

Chinese medical influence in Africa; Part 1

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China has been rising its power for several years like no other country did. Some may say this is a kind of “neo-colonial” attitude the Chinese government follows. Expanding their power into other countries especially third-world-countries by building missing infrastructures and let Chinese workers occupy the main positions is a highly effective strategy. Also in medical matters China tightens its power. In Africa Chinese aid overhauled French and American aid. Different programs have been established to deepen the medical cooperation between Africa and China.

Chinese Medical Teams (CMT)

Chinese Medical Teams are meant to be “highly skilled and extremely professional” groups of several dozens doctors and caretakers that are sent to different states of Africa. In January 1963 the first CMT was sent to Algeria. Hubei province was in charge of sending that CMT. Since 1963 Chinese provinces always were responsible to dispatch CMTs.

Up to 2009 47 CMTs have been working in 45 African countries (out of 54 countries) shown in the list below. Since 1963 240 million patients have been treated by Chinese CMTs.

CMTs not only treat patient they also build medical facilities and other kind of infrastructure. 122 hospitals were built, anti-malaria centres aroused and a lot of training courses for African personnel were given by Chines Medical Teams.

Countries CMTs are currently working in:

Algeria, Zanzibar, Somalia, Congo, Mali, Tanganyika, Mauritania, Guinea, Sudan, Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, DR Congo Kinshasa, Ethiopia, Togo, Cameroon, Senegal, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Gabon, Gambia, Benin, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Libya, Cape Verde, Liberia, Seychelles, Burundi, Namibia, Comoros, Lesotho, Eritrea, Malawi, Angola and Ghana.

Anti-Malaria-Campaign

CMTs are fighting Malaria in Africa. They distribute medication made in China, teach African medical personnel and other people in how to fight Malaria and they build anti-malaria centres where Chinese medics or Chinese trained employees keep the main postions.

Anti-malaria centres were built in:

Liberia, Chad, Senegal, Burundi, Uganda, Congo, Gabon, Benin, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, Togo, Mali, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Equatorial Guinea, Zambia, Comoros, Madagascar, Sudan, Central African Republic, Ghana, Angola, Guinea, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

Medical Ships

China also sends Medical Ships to Africa. Several hundred doctors and nurses on each ship deliver free medical treatment to citizens of these African countries. The whole range of medical treatment is available on these ships: dentists, ophthalmologists, operating theatres; even an intensive care unit can be found on board. And the offer is taken gladly by the African patients.

The latest example: In October 2010 a medical ship reached the coast of Mombasa, Kenya. There and in other countries several thousands patients were treated.

Several sources were used to produce this report.
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