



University of Alumbai Centre for African Studies &

Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging – Indian Diaspora Centre (CoHaB IDC)

Africans in Malaysia

Since the 2000s, increasing numbers of Africans have travelled to Malaysia as students. For many, however, the attainment of higher education diplomas is not all they wish to achieve. During their stay, most of them also need to make a living, support their families at home and find ways to save some money for their return. Despite complicated work policies, Africans have managed to build up an infrastructure in Malaysia, sell products and offer services for fellow Africans. How have they accomplished this, what are their strategies, which products do they import, and which services do they offer to fellow Africans? This paper addresses these questions exploiting information from field research in Malaysia in 2014 and 2017.

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by

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Ute Röschenthaler is a professor of Cultural and Social Anthropology at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, and a member of the AFRASO project 'Africa's Asian Options' and the cluster of excellence 'The formation of normative orders' at the Goethe University Frankfurt. She carried out research on cultural mobility, trade networks, intellectual property rights, entrepreneurship and markets in Cameroon, Nigeria and Mali as well as on African traders in Asian countries. Her most recent publications include Copyright Africa: How Intellectual Property, Media and Markets Transform Immaterial Cultural Goods, ed. with Mamadou Diawara (Sean Kingston Publishing, 2016) and Cultural Entrepreneurship in Africa, ed. with Dorothea Schulz (Routledge, 2016).

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