China's growing role as infrastructure financier for sub-Saharan Africa Oct 20, 2008. Building bridges: China's growing role as infrastructure financier for Sub-Saharan Africa (English). Abstract. China and Africa have a long history of political and economic ties, which have greatly intensified in recent years. Both bilateral and multilateral cooperation have grown rapidly. China is also playing an increasingly important role in the financing of infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa. Building Bridges: China's Growing Role as Infrastructure Financier. In recent years, a number of emerging economies have begun to play a growing role in the finance of infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa. Building Bridges: China's Growing Role as Infrastructure Financier.