

MASTER'S THESIS

China foreign aid to Africa: features and implications

Ng, Hei Lin

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**China's Foreign Aid to Africa:
Features And Implications**

NG Hei Lin

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Philosophy**

Principal Supervisor: Prof. Jean-Pierre CABESTAN

Hong Kong Baptist University

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ABSTRACT

Over the past few years, China has become more active in providing development assistance to poor countries in Asia, Latin America and especially in Africa. Its rising profile as a development partner has also been controversial because Chinese aid policies and priorities are not necessarily in line with the established notions of what foreign aid consists of and how it should be disbursed.

This paper examines the features of Chinese aid to Africa and discusses the implications for China itself, the African recipient countries and the other donors, particularly the traditional donors on the continent. Seeing China's assistance to Africa dates back to 1950s, this paper will introduce the evolution of Sino-African relations and China's foreign policy towards Africa. It will also analyze the Chinese aid system and motivations behind its growing volume in the region. To shed light on the debatable role of China as a donor, this study compares Chinese norms on aid disbursement vis-à-vis the one shared by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Through the case studies of China's development assistance to Ethiopia and Ghana, it helps to illustrate the distinctive features of Chinese aid and to explore the challenges posed by Chinese active engagement.

The paper suggests that China is an "emerging" and pragmatic donor. Taking China's strategic and economic interests into account, Chinese official development assistance (ODA) has deviated from the OECD standard. Yet, it is not perceived as a totally different model. As an alternative source of foreign aid,

China is experiencing teething problems to collaborate with other actors in the pursuit of poverty reduction.

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