

BUSINESS

How to leverage the Africa-China relationship for growth



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AFRICA IS THE WORLD'S youngest continent. That's a double-edged sword. Though a young population is the backbone of the economy, without education and jobs, it inevitably leads to instability.

As our relationship with China deepens, we can draw some lessons from that country's experience of educating its young people. One of China's great success stories is poverty alleviation. A staggering 850 million people have been lifted out of extreme poverty, a feat never before seen in the history of humanity. One of the key drivers of this is education. What I call the "4P's" are the engines for education in China: policy, parents, pupils and

profit. The government allows for affordable public education; parents spend a huge chunk of their income on their children; students spend countless hours studying; and for-profit companies provide innovative training programmes at every price range.

Unlike the China of 40 years ago, Africa has the chance to leverage technology to enhance opportunities for its youth. As Chinese tech companies dip their toes into African markets, we have to make sure that these efforts offer opportunities for young people. Programmes like the Africa Netpreneur Prize Initiative, which gives \$1m to 10 African entrepreneurs, led by Alibaba's founder, Jack Ma, should certainly be encouraged.

Another trend is that China has become a top destination for African students seeking higher education. As these students return, we need to help them contribute to our continent more effectively. The year 2020 is also a time to gear up for the 2021 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). As African countries prepare for the discussions, we should put young people at the centre of our strategy.



Africa has the chance to leverage technology to enhance opportunities for its youth

WORLD BUSINESS EVENTS



Ghana Investment & Opportunities Summit 2020
21-22 January, London, England

Speaking at this side event to the UK-Africa Investment Summit, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana, will lead discussions relating to the African Common Market and Ghana's role in it. The broader summit, on 20 January, looks to heighten trade links between the UK and Africa.
ghios.com



ADIS2020
23-25 January,
Mountain View, California

This conference, hosted by the African Diaspora Network, challenges investors and entrepreneurs to put their know-how and wealth to work in raising the fortunes of the African continent. The emphasis is on business-political partnerships and the power of digitisation.
adis20.com



Africa 2020: Creating clear visions for future prosperity
14-15 February, Boston, Massachusetts

Hosted by the Harvard Africa Business Club, and with more than 1,000 business and thought leaders from Africa and beyond, this year's Africa Business Conference seeks to find a blueprint for a prosperous Africa, and to explore ways in which business can help realise this goal.
africabusinessconference.com