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**Chinese national oil companies and the economic development of African oil producers**

This research project is led by Professor Giles Mohan (see http://dpp.open.ac.uk/people/giles-mohan) from the Development Policy and Practice Department of the Open University and is funded by the UK government’s Department for International Development and Economic and Social Research Council (Reference: ES/M004066/1).

Some African economies are experiencing rapid growth rates based on the export of commodities, like oil, to China and other emerging economies. Driving this engagement are Chinese national oil companies (NOCs). While we hypothesise that the Chinese do things ‘differently’ to other oil investors in Africa we do not know whether the different corporate strategies of the leading Chinese NOCs and the specificities of African political economies they engage with generates unique forms of development, and if so in whose interests? This project will be the first to assess whether and how such developmental benefits may be occurring. We will start by investigating the Chinese NOCs and their relationships to key state and semi-private agencies in China, before undertaking field research in Africa. Chinese NOCs are active across Africa but three countries - Ghana, Nigeria and Sudan - represent different aspects of their engagement with the continent. We will also assess their impacts and the extent to which the growth they generate – directly, through oil-backed infrastructure, and via state revenue - trickles down to Africa’s poorest.

Before agreeing to take part in the research we will:

1. fully explain the research and answer all your questions about it

Once agreed we will:

1. ideally tape and transcribe the interview
2. send you a printed copy of the interview for comment and amendment
3. ensure your anonymity if you so wished
4. ensure the security of the data under the Data Protection Act (1998)
5. ensure that you may withdraw from the study at any time simply by saying so and, if you wish, have any or all of the data that you have contributed destroyed

By signing this form I agree to take part in this research.

Name (please print)………….…………..………………………………………….……………………...…

Signature:………………….……………………………………………………………...……………………

Date:……………………...……………………………………………………………………………………..