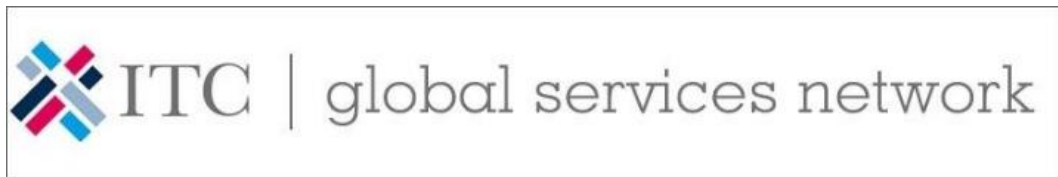


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PUBLICATIONS

[ITC launches new publication: "Guide to Chinese private investment in Africa: Insights from SME Competitiveness Surveys"](#)

GUIDE TO CHINESE PRIVATE
INVESTMENT IN AFRICA
INSIGHTS FROM SME
COMPETITIVENESS SURVEYS



TRADE IMPACT
FOR GOOD

Private investment from China into Africa is significant but its potential for increasing local productivity largely underestimated. The main challenge for investors is finding information on the availability and quality of local suppliers. This report aims to address this challenge.

This new [ITC report](#) uses data from its Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Competitiveness Surveys to provide information on the capability of firms and quality of business ecosystems in a range of sectors in five African countries: the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, and Zambia. These insights help Chinese private investors develop better partnerships and contribute to the development of local economies.

The publication is launched this week at the China International Import Expo in Shanghai.

EVENTS

[ITC supports 100 companies participate in China International Import Expo \(CIIE\) in Shanghai, 5-10 November](#)

One hundred micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) from 20 least developed countries and developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America will be supported by the ITC to participate in the [China International Import Expo](#) held in Shanghai on 5-10 November 2018.

Within these 100 companies, 20 companies in tourism, education, ICT and business services sectors are supported by [ITC's Trade in Services](#), funded by the Ministry of Commerce of China. Firms will present their service offers, meet potential clients and business partners and participate in the B2B meetings facilitated by ITC in cooperation with the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce. Check out the SME's service catalogue [here](#).



BUSINESS NEWS

[EasyJet explores adopting electric planes by 2030](#)

[EasyJet](#), the British-based budget airline, is planning to develop a fleet of battery-propelled planes for flights of less than 2 hours by 2030, in partnership with the US-based manufacturer Wright Electric. The new airliner model will significantly reduce carbon emissions and noise. Routes under consideration might include flights between London to Amsterdam.

[JR Osaka Train Station tests AI service robots to help tourists](#)

JR Osaka Station in Japan tested [AI robots](#) with knowledge on tourist destinations and train schedules on 2-4 October. The bilingual robots (English and Japanese) communicated with tourists both aloud and through scripts displayed on the screen. After studying the results, West Japan Railway Co. (JR West) may put more AI devices in train stations around Japan, following KLM and Kiwi.com, which have already tested AI technologies in their customer service operations.

[Alipay partners up with HMSHost to provide mobile payment in North American airports](#)

[Alipay](#), the digital payment platform, announced its partnership with HMSHost, American highway and airport food-service company. Under this partnership, Chinese travellers visiting the US and Canada will be able to make mobile payments using the Alipay app at HMSHost-operated restaurants in most major airports across North America.

[Singapore Airlines relaunches the longest commercial-airline route](#)

[Singapore Airlines](#) operates the longest commercial-airline route in the world, which extends between Singapore and Newark International Airport, in New Jersey, US. This flight has been relaunched on 14 October. It covers 10,400 miles and takes 18 hours and 45 minutes, surpassing by an hour the previous longest flight between Auckland and Doha on Qatar Airways.

REGULATORY NEWS

[The Easter Island \(Rapa Nui\) limits visitors' stay to preserve the environment](#)

In order to combat the impact of external visitors in the less-than-8,000-resident island, visitors will be [allowed to stay](#) for 30 days, down from 90. In the [peak season](#), overall inhabitants almost double. As complementary efforts to preserve the environment and marine life specifically, Chile has been working on protecting local waters around the island as requested by a local referendum.

[Russia expands its eVISA program to six airports in its Far East region](#)

Passengers arriving at six Russian airports in the Far East region of the country can now use eVisas to enter. Introduced in August 2017 and initially trialled at the Vladivostok Knevichi airport, the [Russian eVisa system](#) is now operational at more airports nationwide. The simplified system is available to residents from 19 countries. Since its launch, 27,500 tourists have visited Russia on eVisa; and more than 4,000 applied this June.

[ASEAN is working towards a common visa system](#)

The ASEAN countries held a meeting in August to revisit the feasibility of implementing [a single ASEAN visa](#) for the region, home for over 600 million people. A Single Visa Committee is working to coordinate efforts among the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Interior Affairs, Immigration Bureau and National Security Council of each member. The list of countries eligible to obtain the single ASEAN visa has not yet been announced.

[New mega-airport opens in Istanbul](#)

Turkey officially opened the [Istanbul Airport](#) on 29 October. The \$12 billion project intends to make Istanbul a major transit hub between Asia, African and Europe. The new airport will go through three phases to reach its full capacity: 90 million passengers by 2021; 150 million by 2023; and 200 million by 2028.



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