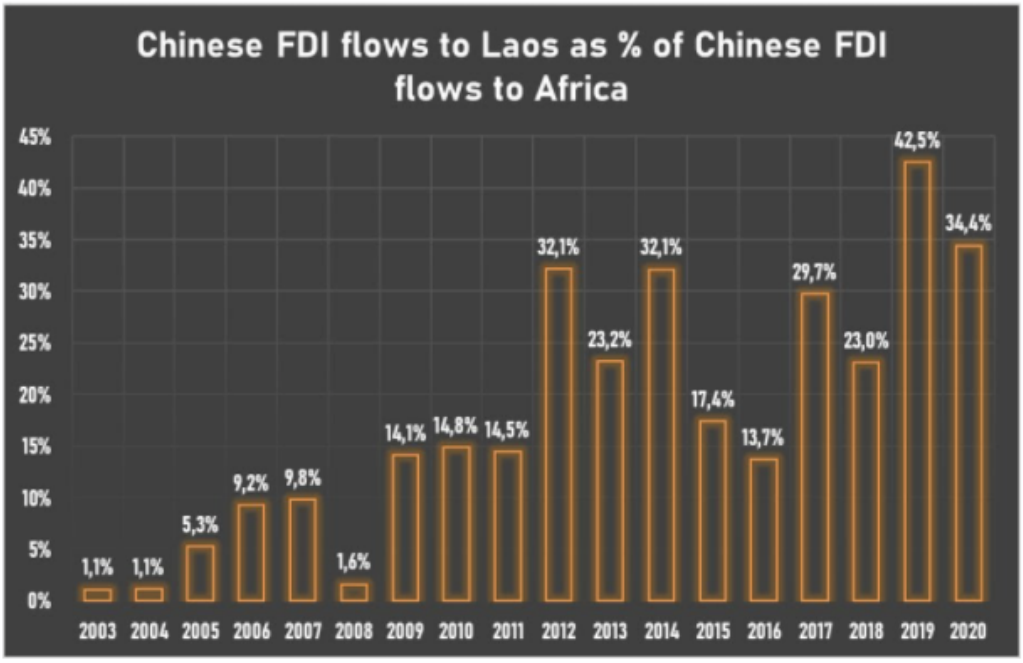
November 23, 2021

THE CHINAFRICA PROJECT 中非项目

CHART OF THE DAY

This Chart Reveals "The Very Limited Economic Importance of Africa For China"



Prominent French China-Africa scholar Thierry Pairault, emeritus research director at France's National Center for Scientific Research and at the EHESS Research Center on Modern and Contemporary China, recently compared the flow of Chinese foreign direct investment into the small Southeast nation of Laos (population 7 million) with the combined FDI value in all 54 African countries (population 1.2 billion).

"The results are astonishing and confirm the very limited economic importance of Africa for China," he noted on Twitter.

The value of Chinese FDI in Africa amounts to $43.4 billion, according to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, making it the continent's fourth-largest investor. But only a tiny fraction of the $2.58 trillion of total Chinese investments around the world (as of the end of 2020) went to Africa.