

# WITS AFRICA-CHINA FORUM

## TAKING THE LEAD IN AFRICA-CHINA REPORTING: THE UGANDAN EXPERIENCE



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# EARLY DAYS

- While studying at Wits in 2012, I picked interest in the Africa-China story.
- I was the first recipient of the Wits China Africa Reporting grant.
- I used it to report on plans to start teaching Mandarin in secondary schools in Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda.
- Success of that project spurred me on to cover more aspects of the Africa-China story.

# MEETING OF MINDS

- Around 2012, HAI Agency, was also starting to produce the China-Uganda magazine.
- I wrote and edited stories for the maiden edition of the magazine.
- Eventually, we formalised the relationship and I became editor of the magazine.
- Since then, I have managed the production of editorial content for the magazine.

# MAGAZINE MODEL

- Magazine modeled to be self-sustaining through advertising.
- Copies of magazine are distributed at no cost to those interested in China-Uganda story.
- Wits China-Africa Reporting project has supported magazine by offering funding for developing particular stories.
- In 2012, Chinese embassy offered to fund part of the printing costs.

# GOING FORWARD

- The Africa-China story will only get bigger in the years to come so we are re-positioning ourselves to be able inform the Uganda public a lot more than we are doing.
- Interest in the magazine has grown so we plan to start producing it quarterly (4 times a year)
- We also plan to start a website from next year, funds permitting.

# CONCLUSION

- One area where I see a vacuum is the lack of African correspondents based in China to tell the African stories.
- Lack of African reporters in China mean we get stories skewed towards western perspectives on even Africa-specific issues.
- I will challenge Wits Africa-China Project to develop fellowship programme to support African journalists in China for a year.
- The Reporter can generate material for publications across Africa, from Nigeria to Kenya to South Africa to even the China-Uganda magazine.