-China Conference will focus on "Industrial Development: Cross-Perspectives from Africa and China". This theme is proposed because the African continent is undergoing economic and social transformation, and according to 'Agenda 2063' it is imperative that African countries focus on industrial development as a consolidated basis for economic diversification, and act in a more concerted manner to enhance integration in regional and global value chains.

The Conference will specifically look into three areas under this theme:

- Scenario analysis of challenges and opportunities for Africa's industrial development in an increasingly integrated and globalized economy building on regional and global value chains;
- Experience from rapidly industrializing countries in both Africa and Asia to unleash industrial growth for equitable, sustainable and inclusive growth; and
- Developing robust public-private partnerships to promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable economic and social transformation in Africa.

**Who:** The Conference is co-hosted by the African Union Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) and the Government of Ethiopia. The number of participants will be approximately 300, including government officials from Africa and China, renowned experts and scholars and representatives from universities, research institutions, civil society, international organizations and embassies.

**Journalists are invited to cover the opening session of the conference on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 9:30am, at the Medium Conference Hall and the Press Conference upon Celebrating African Industrialization Day 2014 on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 12:15 at Briefing Room 1.**

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