

# Insatiable Beijing scours the world for power and profit

As a voracious China scours the world for minerals, no regime is off limits, writes Jane Macartney

THE Chinese Foreign Minister embarked yesterday on his first tour of a year in which he will rack up tens of thousands of air miles in pursuit of increasingly scarce natural resources to fuel the world's fastest growing large economy.

Over the next ten days, Li Zhaoxing will regale the leaders of six African nations with his wit, humour and even perhaps his poetry as he seeks to consolidate relations in a continent where China's interests have become crucial to its economic might.

The Foreign Minister traditionally starts the year with a tour of Africa, not least because China is eager to court countries that have in the past recognised its bitter rival, Taiwan.

Beijing has also quietly revived the notion of Third World solidarity that dictated its support in the 1960s and 1970s for newly independent states and liberation movements across the continent.

But rather than competing for influence against old Cold War foes, China is now compet-

## CHINESE INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA ...

● In total, 700 Chinese companies operate in 49 African countries

**NIGERIA**  
\$2.3bn investment in oil and gasfields under discussion

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**  
Involved in fruit harvesting, and the building of football stadium

**LIBYA**  
Oil investment by Chinese company CNBC

**SUDAN**  
Exports more than half its oil to China, supplying 5 per cent of oil needs

**SIERRA LEONE**  
Chinese company has invested \$200m in building beach resort

**REPUBLIC OF CONGO**  
Imports timber; has struck deals on petroleum and oil exploration. Dam funded by loan from China

**UGANDA**  
Government has gone into partnership with Chinese coffee company; Chinese firm involved in fishing project

**KENYA**  
Set up telecoms network

**GABON**  
Buys about 20 per cent of Gabon's annual petroleum output, also buying iron ore and timber

**RWANDA**  
State company China Roads and Bridges is entitled to carry out all important road construction projects

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**  
Chinese companies have invested in mining copper and cobalt ores. Funding for railway between D. R. Congo and Angola under discussion

**BURUNDI**  
Nickel-mining investment

**ANGOLA**  
Chinese company to rebuild railway line at cost of \$300m

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
Investment in coal and gold

## ... AND AROUND THE WORLD

**ANTIGUA**  
Cricket stadium in time for 2007 World Cup

**VENEZUELA**  
Oilfields and refineries

**BURMA**  
\$200m annual investment in oil and gas

**ARGENTINA**  
\$2.5bn annual revenue from soya bean exports

**CUBA**  
Sells 80,000 barrels of oil/day to China under flexible financial terms

**NEPAL**  
Hydroelectric power and food industry

**BOLIVIA**  
Negotiating natural gas deals

**KAZAKHSTAN**  
Oilfields and pipeline

**UZBEKISTAN**  
Gas, mining, telecommunications and transport

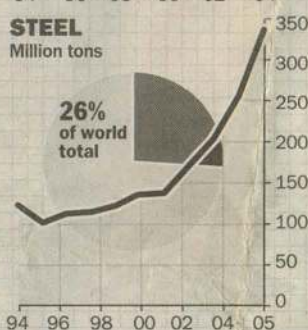
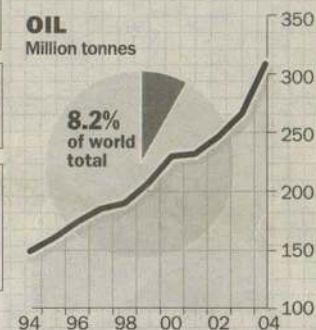
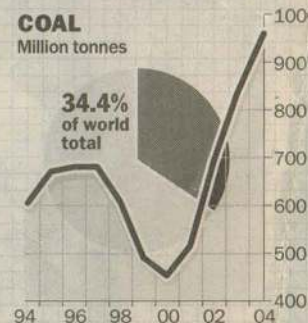
**BRAZIL**  
\$236.5m loaned for mine development

**IRAN**  
\$70bn deal for oil and gas

## CONSUMPTION OF RAW MATERIALS

China ranks No 1 in consumption of (000s of tonnes):

- Copper (3,084)
- Zinc (2,318)
- Rubber (3,640)
- Cotton (7,000)
- Wheat (107,500)
- Rice (135,000)
- Tin (71.7)
- Raw wool (306)
- Major oil seeds (65,361)



Sources: The Worldwatch Institute: State of the World 2006; BP; Economist World in Figures, 2006 edition; China's new mercantilism in Central Africa by Jonathan Holslag; BP; IISI; IISB; China Government