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THE REVITALISATION OF CHINA AND COTE D'IVOIRE COOPERATION FROM 1994 TO 2013

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

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1. Interest of the study

- Formalisation of Sino-Ivorian relations under the leadership of President Félix Houphouët-Boigny on 2ND March, 1983.
- There were agreements signed between the two countries from 1983 to 1993 but no project was executed
- It is until 1994 that their relations got strengthened

2. Question of the study

- How Chinese and Ivorian authorities proceeded to shift from a latent cooperation to a flourishing one over the period 1994-2013

3. Objective of study

- The main objective of this study is to highlight the different strategic elements used by Chinese and Ivorian authorities to boost the Sino-Ivorian cooperation.

4. Methodology

- This analysis was possible thanks to a data collection carried out in the documentation centers of local institutions, journal articles and newspapers
- Documentations resulting from this collection is classified into two types of sources, namely primary and secondary sources.

*Primary sources concern reports from local institutions such as:

- The Ivorian Public Debt Department,
- The Ivorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA),
- The National Office for Technical Studies and Development (BNETD)

*Secondary sources concern

Journal articles and newspapers (Fraternité Matin), focus on different aspects of the Sino-Ivorian relationship and provide general information on the evolution of cooperation.

*The cross-checking and cross-linking of information from these different sources provide the necessary resource for the development of this work.

*However some difficulties have to be underlined

-The content of the agreements is sometimes inaccessible

-Often times for the same loan agreement, the amount given by the local newspapers differ from that of the public debt management office

5. Plan of study

The study is organized around two main pillars:

- **strengthening the sino-ivorian cooperation through agreements and official visits**

This first part of the study deals successively with three points

- the historical aspect of the cooperation (the early years)
- the various agreements signed between 1994 and 2013,
- Reciprocal State Visits a way to Strengthen Cooperation

- **China's Financial diplomacy : a tool for the consolidation of Sino-ivorian cooperation**

This second pillar deals with two points relating to the financial diplomacy of Beijing, it highlights:

- The different kinds of financing support for development projects
- The flexibility of the cost of projects carried out by China

6. Outcomes of study

- The recognition of the PRC by Côte d'Ivoire and the signing of the diplomatic agreement confirming the relations between the two countries
- Various agreements were signed between 1994 and 2013
 - There are 49 financing agreements for various cooperation projects between the PRC and Côte d'Ivoire from 1986 to 2013, including 47 within the period between 1994 and 2013 alone
- Many high-level official visits spread and facilitate the exchanges between the two countries .
 - Important and various movement of high level personalities of the political spectrum, the delegations of businessmen and the missions of economic operators, carried out reciprocally between the two countries during the period 1994-2013.

- The PRC offers financial assistance to Cote d'Ivoire. That assistance is organized through:
 - Donations, (from May 4, 1997 to May 10, 2013, the Ivorian State received 17 different donations amounting to 50378750 000 FCFA)
 - A long-term interest-free loan, (Côte d'Ivoire benefited from a long-term interest-free loan of an amount of 46678400000 FCFA from the Chinese government until 2013)
 - There preferential government rate loans.

.The flexibility of the cost of projects carried out by China companies is another element that promotes the development of cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire

7. Conclusion

*The current flourishing cooperation between the PRC and Cote d'Ivoire is as result of a long process in which authorities of these two States have engaged in. It is through a progressive method taking into account differnt elements that China and Cote d'Ivoire have succeeded in strengthening their cooperation. These elements are :

- The agreements
- the high-level mutual visits

- China's financial support through donations and loans
- Lesser cost of development projects proposed by China

All these approaches show the distinct strategies with which, the Sino-Ivorian cooperation is established, maintained and strengthened.

Today, this relaunching is more visible on the Cote d'Ivoire territory through the realization of various infrastructural projects

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