

# Nigeria | The Shoulders of India & China

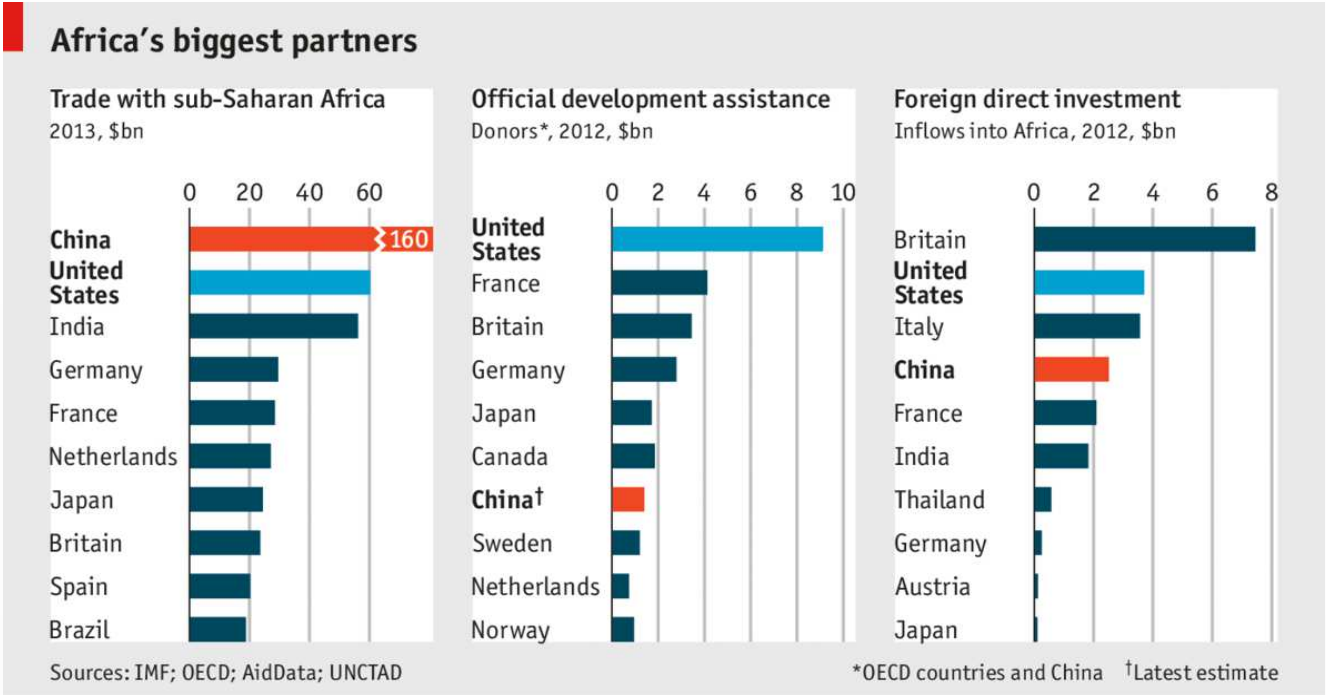
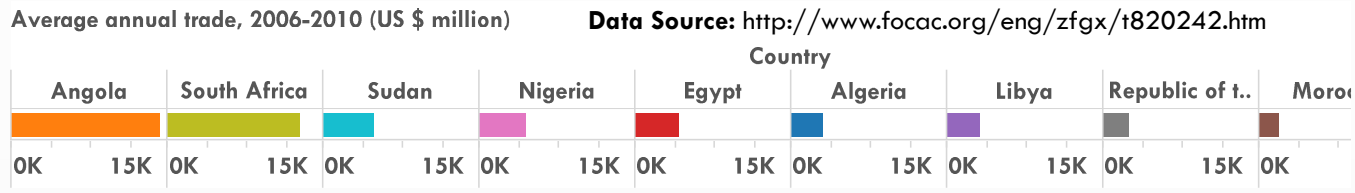


Chart Source: <http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2014/08/daily-chart-2>



Look at the chart on the left again. Apart from United States that comes second, China and India top the list of the biggest trade partners of Africa. Now check where these countries belong to when it comes to official assistance to the continent. China which is the highest in terms of trade with Africa is the seventh and contributes less than one-quarter of America's support to Africa. India did not make the list. You may also check the size of their FDI in Africa.

Now to our dear country. Nigeria is India's biggest trade partner and China's 4th largest trading partner among other African countries. It is true that the support for aid is waning for several reasons one of which is that the country protectionism of assistance-giving countries denies market access for poor (African) country products, while using aids as a lever to open poor country markets to their products. But is that the case with China and India?

The least we can ask for from these two countries which are benefitting immensely from our economies is to negotiate their substantial support to our educational sector; commitment to scientific and technological skill transfers, as well as some support in infrastructure development.

- Martin Oluba | PhD, DBA