

### **KEY QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS:**

- Dipl. Reg. Wiss. Modern China Studies, International Relation, Development and China-Africa Studies
  - PhD candidate in China-Ethiopia Studies and visiting lecturer at University of Bonn, Germany
  - Academic research and professional experience in the fields of international relations, China-Africa relations, Elite decision-making in Ethiopia-China relation and sustainable development
  - Exceptional organizational and interpersonal skills and a proven track record in project management
  - Strong communicator with excellent verbal and written skills in English, German, Amharic and advanced-level proficiency in Chinese and French
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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

06/2016- 08/2016  
Cologne, Germany

#### **World Wildlife Fund in Tanzania**

*Consultant: Study on Africa's Role in China's Belt and Road Initiative*

- Reviewed and analyzed official governmental documents, academic literature and media news on references to Africa and African countries in relation to China's Belt and Road Initiative
- Conducted in-depth interviews with representatives of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development Think Tank Committee on the Belt and Road Initiative
- Drafted a comprehensive study on Africa's role in China's Belt and Road Initiative, including its potential implications for African countries' natural resources

03/2016- 05/2016  
Cologne, Germany

#### **World Wildlife Fund in South Africa**

*Consultant: Policy note on Environmental Challenges and Opportunities of the Johannesburg Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Outcomes*

- Reviewed and analyzed the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan as well as the FOCAC Johannesburg Declaration and Action Plan (2016-2018);
- Drafted a policy note on how the FOCAC Johannesburg outcomes support the African Union's environmental priorities, including policy recommendations for African governments and WWF.

02/2016- ongoing  
Cologne, Germany

#### **The ChinaAfricaAdvisory**

*Founding Director*

- The China Africa Advisory (<http://www.chinaafricaadvisory.com>) is an independent Africa and China-focused advisory firm that assists governments, international organization and businesses to realize sustainable development in African countries.

12/2015- 02/2016  
Yaoundé, Cameroon  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

#### **Diaspora Supported Education, Knowledge, Technology and Entrepreneurship Project**

*Expert on China-Africa relations*

- Advising project participants on China-Africa relations by:
- Giving lectures at the African Union's Pan-African University Yaoundé, Cameroon
- Giving lectures at the Ethiopian Civil Service University Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

09/2015-10/2015  
Cologne, Germany

**International Poverty Reduction Centre in China/ United Nations  
Development Programme in China**

*Research Consultant*

- Developed questionnaires and conducted field research in Nigeria and Ethiopia, including on-site visits of SEZs and interviews with representatives of governments, the African Union, the United Nations Development Programme as well as managers of, and companies investing in SEZs;
- Reviewed and analysed existing literature on special economic zones (SEZ) in Africa, in particular as regards policy and institutional frameworks and the development status and lessons learned of SEZs in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zambia;
- Prepared chapters on SEZs in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zambia as an input to a comparative study between SEZ in China and Africa.

10/2013 – ongoing  
Bonn, Germany

**Centre for Global Studies, University of Bonn, Germany**

*Non-residential University lecturer in China-Africa relations*

- Teaching university classes on the different interaction levels in the China-Africa relations, involved actors, intentions as well as strategies.
- Supervising B.A. thesis on China-Africa related topics.

08/2012-present  
Cologne, Germany

**The ChinaAfricaBlog.com**

*Co-Founder and Principal Analyst*

- The ChinaAfricablog is with currently over 5900 followers one of the leading provider of China-Africa related information on Twitter (@chinaafricablog). The blog analyses current affairs of the China-Africa relations by:
- Compiling written output (blog text) and analysis for wider consumption.
- Giving presentation to academic and non-academic audience.
- Giving interviews to media outlets.

02/2009–09/2015  
Bonn, Germany

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

*Lead Conference Services Assistant*

- Managing intergovernmental meetings and expert group projects from inception to completion by planning, scheduling, assigning resources and completing everything on time and within budget; responsible for the organization of UNFCCC meetings in Germany and around the world; conducting regular technical missions to host countries to review logistical arrangements.
- Team leader of the Conference Affairs Services – Workshop and Meetings Operations Unit, supervising two conference services assistants, planning the unit's work schedule, assigning projects to team members, controlling project outcomes and briefing senior management.
- Drafting and analyzing Service Level Agreements with other program units, Memorandums of Understanding with host country counterparts and technical specifications and evaluations for procurement purposes.
- Reviewing the UNFCCC Workshop and Meetings Policy to reflect changing needs and suggesting changes to senior management;
- Coordinating specialized services by liaising with counterparts at the United Nations Office at Geneva and other UN duty stations to service secretariat meetings held in Bonn and abroad.

02/2007–08/2008  
Cologne, Germany

**Neumann Partners Leadership Asia-Pacific Centre**

*Researcher "China Business Process" (part-time working as student)*

- Recruited senior management personnel for German and European companies operating in China.
- Conducted research on market trends in China, obtained relevant market information from Chinese newspapers, magazines and internet sources, compiled information on political background and laws and made suggestions to senior consultants on suitable candidates.
- Prepared project-related target companies, identified potential candidates, conducted research on background information of selected companies on annual revenue, organizational structure and senior management structure.

08/2004–07/2007  
Cologne, Germany

**Demissie & Weigel GbR**

*Founder and Manager*

- Founded and established a private consultancy and import/export business for Germany, China and Ethiopia.
- Managed business development, communications, finance, marketing and deployed business strategies.
- Conducted site visits in China to ensure product quality control.
- Managed daily operations, customer relations, projects and company accounts.

10/2004–07/2005  
Chengdu, China

**Quantum Trade & Services Ltd.**

*Assistant to the CEO (part-time as a student)*

- Organized meetings and factory visits for European and African business delegates with Chinese counterparts.
- Maintained quality control for products produced in China and shipped to Germany and Ethiopia, collected price quotations, confirmed production capacity and terms of payment.
- Compiled manufacturer database and assessment reports on the condition and ability of Chinese manufacturers in terms of production capacity, technological ability and export experience with Europe and Africa.

**EDUCATION**

09/2009–present  
Bonn, Germany

**University of Bonn**

PhD (cand.) in International Relations and China-Africa Studies, China-Ethiopia Relations

10/2001–08/2008  
Cologne, Germany

**University of Cologne**

Dipl. Reg. Wiss. in Modern China Studies, International and Development studies

08/2004–09/2005  
Chengdu, China

**Sichuan University**

Chinese language studies (HSK Chinese proficiency exam)

**PUBLICATIONS**

2016 “Study on Africa’s Role in China’s Belt and Road Initiative”. Unpublished Policy Study for WWF Tanzania.

- 2016 “Policy note on Environmental Challenges and Opportunities of the Johannesburg Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Outcomes”. Unpublished Policy Note prepared for WWF South Africa.
- 2016 “Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Congo and Tanzania to demonstrate China-Africa Industrial Cooperation”, web publication with Moritz Weigel. Available at: [TheChinaAfricaBlog.com](http://TheChinaAfricaBlog.com), Cologne, Germany.
- 2015 “Comparative Study on Special Economic Zones in Africa and China.” Available at: <http://goo.gl/QIOa6V>. Co-author of chapters on special economic zones (SEZs) in Africa.
- 2014 “China-Africa relations: Fostering low-carbon development in Africa”, working paper with Moritz Weigel, paper accepted for the 4<sup>th</sup> China-Africa Think Tank Forum in Yiwu, China.
- 2013 “Why African countries should create cross-ministerial China Desks”, web-publication with Moritz Weigel at [TheChinaAfricaBlog.com](http://TheChinaAfricaBlog.com), Cologne, Germany.
- 2012 “Leadership Change in China: An opportunity for Africa”, web-publication with Moritz Weigel at [TheChinaAfricaBlog.com](http://TheChinaAfricaBlog.com), Cologne, Germany.
- 2010 “Die Sino-afrikanischen Beziehungen seit der Konferenz von Bandung und ihre Transformation im 21. Jahrhundert”, Südostasien Zeitschrift, ed. 3/2010.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- 2016 “The role of China in infrastructural build-up in Africa: Current and future implications for East African countries”, presentation delivered at the Conference “Overseas infrastructure projects of China and Japan: New Dynamics in Global Development and Security” at the Danish Institute for International Studies Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2016 “China-Cameroon Relations: Future Perspectives”, presentations given at the Pan African university Yaoundé, Cameroon.
- 2016 “China-Ethiopia Cooperation and the OBOR Initiative”, presentation given at the Ethiopian Civil Service University Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 2015 “Linking OBOR and industrialization strategies in African countries: big infrastructure projects and proliferation of Special Economic Zones in Africa”, presentation given at “One Belt One Road Initiative conference” at Tongji University Shanghai, China.
- 2015 “The role of Special Economic Zones in country's industrialization Strategy”, presentation given at the conference “Industrial Parks and Globalization: Experience Sharing between China and Africa” at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.
- 2014 “China’s influence and politics in Africa” Presentation given at the XI. German-China Workshop at the University Würzburg, Germany.
- 2014 “China as impetus for renewable energy in Africa”, presentation given at the Public University of Bonn, Germany.
- 2013 “The future of China-Africa Relations”. Presentation given at the *Blickpunkt Afrika* conference, Cologne, Germany.
- 2013 “China in Africa”, presentation given at the Atlantic Society of Germany Bonn, Germany.
- 2011 “Introduction to the China-Ethiopian Relationship”, presentation given at the annual meeting of the Ethiopian Students and Academics Association in Germany Cologne, Germany.

- 2010 “The economic and military relationship between PR China and Ethiopia”, presentation given at the United Nations Association of Germany Bonn, Germany.
- 2009 “The institutional actors of the China-Africa Relations”, presentation given at Confucius Institute, Leipzig, Germany.

### **INTERVIEWS**

- 2016 “China Eximbank continues to woo Ethiopia with \$500m industrial park loan”, interview given to *Trade and Export Finance Magazine*, London, UK.
- 2016 “Discussion on Racism in China”. *BBC World Service Radio*. London, United Kingdom. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03vznzyp>
- 2014 “China’s economic impact on Ethiopia”, radio interview (in Amharic): *Deutsche Welle Radio*, Bonn, Germany.
- 2014 “Li Keqiang’s Africa tour”, radio interview (in Amharic): *Deutsche Welle Radio*, Bonn, Germany.
- 2012 “The current state of China-Ethiopia Relations”, radio interview (in Amharic): *Deutsche Welle Radio*, Bonn, Germany.
- 2012 “Abducted Chinese workers freed safe and sound”, radio interview: *Deutsche Welle Radio*, Bonn, Germany. <http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,15729660,00.html>
- 2010 “Chinas Rolle in Afrika”, radio interview: *DRadio Wissen*, Cologne, Germany. [http://wissen.dradio.de/wirtschaft-chinas-rolle-in-afrika.33.de.html?dram:article\\_id=3743&sid=](http://wissen.dradio.de/wirtschaft-chinas-rolle-in-afrika.33.de.html?dram:article_id=3743&sid=)
- 2009 “Africans in China experience social not language problems”, radio interview: *Deutsche Welle Radio*, Germany. <http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,4496014,00.html>

### **AFFILIATIONS**

- 10/2014- present            Member of the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network, Social Science Research Council
- 08/2012–present            Co-Founder and Principal Analyst of the [ChinaAfricaBlog.com](http://ChinaAfricaBlog.com) analysis blog
- 03/2009–10/2011            Founding member and Vice-President of the Ethiopian Students and Academics Association in Germany ([www.daesav.de](http://www.daesav.de));
- 02/2007–present            Member of the annual China-Expert Group at “*Haus Villigst*”