

Sociological Analysis of the “Win-Win Relationship” Between China and Cameroon: Level of Accords Signed

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Abstract: Bilateral relations is common between nations. Cameroon and China share and enjoy this relationship in terms of *Win-Win*. This study underscores the level of the involvement of Cameroon and China, in signing accords in a *Win-Win* relationship and the exchange visits of the two heads of states. The objective of this study lays emphasis on outlining the various accords signed between Cameroon and China, and how these accords signed has brought in interaction between the officials of the two states. Furthermore, it also brings to the limelight the projects realized as a result of accords signed and the internal political mobility of the head of state of Cameroon. Methodology adopted used different techniques to collect and analyze data. This include data collected from the internet, mass media and library sources, survey design method and information from offices such as project lists. After collecting and carefully selecting the items, they were grouped into configurations and analyzed using statistical package for social science and Microsoft excel programs. Research findings are presented in tables and figures embracing bar charts, histograms and pie charts. Results from these findings revealed that Cameroon government officials are highly involved in the “win-win relationship through visiting and signing of different forms of accords and carrying out necessary negotiations with China before the execution projects. This furthermore empowers the internal political mobility of the heads of state from one project site to another.

Keywords: Bilateral, Accord, Relations, Win-Win

1. Introduction

Levels of accords signed between friendly countries is a testimony of the win-win relationship existing between them. At the international level, nations come into relationships through diplomatic ties solidified by the signing of agreements which in other words are commonly called accords. These accords are bilateral or multilateral depending on the type of relationship between the countries. When there are more than two (02) countries involved we talk of multilateral and, bilateral when the accords are signed between two (02) countries [1]. The Relationship between China and Cameroon as well as any other international relationships have as foundation, the signing of bilateral accords between the two (02) countries. These accords represent the legal decoded laws or framework that bind China and Cameroon together as friendly countries as illustrated in this write up.

2. Research Methodology

The methodology of this research work involves the structure of the spirit, the form of the research and the technic used to put in practice the spirit and the form [2]. The methodology adopted by this research meticulously answers questions on social oscillation motion through official visits between China and Cameroon under the win-win relationship.

2.1. Secondary Sources

Research was conducted in specialized institutional libraries such as the Faculty of Arts library in the University of Yaoundé 1, Ministry of Housing and Urban development, Ministry of Public Works, National Institute of Statistics, and *la Bibliotheque de la Central de Lecture Publique*, IRIC library in the University of Yaoundé II, as well as the Statistic Centre at the Ministry of External Relations that we visited. Examples of documents studied in these libraries

include among others; accords, reports, research findings, publications, textbooks, journals, dissertations, and theses.

2.2. Data Collection

This involves the entire process of collecting field data in different forms, places and time. Secondary information was collected through official reports, interviews accords, reports, research findings, publications, textbooks, journals, dissertations, and theses. The data gathered from primary and secondary sources were both qualitative and quantitative.

3. Accords Signed Between China and Cameroon

Taken overall, the accords signed between China and Cameroon appear as the relation drives to institutionalize a greater degree of social, political and economic equality between the two (02) countries. In fact, we are out to search to discover the laws that govern the birth and the development of the “win-win relationship” between China and Cameroon. That is, in other words as quipped, Jean Z., (1980), p. 27, “...the task of a sociologist is to reveal the society behind the deformative screen of the representations that ideologies impose on humanity” [3]. We cannot talk of international relationship without mentioning the accords that are joining, confirming and solidifying the countries together. These accords express the interest of each country to another and conclude the level of satisfaction and agreement at the end of each encounter of representatives of the States in that relationship.

In the case of Cameroon and China as well as any other country in a relationship with another, the accords are the bedrock on which the activities of individuals of each other country are seen as legal. In our case, the activities of China in Cameroon at the level of infrastructure put in place by Chinese in Cameroon are seen and validated as legal, based on the accords signed by both countries in this sector. Law exists where a convention is backed, not simply by diffuse informal sanctions, but by an individual, or more usually a group, which has the legitimate capacity and duty to apply sanctions against transgressors [4]. So, the legitimacy of the activities of Chinese in Cameroon are backed by the conventions signed by the representatives of the two (02) nations in the “win-win relationship”. With the absence of these accords any activity initiated and carried out by Chinese or any other country in Cameroon are seen as illegal and can receive the required legal negative sanctions due the activity. The illegality or legality of work carried out by one country in another is depicted in the authenticity of the accords signed between the member countries involved in the carrying out of the said task.

The signing of accords portrays or carries with it the spirit of work relation between the two (02) friendly countries. Accords guide and in other words direct or give the framework in which the activities of a friendly country can be exercised or carried out in the other country. the prosperity of Europe is founded in history over centuries on

their aptitude at work and volunteerism to conquer and to transform the world on the basis of change depending prior on her state of the spirit [5]. The spirit, in other words, the ideology is the engine behind every action. That which is hidden is that which is verifiable. The images and structures people produced out of their existence form the superstructure for the society. Their material situation experienced, the production and usage capacity that govern them develops the infrastructure. Between the images and the reality, between the infrastructure and the superstructure, there is a link that is complementary and at the same time antinomies. That is to say, that a structure is constructed because an accord is signed and the accord is there to validate that a structure is to be constructed. In other words, we can conclude that “No accord, no structure”. This is to say that the signing of an accord initiates the beginning of the construction of a structure by one country in another, for there is no construction of any structure by any country without first of all an agreement effectuated through the signing of an accord for the construction work to be put in place, except those done illegally.

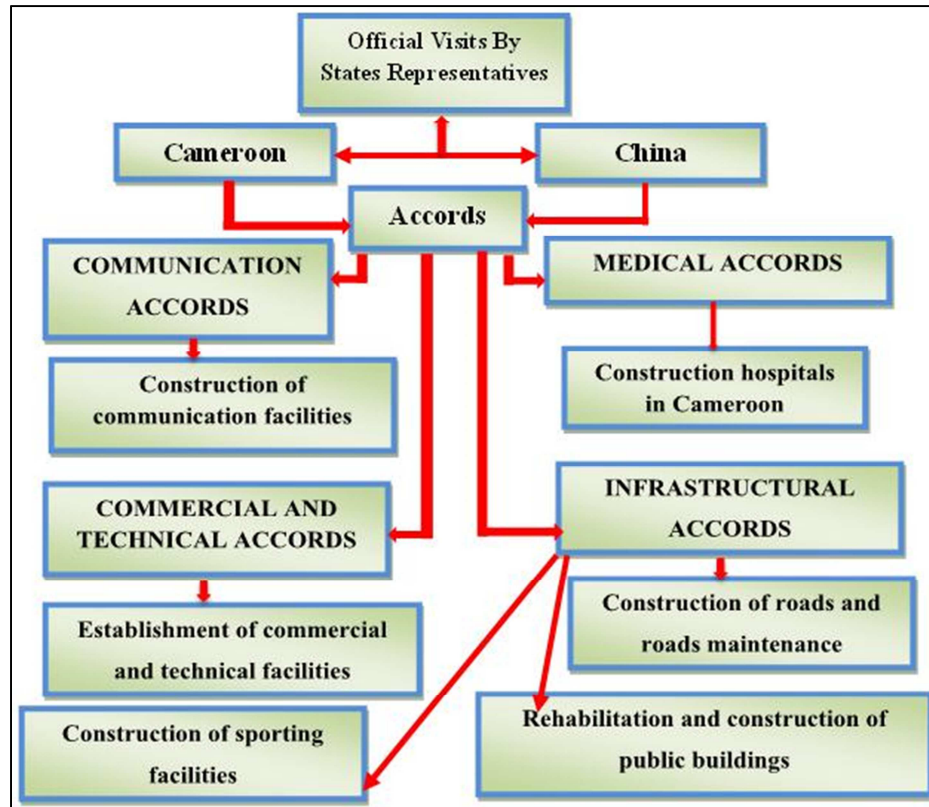
For the signing of the accord to take place, officials of the parties concerned are bound to meet each other for the negotiations that end in the signing of the agreement for the project to take place. For the officials to meet either of the parties, representatives are to travel to meet their partners for the negotiations to take place. The meeting can take place in any geographical territory of the two (02) countries to be involved in the signing of the accord or accords. This presents to us the interwoven nature of the movement of the officials from one country to another for the accords to be signed. At times a single journey does not conclude on the agreement and further visits are scheduled for the finalization and conclusions on a particular agreement, before an accord concludes negotiations for the project to be constructed or assistance given.

In the case of Cameroon and China, the representatives of both countries have been making official visits to the friendly countries and the accords are being signed. Figure 1 gives a vivid illustration of the flow of interaction through official visits of States representatives to both countries. These official visits from one country to another by these two states most of the times are concluded by the signing of accords for the construction of different socio-economic structures in different sectors of social activities in the geographical territory of Cameroon as shown in figure 1.

These social structures put in place resulting from the signing of accords range from communication, medical, infrastructural to commercial and technical structures. From figure 1, there is the flow of interaction from the signing of accords to the realisation of these infrastructures. The signing of accords depicts the starting point and the initiating point for the realisation of the infrastructure by Chinese contractors and companies in Cameroon. Accord here signifies mutual agreement, harmony, as well as formal agreement between countries. This implies a being or going together without or with limited conflict, absence of inconsistencies and

inequality. The construction of infrastructures has as foundation the signing of accords. There is always need for an agreement or accord before getting into the realisation of any project or infrastructure. Sociologists deal mostly with collective accords, which basically deal with the relations between the salary earners and employers based on the framework of collective negotiations [6]. In our case we

concentrate on the accords signed between China and Cameroon in which Cameroon is seen as the benefactor wooing China to come and construct in her territory on win-win basis with China being the donor. These accords defer from one form to another and range from commercial and technical accords to medical, infrastructural, communication, agricultural and financial accords.



Source: Author's Conception

Figure 1. The flow of interaction from the signing of accords to the realisation of infrastructure between china and Cameroon.

3.1. Commercial and Technical Accords

Table 1. Commercial and Technical Accords Signed Between Cameroon and China.

N°	Commercial and Technical Accords	Year of Signature
1	Agreement on economic and technical co-operation	1977
2	Agreement for the Reciprocal Protection and Promotion of Investments	1997
3	Agreement for Trade, Economic and Commercial Cooperation	2002
4	Agreement on a non-interest loan worth 100 million Yuan (about FCFA 6.386 billion) for the execution of economic and technical cooperation	2011
4	Agreement exempting nationals of both China and Cameroon who are holders of diplomatic or service passports from entry visa requirements	2016

Source: Adapted from Christopher J., (2018), Beuing Z., (1977), and Roland M., (2017),

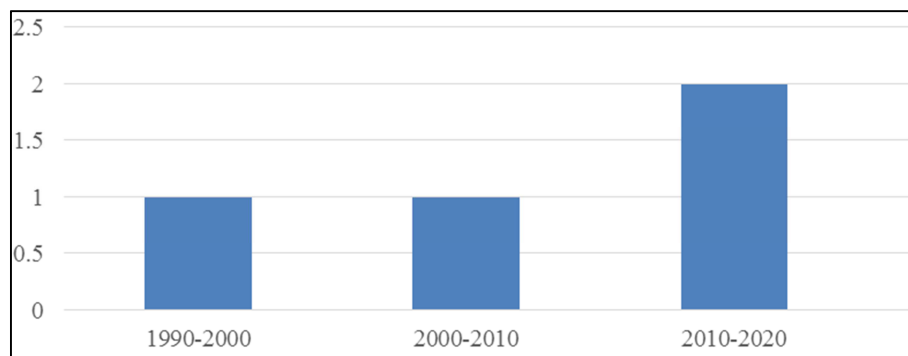
Social life is structured by people's access to goods and property and the life which goes with the possession of these goods and property. Perhaps recalling that in an ordinary way, that, the form of a society is determined by all the elements that act on her, access to these goods and property are guided by principles that limit conflict between individuals clamouring for them. To grant peaceful cohesion between China and Cameroon at the level of commercial and

technical domain, accords have been signed between these 02 friendly countries to limit or eradicate conflicts in these sectors. Basically from 1997 to present, Cameroon and China have signed over 05 agreements in the domain of economic and technical cooperation. These accords are signed as need arises and as the relationship between the 02 countries deepens and widens to different domains of their need for each other especially at the level of commercial and technical

domains. Table 1 gives us a vivid presentation of the commercial or economic as well as the technical accords and the years these agreements were signed between China and Cameroon.

With these accords in place, China and Cameroon have been involved in trade in many dimensions. For instance, from the signing of these accords, China occupies an important and significant position when it comes to Cameroon’s international trade relations in the world. A vivid example is seen when looking at the Sino-Cameroon trade relations; China occupies 17% of Cameroon’s trade with the rest of the world of over approximately 251 countries that are recognised by the world’s largest organisation – the United Nations.

The rate of signing commercial and technical accords between China and Cameroon stood at approximately 01 accord after each decade from 1977 to 2010. From 1972 when the relations between Cameroon and China were established, an accord relating to economic and technical co-operation was signed after a period of 05 years in 1977. To follow the signing of the ever first accord, the second after the 1977 came up in 1997 over a long period of over 20 years. The signing of accords of this nature did not continue this way as the years went by and their relations strengthened. For instance, looking at between 2010 to 2020, the number of accords doubled, moving from 1 accord over a decade to 02 as shown on figure 2.



Source: Drawn from Table 1

Figure 2. The rate of signing of accords on commercial and technical domain between China and Cameroon.

The increase in the number of accords show how each country is interested in maintaining strong ties with each other taking into consideration that Economic and technical domains are the back bone of international relations where each country looks at her own interest before that of others. Countries come together through bilateral or multilateral relationships mostly to increase or extend their economic and technical know-how to business partners, friendly and peaceful partners. The increase or an extension is done depending on the economic and technical know-how of the partner in question.

On the one hand, economical and technical advanced countries like China, go in for some of these economic relations with less developed or developing countries in the area of economic and technical domains to look for markets. Some of these relations China is reinforcing is geared towards protecting their sources of raw materials. Also their aim of maintaining these relations is to project their economic and technical strength to the rest of the world as well as just for prestigious reasons [7]. On the other hand, the least developed or developing countries in the area of economic and technical domain like Cameroon mostly go in for the economic and technical relationships as a means of developing their own economy and technical capacity. So, these poor or economic developing countries in this area of economic and technical domain see these engagements with the economically and technically viable countries as an opportunity or help from the rich counterparts.

It is worthy mentioning here that globally, China has severely impacted the economic and technical processes in Cameroon. For instance, in 2011 an agreement on a non-interest loan worth 100 million Yuan (about FCFA 6.386 billion) for the execution of economic and technical cooperation was signed between China and Cameroon [8]. This huge sum of money with free interest rate, might have gone a long way to boost the economic and technical activities in Cameroon that have suffered financial scarcity for many years since the economic crisis that hit the country in the 1990s.

Taking into consideration that, increasingly, our society is rocked by various challenges which include economic recession like in the 1990s, advancing technologies, changing family relationships, violence in communities, exclusion, intolerance and identity crisis, China and Cameroon had to strengthen their relationship by agreeing to protect each other. The strengthening of this relationship was done by signing an Agreement for the Reciprocal Protection and Promotion of Investments signed in 1997. This is to guarantee the assurance that the risk to be taken by investors in Cameroon especially from China are backed by a document of this nature, where each nation in this relationship has a rule to play in securing the investments and the interest of each member States. Here denotes the application of the non-intervention with conditional intervention in this case intervention is permitted and legalised [9]. Cognisant of the fact that, the social framework of economic and technical

know-how is never what come in contact but that individuals do, and that, it is individuals that carry the economic and technical values and not the values themselves, in 2016 there was the signing of an agreement exempting nationals of both China and Cameroon who are holders of diplomatic or service passports from entry visa requirements. This agreement exempting nationals of the 02 countries who are holders of diplomatic or service passports from entry visa requirements acts as a strong support and the empowerment of the Agreement for Economic and Commercial Cooperation signed in 2002. This permits the nationals with diplomatic or service passports to carry out economic and technical know-how activities in each country at ease without many government bottle-necks that at times hamper the fast execution of such activities. More so, most of these agreements define the modalities of Chinese concessional lending to Cameroon. In most cases most of these lending modalities defined in these accords moderates the interest rates and the duration for the payment of the loans. The Chinese lending to Cameroon to diverse domains, especially the economic, technical as well as the medical and infrastructural development of Cameroon.

3.2. Medical Accords

The medical domain is one of the areas in which China and Cameroon are highly interested in, in their relationship.

This is shown especially in the number of years the 02 countries have had fruitful relations in this sector. This is the revelation and concrete manifestation of the usage of the Chinese foreign policy of “soft power” in the medical domain. The manifestation is shown, for instance, as on June 8th 2015, Cameroon and China commemorated 40 years of fruitful cooperation in public health. In these 40 years, China has successfully constructed 04 hospitals in Cameroon with the first constructed in Mbalmayo then, Douala, Guider, and Yaounde Gynaeco-Obstetric and Paediatric Hospitals. With the construction of these hospitals since 1975, according to Manyane I., (2015), asserted “close to 586 medical personnel amounting to 17 medical missions from China have been to Cameroon [10]. In accordance to the application of the policy of “soft power”, this influx of the Chinese medics is encouraged by a structural arrangement by the Chinese government in the health sector that have given rise to the immigration of numerous Chinese doctors on a temporary basis. For instance, on the 9th of June 1975, a protocol was signed to cover the despatch of medical teams by China to Cameroon. This document stipulates that every Chinese team has a 02 years’ mandate in Cameroon after which the other goes and a new team comes. In addition to this protocol signed between these two friendly countries, 03 other agreements to make a total of 04 medical accords have been signed by China and Cameroon as presented in table 2.

Table 2. Medical Accords Signed Between Cameroon and China.

No	Name of Accord	Year of Signing
1	‘Protocole d’accord entre la République Unie du Cameroun et la République Populaire de Chine relatif à l’envoi par la Chine d’une équipe médicale au Cameroun’	1975
2	The credit agreement for the construction and equipment of a paediatric hospital in Yaounde	1993
3	An agreement on a joint project on training, research, and assessment of Cameroonian and Chinese medical plants and traditional medicines.	2003
4	An accord on the technical assistance by China to enable Cameroon improve services at the Gynaecological Hospital in Yaounde as well as the hospitals in Buea and Mbalmayo	2018

Source: Adapted from Hilaire D. P. P., (2011), and Sino-Cameroon Ties: Key Agreements Signed in Beijing, <https://www.Cameroon-tribune.cm> Visited 04/08/2020

In August 31st 2018, an accord on the technical assistance by China to enable Cameroon improves services at the Gynaecological Hospital in Yaounde as well as the hospitals in Buea and Mbalmayo was signed.¹ The Minister of External Relations, Lejeune Mbella Mbella and Alamine Ousmane Mey of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development signed for Cameroon. The signing of this accord in 2018, is followed by Chinese government offering a consignment of goods of basic necessities, medical and technical equipment worth 1,600,000FCFA to the government of Cameroon in January 2020.

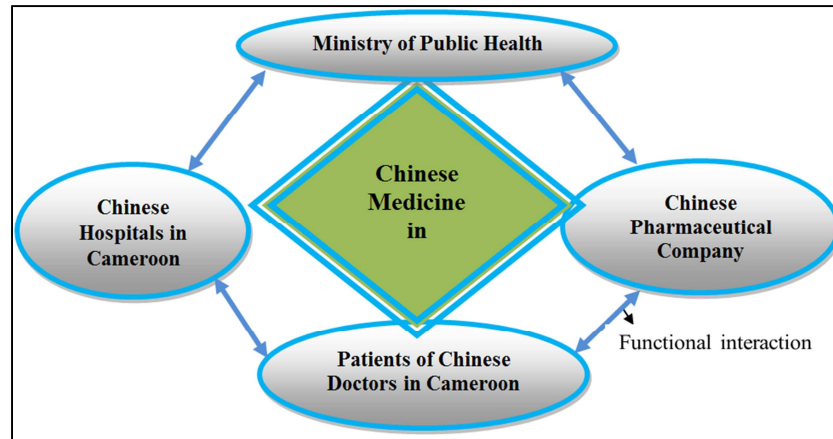
These medical accords in general, have facilitated and enabled the Chinese government participate in the distribution of medicine in Cameroon. On the one hand, this takes place through the dispensaries of the hospitals in Yaounde, Mbalmayo, and Guider, which sell TCM products to the

patients of Chinese doctors in accordance with the 1975 agreement and on the other hand, through the Chinese Pharmaceutical Cameroon company. The penetration of the TCM is not single handedly carried out by the Chinese government alone in Cameroon. With the agreement of the Ministry of Public Health in Cameroon, the Chinese Pharmaceutical Cameroon company has penetrated the Cameroonian public health sector. This penetration has to do with relations at both administrative level and at the individual level where the patients meet the Chinese doctors for medical attention. This Chinese Pharmaceutical Cameroon company penetration has created an atmosphere of inter dependence of the Cameroonians on Chinese doctors and the doctors’ services to the patients. The Chinese doctors present in Cameroon play a dual rule, first by acting as a source of humanitarian services and as well as a means of creation of jobs to the Chinese medics. So, the coming of the Chinese medicine especially the TCM play a big role in the area of creating employment to Chinese in Cameroon particularly the Chinese medical

1 Sino-Cameroon Ties: Key Agreements Signed in Beijing, <https://www.Cameroon-tribune.cm>, Visited 04/ 08/ 2020

practitioners. Secondly, the presence of the Chinese doctors in Cameroon acts also as an avenue for the Chinese medicines to show their expertise and to promote Chinese traditional medicine to this part of the world, thereby boosting the ambitions of China to become the world's power in the near future even in the domain of medicine. The distribution of the medicine and penetration of the Chinese pharmaceutical

Cameroon Company bring about profound interaction between Chinese and Cameroonians. This chain of interaction in the medical domain in the “win-win relationship” brings into motion the involvement of both the administrators of the 02 countries, the Chinese medical practitioners, Chinese Pharmaceutical Company as well as the Patients of Chinese Doctors in Cameroon as shown in figure 3.



Source: Author's Conception

Figure 3. Functional Interaction between Cameroon and China in the Medical Sector.

There is a creation of a high social atmosphere between Chinese and Cameroonians patients in the area of Chinese medicine practised in Cameroon. As a result of the “win-win relationship”, Chinese doctors have gained a social environment especially in their intervention at the procreation sector in Cameroon. At the procreation domain, the Chinese are actively present from prenatal attention to delivery and postnatal services especially with infants having health challenges of diverse fronts. Many women who were pregnant and went to Chinese hospitals, have always testified of cordial relationship and assistance from prenatal to delivery as well as to postnatal activities even with complicated situations.

In the Chinese hospitals operating in Cameroon, about 04 services like in the case of the Gynaeco-Obstetrics and Paediatric Hospital of Ngossou-Yaounde are at the disposal of the patients. We have the emergencies, resuscitation, clinical laboratory and radiology services. Figure 3 shows the functional interaction as a result of the Chinese medicine in Cameroon. At the look of the figure, China represented by both Chinese doctors and Chinese medicine, have links with the representatives of the State of Cameroon – at this level the Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon. With the Ministry of Public Health that incarnates the State of Cameroon in the medical domain, the Chinese work hand in hand with them to establish Chinese hospitals. The functioning of the Chinese pharmaceutical company assists the patients of the Chinese doctors in Cameroon who are the beneficiaries. For these activities to take place, medical structures like hospitals are put in place. Not only medical structures are put in place but many other structures in many different domains and that, leads us to see the infrastructural accords signed between China and Cameroon over the years

for the realisation of these structures.

3.3. Infrastructural Accords

At the level of infrastructure today, Cameroon's relationship with China is presented in Yaounde as ‘strategic’. This relationship is strategic due to the fact that Chinese companies are involved in over 70% of Cameroon's official ‘structuring projects’, which are the key development and particularly infrastructure projects launched since the end of the year 2000 [11]. These infrastructures are a result of accords signed between China and Cameroon over the years. Some of these work executing contracts are presented on the table for financial accords as most of the agreements have to do with financing of the construction of these structures. Among the projects are the Memve' ele Dam in the South Region, the Lom Pangar Dam in the East Region found north of Bertoua the chief town of the Region, the Mekin Hydroelectric power plant, the Douala's two-phase water project (2014), the Yaounde-Douala Highway (2017), and the Kribi deep –water port (2014) [12], just to name a few from a very long list. Looking at the presentation of the projects previously mentioned in this write up, one can be tempted to say, China is only interested in building dams in Cameroon. That is not true. In addition to building of dams, China is also highly involved in the construction and reconstruction of roads in Cameroon. For instance, 90% of the road construction works or reconstruction projects in Cameroon have been and are being won and carried out by Chinese construction companies. This involvement of Chinese in road construction in Cameroon has motivated the signing of so many other accords amongst which is the memorandum of understanding between the 02 States. A

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the joint construction of Africa-China's "Belt and Road Initiative" was signed between China and Cameroon in August 31st 2018 by The Minister of External Relations, Lejeune Mbella Mbella and Alamine Ousmane Mey of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development signed for Cameroon while their counterparts did same in the presence of both President Paul Biya and Xi Jinping [13]. This accord just like many others, went a long way to pave the way for China to come in more powerfully to help Cameroon in whatever way possible (be it financially or technically) to construct the Edea-Kribi Motorway, the completion of the Douala- Yaounde and Yaounde- Nsimalen Motorways.

The putting in place of these structures by Chinese in Cameroon as a result of the "win-win relationship" is in line with the political desires of the State under the leadership of President of the Republic of Cameroon as mentioned in his speech at Douala on the 6th of October 2011. President Paul Biya at Douala October 6th 2011 quipped [14]; "From the state of 'great Ambitions', we are going to that of 'Great Realisations'." He went further to say that, we need giant projects to make

Douala a modern metropolitan economic city through their capacity to facilitate exchange in our regions and between the countries of our sub-region. According to the President, with these giant projects, Douala will become the point of reference in the Gulf of Guinee. Apart from making Douala a modern metropolitan, the policy of 'Great Realisations' has a great impact in the political domain, especially the mobility of the president in and out of the country.

These projects also have a big role to play in the political manifestation especially at the level of the presidency, where the President has to move from one project site to the other to either lay the foundation stone or inaugurate the structure when construction is over. Apart from moving within the country from one project site to another, the initiation and realisation of the projects also influences the president's relations with the rest of the world especially with friendly nations like China highly involved in the construction works in Cameroon. Table 3 shows us the projects that have promoted the outing of the President of the Republic of Cameroon to either lay the foundation stone or for inauguration of the structures after completion.

Table 3. The Outing of the President to Lay the Foundation Stone or for Inauguration of the Structure after Completion.

No	Purpose of president's outing	Place of outing	Date of outing
1	Laying of the foundation stone of the Deep Kribi sea port	Kribi	08 th October 2011
2	Laying of the foundation stone of the Memve'ele hydroelectric dam	Nyabizan	15 th June 2012
3	Laying of the foundation stone of the Lom Pangar hydroelectric dam	Lom Pangar	03 rd August 2012
4	Laying of the foundation stone of the second bridge over the River Wouri	Douala	14 th November 2013
5	Inauguration of the Gyneco-Obstetrics and Pediatric hospital of Yaounde	Yaounde	28 th March 2002
6	Inauguration of the natural gas treatment unit of Ndogpassi	Douala Ndogpassi	15 th November 2013
7	Reception of the ex-hostage of Cameroonians and Chinese by boko haram from the Far North	Yaounde	13 th October 2014
8	Yaounde Multipurpose Sport Complex inauguration	Yaounde	19 th June 2009

Source: Compiled and Adapted From Clebert A. N. N., (2018), PhD Thesis, Le discours de Paul Biya a l'ère du multipartisme au Cameroun: mises en scène argumentatives et relation au pouvoir.

These outings of the head of State for the laying of foundation stones and the inauguration of the completed projects go along side with the advantage to address the public on the intentions and the agenda of the government towards the realisation of these projects. As one of the ideologies of the head of State, according to the President of Cameroon at the laying of the foundation stone of the Kribi Deep Sea Port² quipped [15],

Kribi will be the centre of connection between Cameroon and the brother countries of the north like the Republic of Chad... with the pipe-line Chad-Cameroon terminal at Kribi... Kribi will be the big water port of that part of the littoral and is from Kribi that we will be exporting our minerals-iron, cobalt, aluminium, and many others as well as the agricultural products of the rich country... Kribi will also act as a terminal of the railway to facilitate the transportation of the raw and or transformed goods in and out of Cameroon... This will go a long way to create employment to the young, vibrant and dynamic Cameroonian youths and the reduction of unemployment

and poverty.

From the laying of the foundation stone of the Kribi Deep Sea Port, in 2012 the President went to Nyabizan, where he laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Memve'ele hydroelectric dam. In this village, the President told the people of Cameroon of the necessity and the plans of the government to construct many more dams to provide and add the production of electric energy, that is of great importance to the development of Cameroon in general and the industrial development in particular. In line with industrial development, according to the President of the Republic of Cameroon, without energy in effect, there is no way for a veritable development to take place as Clebert A. N. N., (2018), p. 335, quipped [16],

Without energy, it will not be possible to have industries, there will be no transformation of our agricultural or primary products to finished products. In brief, without energy, we cannot have modern economy. The energy deficit has largely penalised the Cameroon's industrial sector, as well as the tertiary sector that highly depends on the provision of electricity. The starting of the building of the Memve'ele hydroelectric dam that was initiated with the laying of the foundation stone by the President was just the beginning of

2 Discours de S.E.M. Paul BIYA, Président de la République du Cameroun a l'occasion de la cérémonie de pose de la première pierre du Port en Eau Profonde de Kribi, 08 Octobre 2011, www.minpostel.gov.cm, Visited 09/08/2020

the construction of many other dams in Cameroon.

During this occasion, the President promised the construction of other dams like that of Lom Pangar that he laid the foundation stone on the 03rd August 2012, Mekin, Warak and Menchum as well as that of Nachtigal were in the pipeline. The putting in place of these dams is a dream come true of the progressive start of the politics of ‘Great realisation’ of President Paul Biya with the ambitions of Cameroon becoming an emerging country by 2035.

From Nyabizan where the President laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Memve’ele hydroelectric dam, in 2012 August 03rd, and in 2013 November 14th he preceded to the laying of the foundation stones of the Lom Pangar hydroelectric dam and the second bridge over the River Wouri respectively. To the Head of State, H. E. President Paul BIYA, these giant projects open a new era of the energy production in Cameroon [17]. These strategically economic gigantic projects will bring about the era of moderate cost, abundant, stable, competitive, renewable and less polluting energy in the country – Cameroon.

The coming of the Lom Pangar project will bring along the electrification of the East Region, creation of employment in this Region, development of proximity commerce and the disenclavement of the people of Kepere-Deng Deng, and payment of indemnities to those to be compensated. Still presenting the speech of the Head of State of Cameroon, asserted, *“today we are with the energy sector, tomorrow we will be in the mineral sector to be followed by agriculture and others will follow suit [18].* These projects are not single handily carried out by the Cameroonians or Cameroon government alone. The Cameroon government is working with partners and one of the great partners highly involved in the realisation of the giant projects is China whose imprints in this sector cannot be neglected.

The realisation of these economically giant projects is

thanks to the fruitful excellent relationship and that Cameroon has maintained with the People’s Republic of China. Like China, many other international organisations to which Cameroon is a member are doing a great deal to see this happen. Some of these organisations among others who assist in funding among others include; the World Bank, L’Agence Française de Développement, African Bank of Development, La Banque de Développement des Etats de L’Afrique Central and the European Bank just to name a few. With the laying of foundation stones of projects mostly constructed by Chinese in Cameroon that led to the outing and presentation of official speeches and many more promises by the President to the people of Cameroon about the development plan of the government we are also interested to see how China is involved in the communication sector in Cameroon. This is to be seen through the communication accords signed between Cameroon and China.

3.4. Communication Accords

Among the accords signed by China and Cameroon, there are accords in the domain of communication. These accords have fuelled the construction of communication facilities through easing the means of financing by China for these projects to be realised. For instance, in 2011, a 433,000,000 Yuan (about FCFA 27.651 billion) preferential loan for the e-post project in Cameroon was signed between Cameroon and China. This preferential loan agreement is an indication to show that China is also highly concerned about the communication domain in Cameroon. However, in the area of general communication, China has invested much and is still doing so. For instance, in the area of Post and Telecommunication, China has pumped in around 31,000,000,000 CFA Francs. The structure of initial investments per category, which corresponds to the 31 billion CFA Francs debt contracted from the Chinese bank, is as follow:

Table 4. The Structure of Initial Investments Per Category.

N°	Category	Amount (FCFA)	Weight (%)
1	Building and civil engineering	2266695498	7.28
2	Platforms and servers	6012076998	19.32
3	Software	3543686347	11.39
4	Fibre-optics Network and VSAT	10376933206	33.34
5	Other expenses	3659135566	11.76
6	Power equipment	2243675571	7.21
7	Rolling stock	397246396	1.28
8	Hardwares	1331408301	4.28
9	Telecommunications equipment	724019343	2.33
10	Air conditioning systems	468804399	1.51
11	Training	99597140	0.32

Source: e-Post A Highly Secured Ultramodern Postal Network

The funding of the e-post by the Chinese is meant for the putting in place several sectors of communication network structures of different categories for the whole project to be realised. These categories make up the various components of the e-post project construction. All the categories with their components as presented have and are playing an important rule in the involvement of both the Chinese and the

Cameroonians alike in the area of Post and Telecommunication in Cameroon with training of Cameroonians very vital in this area of activities.

Training as well as the construction works is very important in the relationship between China and Cameroon. Training permits the transfer of know-how which helps the Cameroonians to acquire the know-how of the Chinese to

help in the development of Cameroon. *training consists of giving or learning of know-how throughout one's life. This supposes that knowledge and know-how are never acquired at one time [19].* If this training negotiated could be extended to other sectors of the implications of the Chinese in construction of infrastructure in Cameroon, the agenda to reach emergence by 2035 will be a reality without doubts. Far from only being involved in the post and telecommunication projects in Cameroon, China is also very vibrant and determined in the agricultural sector.

3.5. Agricultural Accords

To boost the agricultural sector in Cameroon, and for her to experience a second generation agriculture, China has also come in to assist. For this assistance to take place, China signed one prominent accord with Cameroon in 2008. This accord is the Memorandum of Understanding on the Construction of a Pilot Centre Dedicated to Agricultural Techniques signed in 2008. Before the signing of this memorandum in 2008, China had signed an agreement on the possibility of using 10,000 hectares of lands they bought in 2006. According to GRAIN, (2010), The payment of this land was facilitated by financial investment agreement worth USD 120 million signed between IKO (the Chinese company behind the project which is the State-owned conglomerate Shaanxi Land Reclamation General Corporation also known as Shaanxi State Farm) with the government of Cameroon. Sino Cam IKO is specialised in the production, the transformation and the trade of agricultural products. These 10,000 hectares of land are found in the 02 of the 10 regions of Cameroon which are the Centre and the West Regions. In the Centre Region we have 02 pieces of land, one made up of 2,000 hectares at Nanga-Eboko and the other 4000 hectares in Njore. In the West Region, the company has 4000 hectares of land in Santchou. According to Business in Cameroon, (2015) [20], the acquisition of these over 10,000 hectares of land by Chinese has made Cameroon to be among the top 10 African States to award the greatest land portion to China for its agricultural investments.

These pieces of land are used for pilot studies for the cultivation of rice and maize farming. The buying and securing of land by Chinese for agriculture in Cameroon

reinforces cooperation between the 02 countries especially in the domain of agriculture. Agricultural sector is a solid base for every economy and plays a very important role in development and social stability. Agricultural sector like many other sectors Chinese are involved in, in Cameroon, have a wide range of cooperation activities that set the implications and stakes in motion. These activities range from mechanisation of agriculture, capital investment, employment, technological as well as financial involvement just to name a few, that affect the functioning of a given community where the agricultural activities are taking place.

Chinese have constructed a training centre at the Nanga-Eboko station which is one of the 15 agricultural technological demonstration centres that the government of China committed to build in Africa at the Beijing Summit of Sino-African Cooperation in 2006. Apart from agricultural, to have more on finances relating to China-Cameroon relationship, we shall be examining financial accords signed between China and Cameroon in the following paragraphs.

3.6. Financial Accords

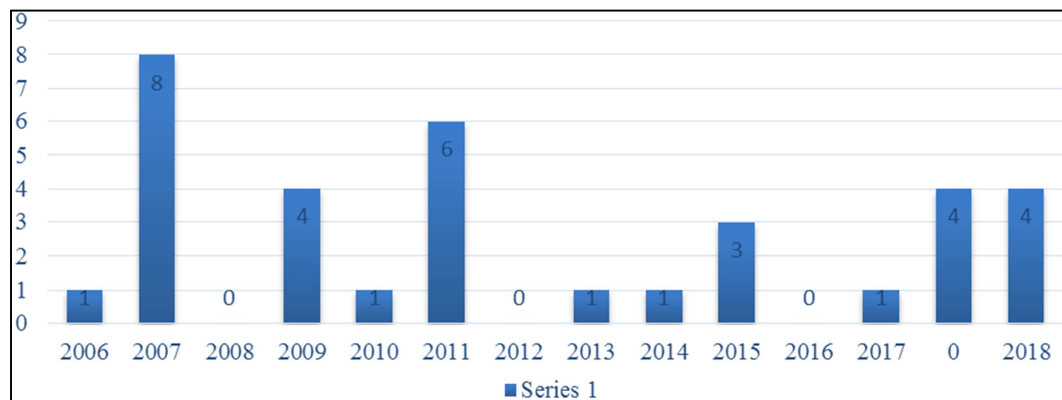
With the “win-win relationship” between China and Cameroon, there have been serious flow of money especially from China to Cameroon. Money plays an extremely important part in relation because it makes possible the estimations of the values exchanged in quantitative and fixed, rather than in subjective, terms [21]. Money plays three basic functions in every society. First of all, money is used as a unit of account. It is a standard numerical unit of measurement of market value of goods, services and other transactions. Secondly, money has the function of store of value. Finally, money acts as a medium of exchange. Here, money is used to intermediate the exchange of goods and services. This value exchange which is money is highly valorised as the relation has a heavy impact at the economic level and economic relationships free themselves from the particular ties and obligations of local community structure, and become fluidly determined by the material chances which individuals have of using property, goods or services which they possess for exchange on the competitive market. Table 5 shows the financial transactions between China and Cameroon as they forge ahead with the “win-win relationship”.

Table 5. Financial Transactions between China and Cameroon.

No	Financial agreements	Amount in yuan	Amount in FCFA	Year of agreement
1	Financial investment agreement signed between IKO and Cameroon	906 million	78000 billion	2006
2	A grant under an economic and technical cooperation	29,7 million	2,560 billion	2007
3	An interest-free loan in the framework of economic and technical cooperation	22,3 million	1,920 billion	2007
4	A preferential loan	260 million	22,4 billion	2007
5	Economic and technical agreement intended to finance phase one of the potable water in Cameroon	987 million	85 billion	2007
6	Financial donation Construction of a public school in Mvomeka'a	5,5 million	480 million	2007
7	Provision of expertise on studies for the construction of the Gynaeco-Obstetrics and Paediatric Hospital of Douala	520 thousand	44,8 million	2007
8	Donation of equipment to the Gynaeco-Obstetrics and Paediatric Hospital of Yaounde	743 thousand	64 million	2007
9	Preferential loan for the financing of CDMA-HUAWEI-CAMTEL Project	262,5 million	22,6 billion	2007
10	Loan agreement relating to the construction of the Mekin hydroelectric dam with Eximbank to do the financing	337 million	22 billion	2009

No	Financial agreements	Amount in yuan	Amount in FCFA	Year of agreement
11	ZTE Cameroon Sarl project financed by China Eximbank	355,5 million	30,6 billion	2009
12	Financing for the Construction of the Yaounde Multipurpose Sport Complex	197,5 million	17 billion	2009
13	Donation of equipment worth...	813 thousand	70 million	2009
14	Preferential loan for the rehabilitation of MATGENIE	81 million	7 billion	2010
15	Preferential loan agreement for the e-post	433 million	27,651 billion	2011
16	Interest-free loan for the execution of the execution of economic and technical cooperation	100 million	6,386 billion	2011
17	Unrequited donation	50 million	3,193 billion	2011
18	Loan agreement for the first phase construction of Kribi deep-sea port	2,4 billion	207 billion	2011
19	Loan for the construction of 1,500 social housing units	389 million	33,5 billion	2011
20	Loan agreement relating to the construction of the Memve'ele dam	2,8 billion	243 billion	2011
21	Construction of the Nanga-Eboko (CATAC)	313 million	27 billion	2013
22	Loan agreement for Co-financing of the potable water supply project in the city of Yaounde by China Eximbank and Sinomach	3,9 billion	339 billion	2014
23	Loan agreement from China Eximbank for the construction of the Kribi-Lobabe highway	2,2 billion	192,91 billion	2014
24	Unrequited donation	11,6 million	1 billion	2015
25	Establishment of a computer network for Higher Education	1 billion	93,5 billion	2015
26	Afriland First Bank and China Development Bank	304 million	26,2 billion	2015
27	Unrequited donation for renovation of the Conference Centre	127 million	11 billion	
28	Economic and technical agreement intended to finance phase two of the potable water in Cameroon	594 million	49,4 billion	2017
29	Donation for the development of 145 human-powered potable water boreholes	23,2 million	2 billion	-
30	Preferential loan for the construction of the Bafoussam Omnisports Stadium	190 million	9,1 billion	-
31	Loan agreement relating to the second phase construction of Kribi deep-sea port with Eximbank to do the financing	4,5 billion	390 billion	-
32	Preferential loan from China Eximbank for the first phase construction of Yaounde-Douala Highway	3,6 billion	316 billion	-
34	A memorandum of Understanding of cancelling Cameroon's debt to China as of December 2005	178 million	15,36 billion	2017
35	Contribution for the emergency humanitarian assistance	20 million	-	2018
36	Concessional loan agreement for second phase of project to supply drinking water in cameroon	580 million	50 billion	2018
37	Memorandum of understanding on the development of human resource and infrastructure	3,8 billion	334 billion	2018
38	Pledge to donate for human resource and infrastructure development over the three coming years	975 million	84 billion	2018

Source: field work



Source: Information Obtained from Table 5

Figure 4. Financial Dealings between China and Cameroon Per Year from 2007-2018.

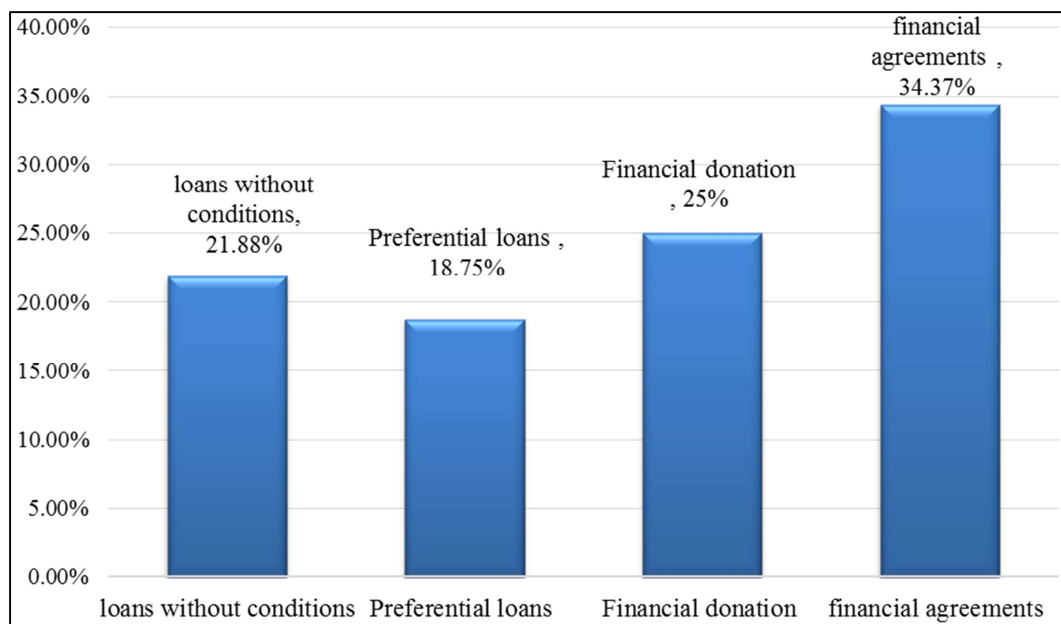
Funds from China to Cameroon are given under different conditions. Some of the funds are free will donations for the construction of diverse infrastructure. The finances come as Chinese support the endeavours of Cameroon to develop to an emerging economy by 2035. Apart from free will financial donations from China, Cameroon also receives Preferential loans for the construction of various structures especially those carried out by Chinese. These financial transactions, we are talking about are those between the year 2007 to 2018. The number of financial agreements and their corresponding years are presented on figure 4.

Most of these loans are granted by the Chinese Exim bank and the Chinese development bank under the instruction of the Chinese government after agreements have been reached between China and Cameroon. Some of the loans are Interest-free and some are termed preferential because they believe the interest to be paid is not much and also at times the duration for the payment of the loan will be over a certain number of years (what economists called long term loans).

From figure 4 presenting the financial dealings between China and Cameroon from 2006 to 2018, the number of financial accords fluctuates over the years with the highest

number of financial agreements recorded in 2007 [21]. In this 2007, there was a higher dimension of the “win-win relationship” between China and Cameroon witnessed with the ever first visit of the then number one citizen of China Hu Jintao to Cameroon. During his visit, there were many accords signed and among these accords were the 08 financial accords on table 5. After this highest number of accords signed in 2007, the second majority of financial accords signed per year between China and Cameroon were 06 in 2011 when President Paul Biya paid a State visit to China [22]. In 2009 and 2018, 04 financial accords were signed each year respectively. We also found 04 financial

accords signed between China and Cameroon without the years indicated. In 2015, China signed 03 financial accords with Cameroon and the least number of accords signed between these 02 countries was one accord per year signed in 2006, 2010, 2013, 2014 and 2017. From 2006 to 2018, for a period of 12 years, China has not signed any financial accord only in 2008, 2012 and 2016. In total, from 2006 to 2018, China and Cameroon have signed a total number of over 38 financial accords. These accords and financial assistance from China to Cameroon are done with different conditions. The conditions for financial dealings between China and Cameroon are illustrated on figure 5.



Source: Information Obtained from table 5

Figure 5. The Types of Financial Dealings between China and Cameroon.

From figure 5 we can observe that about 21.88% of financial transactions between China and Cameroon are loan agreements without conditions whether they are interest free or preferential loans. Preferential loans from China to Cameroon occupy close to 18.75% of the total percentage of financial offers from China. Financial donations or supports from China to Cameroon are over 25% of the total financial transactions between China and Cameroon. Some of these financial donations at times are material donations valued in financial terms. Around 34.37% of the financial agreements do not specify whether the financing are donations, interest-free loans, loans without conditions or material asserts assess in financial values [23]. These amounts just appear as financial agreements between China and Cameroon for this or that activity or project. From every indication, huge amounts of funds from China to Cameroon fall under loans granted to the beneficiary with different conditions depending on the agreement between the parties concerned.

Whether be those loans or financial donations to Cameroon from China, the greater part of the funds is directed towards the construction of infrastructures. From

table 5, about 65.6% of financial transactions between China and Cameroon are for construction purposes. These projects range from the construction of transportation structures like roads and sea ports, sporting facilities like stadium and sport complex, communication facilities as well as agricultural centres, to potable water facilities and health structures like hospitals all over Cameroon. Other financial dealings are classified under economic and technical agreements as well as loans just granted to the Cameroon government to facilitate and improve her financial funding of State activities.

4. Conclusion

China and Cameroon are not only interested in relating in terms of financial transaction this will have it that as a result of anonymity in the metropolis, the city dweller can only establish a relationship with currency-money and exchange becomes a medium within which the city dweller invests their trust. This psychic mood is the correct subjective reflection of a complete money economy to the extent that money takes the place of all the manifoldness of things and

expresses all qualitative distinctions between them in the distinction of how much. Apart from financial accords, China and Cameroon have signed so many accords. The signing of these accords as presented previously is carried out during official visits of officials from both countries in different occasions.

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