



# Inter-Parliamentary Union

## Technical Cooperation Programme

### ACTIVITY PROFILE: PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



Updated 25/05/09

<b>Activity Details</b>	<b>Organization of a Study visit</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Study Visit for an official of the National People's Congress</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>1 month (November/December 1997)</b>
<b>Budget:</b>	<b>CHF 11,050</b>
<b>Donor Partner:</b>	<b>German Bundestag, French Senate</b>

### Background

Since the start of economic reform in 1978, the People's Republic of China has witnessed rapid economic growth affecting its political and legal constitution as well as its society as a whole.

The transition from planned to "socialist market" economy implied an urgent need to establish rule of law and thus a considerable appreciation of the National People's Congress (NPC) as the country's parliament.

To fulfil its tasks however, the NPC sought advice and expertise from abroad to reform itself.

With a view to drafting a Legislative Procedure's Act and a Governmental Oversight Act the NPC asked the IPU to organise a study visit to some European Parliaments for one of its experts to obtain information.

### Objectives

The NPC's main interest was in seeking information on the relationship between the Legislative and the executive branches of government, as well as the relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary and on how parliaments enact the budget and oversees its implementation. To this end the NPC delegate:

- Took part in information sessions and conducted research at the IPU Headquarters in Geneva.
- Visited the German Bundestag and the French Senate, attending plenary sessions, meeting with members of parliament and staff specialized in the fields mentioned
- Collected relevant material such as constitutional texts, laws and rules of legislation.

### Target Beneficiaries

The main beneficiary of this study tour was the National People's Congress.

A more influential and more efficient parliament will eventually be a benefit for the whole of the Chinese society.



*Great Hall of the People, Beijing*

### Outcomes

At the end of his stay the NPC delegate wrote a report in which he commented on his various visits while in Europe. He emphasized the following as results of the study visit:

- His personal understanding of the French and the German Parliament was greatly improved, enabling him to present them as potential models to the NPC.
- A gain in expertise on legislative procedure for him and eventually for the People's National Congress.
- The National Assembly would benefit considerably from the provision of legal texts from the Parliaments mentioned as they were translated into Chinese.

Parliaments supporting the activity:

- The German Bundestag
- The French Senate
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