

BRIDGING THE GAP

Belt and Road projects need to ensure infrastructure funding for developing nations
while generating steady returns for investors, banks

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There is a well-known Chinese proverb that perhaps sums up the Belt and Road Initiative: "If you want to get rich, you must first build roads."

The BRI, after all, aims to re-create the ancient Silk Road that once connected the trade routes between the East and West. This time, the initiative seeks to connect China to Asia, Europe and Africa via land- and sea-based infrastructure development.

China's financial commitment is expected to sustain the growth of most developing country members of the Belt and Road, and the International Monetary Fund has said the mammoth project could narrow the annual \$1.5 trillion infrastructure gap in emerging economies.

But such an ambitious plan will also require huge and long-term funding, as the BRI covers more than 60 economies.

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