

WIN-WIN ACHIEVEMENTS ON TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT HAND BY HAND ON CHINA-AFRICA COLLABORATIONS

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ABSTRACT

(Case Studies on from the South Africa-China Co-operation to the Whole Africa-China Co-operation since 2000 to Present).

In 2000 the South African government and the Chinese government sign the MoU of the strategic partnership between two countries in Pretoria, South Africa. The corresponding author received the Chinese Minister of Transport Hon. Mr. Zhendong Huang at the National Roads Agency's Head Office and took him to visit the national roads and provincial roads, some special bridges along the national routes around the Gauteng Province. At the same day, CSIR Road and Transport Division: Transportek showed the most advanced technology on the Accelerated Pavement Testing (APT) in the world on the Heavy Vehicle Simulator (HVS) to the Hon Minister Mr. Huang and his delegation. This HVS may evaluate the performance of 20 years' period by simulating tests within three months.

In the end of this year the corresponding author brought the South African advanced technologies on bridge management information system and the HVS to the Hi-Technology Fair held in Guangzhou, China. In order to follow up the deep interactions with China, CSIR and the South China University of Technology (SCUT) started to exchange and explore the proper ways for the co-operation. The corresponding author and Dr. Paul Nordengen of CSIR drove the face to face operations with the SCUT.

For technologic development and applications between South Africa and China, the most important issue is to mutually understand in order to achieve the win-win circumstance for two sides. The effective mode was to hold the technical seminars and co-operative forum. So from July 2002 the corresponding author organized the 1st South Africa-China Transport Infrastructure Technology Forum during the Southern Africa Transport Conference (SATC). Then for the 2nd to 5th the South Africa-China Transport Technology Forum were held under the SATC which was guided by Prof. Alex Visser of the University of Pretoria. In 2007 the 6th Forum met some misunderstandings between South Africa and China and at last we had to focus the APT's mobile load simulator (MLS) which has been the one of the advanced technologies in the world.

Between 2007 to 2013 the corresponding author mainly promoted the MLS in the Chinese Transport Technology Forum held in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenyang, Nanjing, Changsha, Xi'an, Taiyuan, Jinan, etc. The technical activities strengthened the understandings from the Chinese research institutes, universities and consulting forms. The Chinese authorities

realized the South African advantages on APT and MLS gradually. The above relationship on academic and commercial aspects made obvious achievement between South Africa and China.

In 2013 the African Union announced the African Development Agenda 2063. It directed the new movement for the African continent. At mean time it was a good opportunity to promote the technologic relationship between Africa and China. In 2014 Prof. Wynand Steyn of the University of Pretoria invited the corresponding author to host the China-Africa Transport Co-operation Forum at the SATC 2014, which focused on the North-South Corridor Development in Africa with the Chinese partners. In 2015 the China-Africa Transport Co-operation Forum themed as the three priority transport networks' development hosted by the South Africa-China Transport Co-operation Centre (SACTCC) based in Pretoria, South Africa under the SATC. From the deep and close interactions, African institutions and Chinese partners had achieved the successful relationship for the academic and business co-operations.

In 2016 Prof. James Maina of the University of Pretoria chaired the SATC. The 3rd China-Africa Transport Co-operation Forum was held under the SATC. The Forum promoted the Johannesburg Summit and the Action Plan (2016-2018) of the Forum of China-Africa Co-operation (FOCAC) which was organized by the African Union and the Chinese government. Then from 2017 to 2019 the 4th to 6th China-Africa Transport Co-operation Forum continued to hold under the SATC which were led by Prof. James Maina. The number of the Chinese delegates and speakers attended the forums and achieved the tangible achievements between Africa and China, especially the China-Africa Transport Strategy Research Institute (CATSRI) has been knotted between the University of Pretoria, SA and Chang'an University, China which published papers, student essays and bi-lateral programmes. At the same period of 2017-2019, the corresponding author with the South African and the African colleagues travelled to China and attended the 1st to 3rd African Transport Infrastructure Forums held in Beijing, which was under the World Transport Convention (WTC).

In 2020 Covid-19 interrupted the normal ways for face to face communications. The 7th China-Africa Transport Co-operation Forum was held virtually with the Annual Conference on SETMI co-hosted by the SETEA (Southern Africa-China SET and Education Association) and the SAAE (South African Academy of Engineering).

In 2021 the SATC used online mode. The 8th China-Africa Transport Co-operation Forum followed the SATC's rule to communicate with the African and Chinese attendees virtually.

In 2022 the 9th China-Africa Transport Co-operation Forum adopted the hybrid mode which the representatives from South Africa and Mozambique attended in person. The Chinese delegates used online and pre-recording backup. It was successful for establishing the further relationship under the win-win principle. Currently we plan for the 10th China-Africa Transport Forum for 2023.

From our experiences, it seems that the China-Africa relation is more positive than negative. The science, technology and innovation collaboration between China and Africa has benefited the economic development. The important matters for both China and Africa must be driven by the principle of mutual benefit. Fully transparent, open, tangible, explicit, measurable and fully known engagements are basic requests.

In 2023 for the 60 years of the Organisation of African Unity and African Union (OAU/AU) from 1963-2023. South Africa and Africa had developed in different levels. The lessons from the on-going China-Africa Science, Technology and Innovation collaboration in transport and infrastructure sector will be kept the win-win principle.

The FOCAC Dakar Action Plan (2022-2024) identified the 9 Engineering Projects as priority. We may make efforts to achieve the targets under the win-win principle.