



Comparative Education Research Centre (CERC)
Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong

African Students in China:

A case study of newly arrived students on
FOCAC funds at Chongqing University

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Chair: Mark Bray

In this talk I review a Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) plan of action to increase the number of Africans studying in China with Chinese government support. This generous commitment from the Chinese government has led to a conspicuous presence of Africans in Chinese universities. I outline the issues and challenges that newly-arrived African students face, from problems in using Chinese as a language of instruction to cross-cultural challenges in cuisine and Chinese society. The data derive from questionnaire surveys and interviews in Chongqing University in 2009, where in that year alone over 100 Africans arrived to study science, engineering and other courses. The experiences of these students both strengthen and challenge a cross-cultural bridge theory that I have proposed to account for another study of African traders in Guangzhou. I suggest that both the African and Chinese governments should better facilitate the transition from Africa to China if we want these students to “serve as bricks for building future bridges” for Africa-China relations.



Adams Bodomo is Associate Professor of Linguistics and African Studies, and Director of the African Studies Programme in the School of Humanities at HKU. He has published over 50 articles in top linguistics, African Studies and China Studies journals. He has also published 10 books. His next book, in press, is entitled *Africans in China: an investigation into the African presence in China and its consequences on Africa - China relations* (Cambria Press, NY).

12:45 - 14:00; Tuesday 6 September 2011
LG02 Hui Oi Chow Science Building, HKU

All welcome!