

## **SA-China cooperation on education grows**

28 August 2015 - The pace of trade and investment between our countries has been increasing over the years.

And coupled with a closer international cooperation through the G-20 and BRICS grouping, South Africa-China ties are assuming a significant position in continental and global affairs.

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) is engaging with China through the Chinese Government Scholarship and other training courses.

The number of scholarships being offered to South Africa has grown since the programme's inception in 2003.

### **Scholarships' duration**

The duration of the scholarships ranges from six months for short courses, to three years for post-graduate studies at Master's or Doctoral levels, or five years for a Bachelor's degree.

There are over 1,000 South African students studying in China, either on government to government scholarship, as self-paying students recruited by the Chinese agencies, or through institution-to-institution collaborations.

In October 2014, a Scholarships Management Office was established at DHET to manage various scholarship opportunities, the Chinese programme being the largest at present.

### **53 students to study in China**

This year, 53 students have been awarded the scholarship, and are off to China to study in various fields.

The Deputy Minister said at the farewell: "It is my pleasure today to bid farewell to the largest group to be sent to China by the DHET to date.

"From over 180 applications that we received we interviewed about 150 students, and today we are sending 50 competent students. Most of the students here today are leaving home for the first time. To the students, there is nothing quite like being on your own in a foreign country. This experience might really bring out your independent nature and teach you to be self-reliant. Moreover, you will experience different styles of education and have access to expertise that is not always available in South Africa."