

CANADA-CHINA LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION PROJECT

PROJECT DETAILS

Country(ies):	China
Duration:	June 2004- Sept 2009
Budget:	CAD \$ 4,699,960
Funder:	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Partner(s):	National People's Congress of China, Ministry of Commerce of China
Status:	Closed

About the Parliamentary Centre

The Parliamentary Centre is a Canadian not-for-profit, non-partisan organization that supports parliaments around the world. Our assessment, strategic planning and training programs, combined with research products and networking channels, help legislatures measure their performance, build capacity, tackle key issues and promote mutual learning.

In short - we help legislatures better serve their people.

About the Project

The Canada-China Legislative Cooperation Project (CCLCP) aimed to:

- (1) increase methods of public participation in the congress system,
- (2) assist legislative development processes and democratic lawmaking in the NPC and selected people's congresses of China, and
- (3) cooperate in legislative reform in key areas related to equality, poverty reduction and participation.

On the whole, the CCLCP was a unique parliamentary project executed by the Centre. It was designed to be a cooperation project where the technical assistance and support provided to the National and Provincial Congresses focused on knowledge exchanges between Canadian and Chinese participants. The project was a privileged witness to the workings of China's political system and its efforts at modernizing its economy and governance processes.



2008 visit to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta by a delegation from the National, Provincial and Municipal People's Congresses of China.

Accomplishments

During the life of the project thirty-three major initiatives were undertaken, providing deputies and staff from the National and a dozen Provincial Congresses with enhanced knowledge, comparative perspectives, tools and practical skills on topics like legislative reform and analysis, budget processes, public consultation mechanisms.

These were undertaken in relation to specific legislative proposals the NPC were considering, such as their review of legislation on farmers cooperatives and rural development, agriculture extension and rural financing, the Corporations Act and the Financial Transfer Payment Act.

Some of the project's key achievements included:

- On September 27, 2005, the National People's Congress organized the first legislative hearing in its history that involved citizens from all across the country to make open comments on a draft of a legislative bill (*Personal Income Tax Act*);
- After exposures to Canadian budgeting making and oversight practices, the Budget Affairs Commission of the NPC made recommendations to the NPC leaders that departmental estimates submitted to them contain specific information to link budget allocation to expenditure lines and performance targets. Eventually CCLCP outputs contributed to the budget reform action in 2007 which changed the budget item classification with the introduction of practices similar to those of Canada.

Testimonials

Dr. Xu Anbiao, Deputy Director General, Planning Office of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, published an article in the NPC's Gazette in June 2008 on the recent progress in legislation work in China. In this article he cited the Canadian example under the CCLCP for his recommendation to further open up all draft legislation to public consultation.