

Asia Talk – season 3

We are pleased to invite you to our next episode, when Asia and Africa Talks will join forces:
Thursday, January 20th at 10.30 am CET/ Berlin Time.

What China is up to in Africa and what do African countries expect?

China is Africa's largest economic partner, with huge lending for infrastructure development projects around the continent. Within a few decades, notably since the 1990ies, China has emerged as Africa's biggest bilateral trading partner, Africa's biggest bilateral lender, as well as one of the biggest foreign investors in the continent. The growth in China's interest in Africa has been driven by the appetite for Africa's natural resources as well as looking for strategic hubs for its Belt and Road Initiative.

This development is seen controversial. At first glance, China has increased Africa's room for improvement, but Beijing's activities are also seen with a critical eye. The concept that China, as an external actor, will promote Africa's development, lift it out of poverty and make it competitive with other countries needs to be evaluated and discussed.

What has worked well, where are the challenges? What opportunities and interests do Germany and other European partners have?

Amongst our speakers we will have **Dr Marina Rudyak**. She is a sinologist working on the intersections of China Studies and International Development. Her research focuses on China as a global development actor, specifically Chinese foreign aid and development lending policy, the implications of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and China in Central Asia and Africa.

Alan Robles is a full-time journalist based in Manila, where he serves as Philippine correspondent for the South China Morning Post (SCMP) as well as for Radio TV Hong Kong (RTHK). He writes a column for ABS-CBN news online and contributes to various local and international publications.

You can register for the digital workshop via this [Zoom link](#):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87380186876?pwd=UDVOWHpScGJZUnZrRFB6TTU6eDBnZz09>

Passcode: 631689

If you have any questions, please send an email to asiatalks@ijp.org.

