

How to Maximize the Benefits of BRI for the CCA Region while Minimizing Risks?

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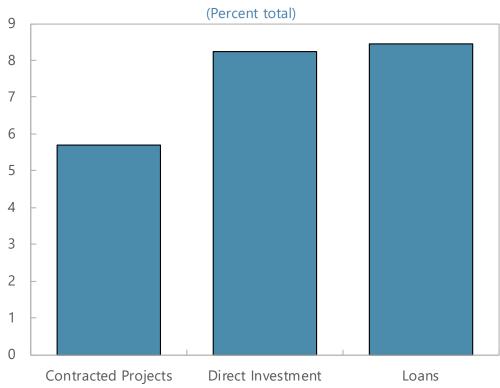
Deputy Director

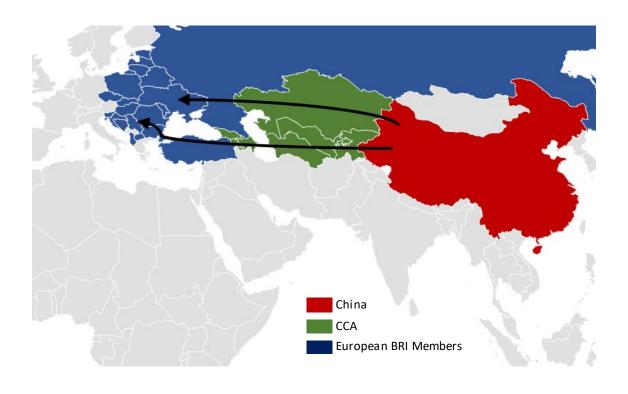
Middle East and Central Asia Department, International Monetary Fund

The CCA region is a small part of China's exposure to BRI countries...

...but a crucial link between China and Europe







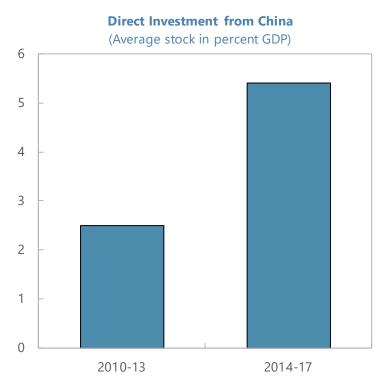


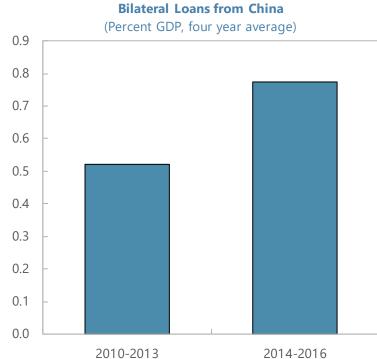
The BRI has strengthened economic ties with China

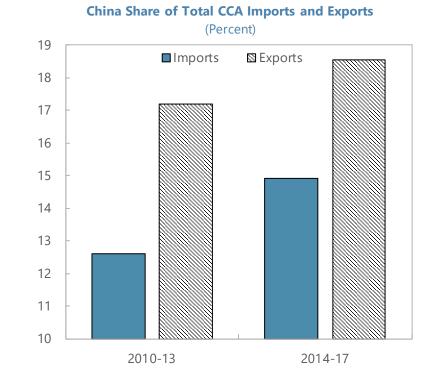
Higher direct investment...

more loans...

and more trade



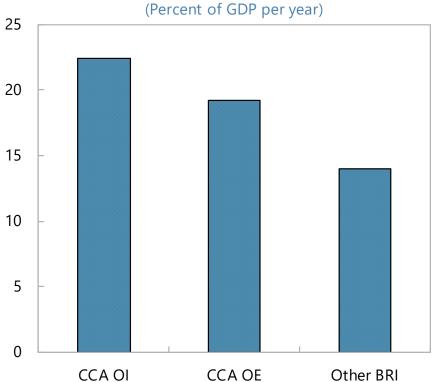




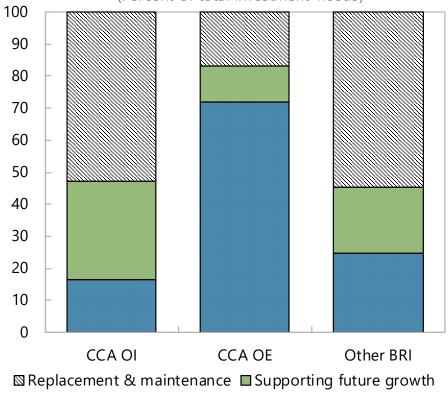


The BRI helps CCA economies meet significant infrastructure needs...

Total Investment Needs, 2018-22



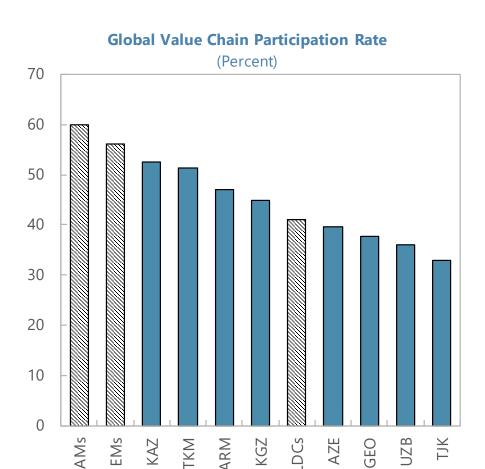
Breakdown of Estimate Infrastructure Needs (Percent of total investment needs)

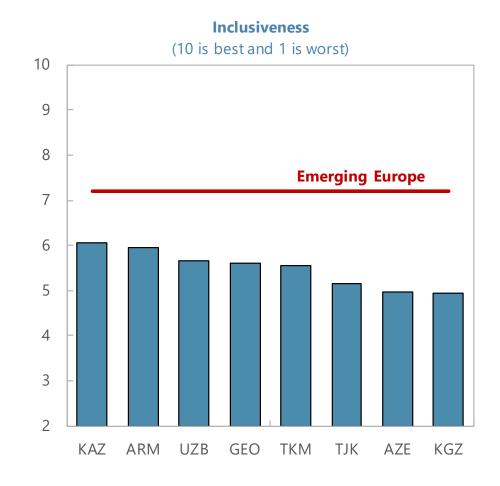


■ Catch-up investment



...promotes integration into global supply chains, and makes growth more inclusive



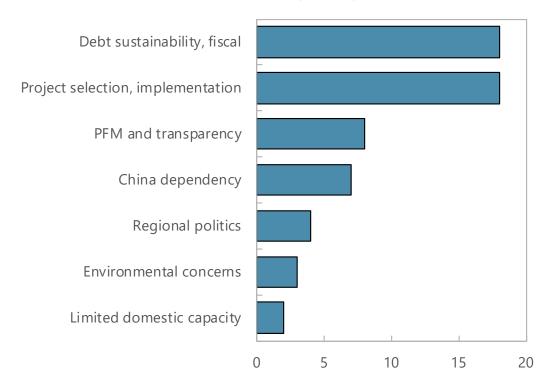




The BRI also carries significant risks.

BRI: Risks to Recipient Countries

(Main risks reported by country desks)



Risks Perceived by the Private Sector

Difficulty absorbing capital flows: capital controls, lack of FX and other financial market development.

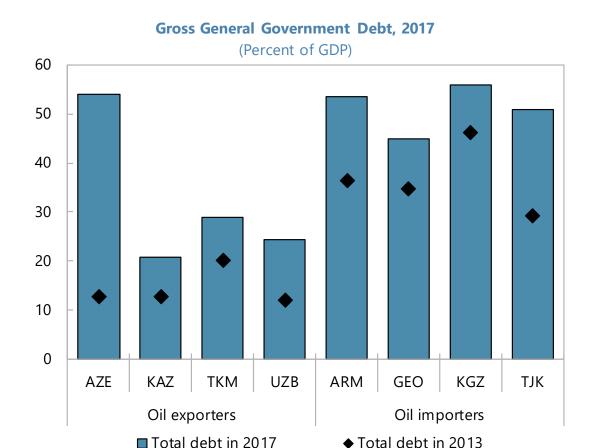
Increase in foreign sector liabilities: lack of hedging facilities, local currency bonds.

Cross-border risks: project selection process, legal issues surrounding PPP contracts, investment protection mechanisms.



Source: IMF

Fiscal risks: debt sustainability, weak governance



Areas of Weakness in Fiscal Governance

Oversight of aggregate fiscal risks from public sector entities

Transparency, competition, and procurement

Multi-year perspective in fiscal planning, expenditure policy, and budgeting



Maximizing the Benefits while Minimizing Risks Requires Action by All

China

Clear and transparent BRI framework

 Recently established International Development Cooperation Agency could help coordination

CCA

Control fiscal risks

- Strengthen fiscal frameworks
- Ensure debt sustainability

China

Co-finance with other development partners

- Strong interest in participation given compatible goals
- Assurances of project quality

CCA

Strengthen public investment management

• Find projects that contribute to growth the most

China

Support capacity development in recipient countries

- China-IMF Capacity Development Center
- Four training events outside China annually

CCA

Help attract private sector participation

• Improve legal framework (PPP, procurement, investor protection, business environment)



How to Ensure BRI does not Compromise Debt Sustainability?

Concessional support

Foreign direct investment rather than lending

• Increase public saving to make room for additional investment



How to Strengthen Fiscal Frameworks to Ensure BRI Success?

Adopt a medium-term perspective.

Make budgets comprehensive and transparent.

 Ensure that fiscal plans and rules are consistent with debt sustainability.

Identify and analyze fiscal risks, and enhance risk management.



How can the IMF Help?

- Improve analytical tools to assess debt sustainability and macroeconomic implications of BRI projects.
- Convey the analysis and encourage policy change through:
 - Surveillance
 - Programs
 - Capacity Development
- CCA regional technical assistance center

