



# The Emerging Powers

## Call for Grants



Fahamu is a pan-African organization that supports and works collaboratively with social movements on social justice issues. Based on promoting the voice of Africa movements at the grassroots by seeking to strengthen the capacity of social movements towards developing effective and inclusive citizen participation in governance processes, Fahamu is committed to ensuring that its interventions are relevant, timely and significant to the movements its serve.

In line with Fahamu's core values and principles, Fahamu's *Emerging Powers* project offers an analysis platform that aims to develop a coherent knowledge framework on the Emerging Powers' footprint and engagement in Africa by enhancing an African people centred perspective.

### Background

Fahamu initiated its Emerging Powers Project in April 2014. The project builds on phase one of the project that was implemented in 2010, and which examined African-Chinese perspectives on China in Africa. Since then the rise of other emerging actors from the Global South (including Brazil, India, the Gulf States, South Korea, and Turkey) has unleashed a new wave of research and media inquiries into the impact that these actors are having on continental processes. In particular, questions have emerged regarding what is this nature and behaviour of the new actors on intra-regional trade, natural resource governance, social development, nepotism and corruption, environmental concerns related to infrastructure projects and extractive industries as well as the pending effect on Africa's development prospects and public diplomacy.

More importantly since the 2010 China in Africa project, there has also been the rise of multilateral groupings like BRICS, MIKTA, MINT, CIVETS, and the N-11 that have become institutional vehicles through which engagement in Africa has been advanced. For instance South Africa announced during the 5<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit hosted in Durban the Africa-BRICS Outreach Partnership as significant driver in bringing Africa to the BRICS and BRICS to Africa. At the same time the African Union has identified [21 external partnerships](#) that it identifies as key engagements. Such partnerships are aimed at advancing Africa's integration into global markets and the international system as well as viewed as boosting the continent's development strategy and industrialisation through cooperation and collaboration and away from donor-recipient relationships.

Therefore while African governments have enjoyed a more than robust and warm engagement with some of the actors, African civil society groups have found themselves at the margins of trying to shape the debate and actually play a monitoring role. This has led to differentiated responses and reactions by civil society actors in trying to serve the interests of their constituencies in formulating a sustained response in holding these actors and respective African governments accountable and transparent about the nature of the footprint of the emerging powers in the continent's external engagements.



## Purpose of project

The Emerging Powers in Africa initiative seeks to promote knowledge and evidence based research to inform an African perspective driven by progressive African voices in civil society, media and the grassroots.

## Call for Grant Proposals

Based on the above Fahamu's Emerging Powers Project is issuing a call for grant proposals to examine the political, economic, social and cultural impact of the emerging powers footprint in Africa. The grant is specifically related to empowering civil society actors in gaining the appropriate knowledge and developing the necessary tools to articulate an informed perspective on the emerging powers in Africa and the corresponding impact.

In particular, attention should be given to the forthcoming China-Africa Forum (FOCAC), the India-Africa Forum Summit, and the South Korea-Africa development cooperation meeting that is going to take place in 2015, as well as the recent Africa-Turkey Summit that took place in November 2014. Applicants are encouraged to explore how these platforms inform Africa's relationship with emerging actors; what impact have these engagements had on Africa's relationship with these and other actors; and how should African civil society actors should be as well as developing parallel peoples' summits to advance the African voice.

## Criteria

The grant therefore seeks to support:

- a) Scholarly research work - should aim to offer concrete recommendations to actual CSOs / Community Based Organizations, and
- b) CSO strategic plan research – should articulate the organizations' strategy in engaging with the Emerging Powers.

Interested researchers are requested to highlight clearly the research problem / question which they wish to pursue.

## Research / Organisation Strategic Plan Grants - How to Apply

Applicants are requested to forward the following in English only

- Research proposal of five to eight pages stating:
  1. Field of research - An introduction, a problem statement - a literature review;
  2. Objective of the study;
  3. Methodology;
  4. Expected output; and
  5. Proposed budget Time frame for the work.



Applications must also include:

- A certifiable academic degree(s) (where applicable);
- A curriculum Vitae (of the project leader and researchers identified in the proposal);
- A proof of institutional affiliation; and
- An academic article or paper produced by the applicant (project leader) or a letter of recommendation from the institution to which the applicant is affiliated.

The Selection Committee's decision will be final. Proposals will be reviewed on the basis of how original the proposed study is; the level at which it incorporates in new thinking on the topic; the extent to which it includes a training and capacity building of young researchers including mentoring (especially women); and demonstrating how the African perspective and civil society voice on the emerging powers can be strengthened.

Fahamu's Emerging Powers project will be awarding 5 grants worth €5,000 each.

#### Eligibility

African researchers attached to research/academic institutions and CSOs in Africa are encouraged to apply. PhD fellows to supplement their research studies; Independent consultants; and CSO organisations working on these relevant issues.

The grant can also be awarded as a supplement to the applicants existing research grants.

**Deadline:** 19 December 2014 (Negotiable)

Applications should be sent to [emerging-powers@fahamu.org](mailto:emerging-powers@fahamu.org)  
your e-mail subject line should read 'Application for Fahamu's Emerging Powers Project research grants - ...' followed by your name.

**Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

For further information please contact

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\* Fahamu ([www.fahamu.org](http://www.fahamu.org)) is committed to serving the needs of organisations and social movements that aspire to progressive social change and that promote and protect human rights. Fahamu has extensive experience in distance learning for human rights organisations.