



## **Programme**

### **SAIIA and Chinese Embassy Joint Seminar on Future-Proofing Africa – China Infrastructure Cooperation**

**31 August 2022**

**Online**

**08:30am – 15:00pm SAST**

#### **About this event**

The China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Programme, an initiative under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, in collaboration with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) will be hosting a joint event on promoting Africa-China Infrastructure cooperation. This event will bring together researchers from across Africa and China to enhance dialogue on pertinent developments in sustainable infrastructure development between the two partners.

China's dual role as a funder and builder of infrastructure has transformed countries' development options across the Global South. Not only has this infrastructure provision provided new points of economic growth for these countries it also contributed to boosting integration between countries. Roughly two decades into this process, it is important to take stock and to provide more nuanced analyses to fully grasp the complexity of these trends. Specifically, it's important to:

- Track the evolution of China's funding and building of infrastructure in the Global South and to identify emerging trends
- Look at how environmental, socioeconomic and governance (ESG) implementation has evolved and which ESG-related areas deserve more attention
- Lessen the siloing of Africa-China relations through comparisons between Chinese infrastructure provision in Africa, and other parts of the Global South

In order to address these issues, SAIIA and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China are jointly hosting a virtual workshop focused on comparative perspectives of ESG implementation in Chinese-led infrastructure projects in Southeast Asia and Africa. It will bring together researchers from these regions and China, and will focus on providing concrete recommendations that will feed into broader development discussions across the Global South.

## Event Programme

### Public Event

**Wednesday, 31 August 2022**

- 08:30-09:00 **Welcoming remarks**  
*Li Zhang Gang, Charge de Affair*  
*Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, SAIIA Chief Executive*
- 09:00-10:00 **Session 1: The evolution of ESG implementation in a Chinese domestic context and how that evolution shaped transnational implementation over time**
- Panellists:**  
*Dr Yu Zheng, Fudan University*  
*Dr Ana Alves, Policy Center for the New South*  
*Dr Chris Alden, LSE*  
*Dr Zhou Yuyuan, Center for West Asian and African Studies, Shanghai Institute for International Studies*
- 10:00-11:00 **Session 2: Electrification - Coal and Hydropower**
- Dr Gong Xue, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*  
*Dr Cobus van Staden, SAIIA*  
*Professor Tang Xiaoyang, School of Social Science, Tsinghua University*
- 11:00-11:15 Break
- 11:15-12:15 **Session 3: Ports**
- Dr Chris Alden, LSE*  
*Dr Lu Jiang, International Development Cooperation Academy at Shanghai University of International Business and Economics*  
*Ambassador Gert Grobler, Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University*
- 12:15-12:45 Lunch Break



12:45-13:45      **Session 4: Rail**

*Dr Oscar Otele, University of Nairobi*

*Dr Guanie Lim, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan*

*Liu Haifang, Center for African Studies, Peking University*

13:45-14:45      **Session 5: ICT**

*Dr Motolani Agbebi, Tampere University, Finland*

*Dr Gong Xue, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*

*Representative from Huawei*

14:45-15:00      **Closing Remarks**

*Dr Cobus van Staden, SAIIA and Dr Chris Alden, LSE*