

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHINA – AFRICA TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

## VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD, UK Call for Papers and Applications

This international conference is convened to evaluate China - Africa relations and explore policy strategies to help strengthen technical cooperation and business partnerships. Africa is the world's second fastest growing region. For a greater part of the past two decades, Africa has recorded acceleration in growth and investments, attractive rates of return on investments, and expansion of ICT-driven businesses, which in 2010 led the World Bank to report that "Africa could be on the brink of an economic take-off, much like China was 30 years ago, and India 20 years ago." The attraction to invest in, and trade with Africa is increasingly exciting, not least to the highly industrialised G7 countries and the fast-emerging economies. In the context of BREXIT and the search for new markets, the British Government under ex-Prime Minister Theresa May set a new ambition for the UK to be the largest G7 investor in Africa by 2022. Britain is keen to change its international development approach to Africa from aid to trade, which in all probability would necessitate some measure of competition with new dominant players, notably China. For nearly the past 10 years China has been Africa's largest trading partner, displacing traditional allies like the United States and the European Union.

The flipside of Africa's growth narrative is that it has not been inclusive because many states and large proportions of the citizenry in some of the fastest growing countries have been left out. Extreme poverty is still rife on the continent.

To expand the recorded growth and make it even more inclusive, Africa needs to focus on constructive patterns of technical cooperation and business partnership with the developed countries of the West and the emerging economies of the East, especially China. To explore the various dimensions of this subject, international development practitioners, business experts and policy makers and scholars are invited to present papers under any of the following thematic panels:

- (1) Understanding the African business environment
- (2) Chinese business and investment culture
- (3) China – Africa trade relations
- (4) Governance institutions and business regulatory frameworks
- (5) Accessing capital and markets
- (6) Skills development job creation
- (7) Chinese development interventions in Africa
- (8) Promoting partnerships for innovation and technological advancement
- (9) Foreign investments and protection of small and medium enterprises in Africa
- (10) Using technical cooperation to leverage growth and development
- (11) Online marketplaces and business platforms
- (12) Doing business in Africa: country and regional case studies
- (13) Understanding regional markets in Africa (e.g. ECOWAS, SADC, EAC and COMESA)
- (14) The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Challenges and opportunities
- (15) BREXIT, new partnerships and emerging competition frontiers

Kindly send abstracts of 250 to 300 words in line with any of the listed themes. The abstract should specify conference thematic panel and the author's institutional affiliation and contact details. Institutional abstracts proposing relevant conference panels are also welcome. **Non-paper presenting participants interested in listening and contributing to the debates are encouraged to apply in writing specifying key areas of interest in the conference.**

**CONFERENCE DATE:**  
MONDAY 20TH – FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2020

**ACCOMMODATION:**  
HEATON MOUNT, UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD, UK.

### Publication:

Paper presented at the conference will be part of an edited book to be published under the Routledge Development Series.

### Conference Fee:

Conference fee applies to all shortlisted participants

### Important Dates:

**\*16th February 2020:** Deadline for submission of abstracts and applications. All submissions should be forwarded to:

[info@manifoldcrown.org](mailto:info@manifoldcrown.org) / [komeje@manifoldcrown.org](mailto:komeje@manifoldcrown.org)

**\*24th February 2020:** Announcement of decision on conference abstracts and applications

**15th March 2020:** Deadline for submission of full conference paper (3,000 – 6,000 words)

**19th April 2020:** Participants' arrival and registration in Bradford, UK

**20th April 2020:** Opening plenary, keynote speakers and commissioned papers

**21th – 24th April 2020:** Conference panel deliberations

### Conference Secretariat and Contact:

**Manifoldcrown**   
*Promoting problem-solving partnerships for peace*

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