

# 中华人民共和国国务院法制办公室

Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, P. R. C.

9 Wenjin Street, Beijing, 100017, P. R. China Fax: 86 - 10 - 63097699

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To: Mr. Raymond J. Tam  
Past President  
International Academy of Trial Lawyers

From: Mr. Wu Hao  
Director-General  
Foreign Affairs Department  
State Council Legislative Affairs Office

Date: September 22, 2007

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Tam,

Dear Professor Liu Chu,

I was very pleased to meet you all during your stay in Beijing in September for selecting the China Program-2008 candidates. Now the interview and selection process was finished and 11 topnotch young Chinese legal talents will go to the United States in May 2008 to participate the training and exchange programs organized by the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. On behalf of the State Council Legislative Affairs Office and all those getting involved on the Chinese side, I should like to express our sincere thanks to you all and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

The Academy's China Program has been successfully conducted for 14 years with great achievement since its commencement in 1994. Such a long-term and broadly attended program as this one has never been seen in our legal exchange activities with foreign countries. In 14 years, 127 Chinese young legal talents engaged in legal practice or teaching-especially officers engaged in legislation-have been trained in this Program. They have come from 16 ministries of the Central Government and from more than 20 local provinces (autonomous regions,

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municipalities directly under the Central Government). Members from the Chinese National People's Congress and professors from the Central Party School of the CPC have also participated.

Compared to other training programs we have conducted, the China Program is conducted in a unique way and it is therefore an influential and attractive program. In addition to intense orientation of American law in Hawaii, all the delegates are assigned to different Academy families and live and work with their Academy hosts. They not only received warm hospitality and thoughtful care from their Academy hosts, but also get precious opportunities to understand American social life and culture behind the legal system. After they came back to China, many China Program delegates made efforts to publicize the real American they experienced. Ms. Zhang Shensi from the Ministry of Justice and a China Program-2001 delegate wrote down what she saw and heard during her training in the U.S.A and published them in the front page of the newspaper published countrywide *Legal Daily* for 14 consecutive days. Her articles vividly introduced the American legal system, selection of judges, environmental protection, traffic control, education, and especially the American lawyers' family and social life. Her article was warmly received in the legal circles all over China.

The China Program has enhanced the mutual understanding between Chinese people and American people and has become a friendship bridge between the two countries. Ms. Liu Bo who was a China Program-2000 delegate and is now Division Director of the Dept. of Administrative Reconsideration under the State Council Legislative Affairs Office forged a sincere friendship with her host George and Ruth Tompkins. They still keep in close contact till now. During Ms. Liu's later study at Temple University in the summer of 2005, Mr. Tompkins continued instructing her professionally. When Mr. Tompkins was in Beijing on business in September 2005, he

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was warmly received by Ms. Liu and Ms. Bai Ping from the Ministry of Justice and a delegate hosted by Mr. Tompkins in China Program-1998. As Mr. Tompkins wrote in his letter to Mr. Cao Kangtai, Minister of the State Council Legislative Affairs Office: "The relationship which I was privileged to form with my five Program's delegates remains professionally and personally very strong and sincere, forever."

The success of China Program has helped to push forward the making of laws and regulations of China and the construction of Rule of Law in China. Many delegates went to the United States with the problems they had to solve in their legislative work and discussed their problems with some American officers or lawyers. For example, when Mr. Li Mingzheng who was a China Program-2005 delegate from the State Council Legislative Affairs Office participated in the Program, he was responsible for making the Litigation Cost Regulations of China. During his stay in the United States, he not only focused on collecting relevant American laws and operations of the litigation cost and the mediation systems, but also discussed many problems with American judges and lawyers. What he learned in the United States helped him to design the litigation cost system of China. Mr. Li has also been promoted to Deputy Director-General of his Dept. and now he is serving as Deputy Mayor of a city in China's Shanxi Province. Mr. Zhang Yaobo, Division Director of the Dept. of Industry, Communication and Commerce under the State Council Legislative Affairs Office and a China Program-2008 delegate, is now reviewing the draft Postal Law of China. The making of this Law has lasted more than ten years but has not yet been finished because of hot debates at home and abroad on some key issues. He told me that he has prepared a lot of questions about the American postal law and will try to get the answers from his American counterparts. Moreover, what the Program brings to the delegates is not only knowledge and information, but also "a key, the precious

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method which would benefit us in the future”, according to Mr. Yang Kui who was a China Program-2002 delegate and is now Deputy Division Director of the General Affairs Dept. under the State Council Legislative Affairs Office.

Most of the Program delegates are young in their 30's. Through three weeks of training and exchanges with their counterparts in the United States, they broadened their visions and advanced their working capacities. Many of them have been promoted or appointed to important positions afterwards. Our latest statistics show that 56 of them have been promoted from ordinary officials to division directors or deputy division directors, and 28 of them have been promoted to director-generals or deputy director-generals. For example, Ms. Feng Xuewei, a China Program-2002 delegate, is now serving in Geneva as a senior legal counsel of the World Trade Organization. Mr. Song Ruilin and Ms. Liu Xiaoxia have been promoted as Deputy Director-Generals responsible for the drafting of all laws and administrative regulations in their respective fields. Mr. Chen Fuzhi, a China Program-2001 delegate has been promoted as Director-General of the General Affairs Department under the State Council Legislative Affairs Office. Mr. Ang Minshu, an official from the Legislative Affairs Office of China's southwest Yunnan Province and a delegate to China Program-2004 won the competition for the post of Deputy Division Director in his office and he is now playing an important role in the making of local regulations and local rules of Yunnan Province. Such promotion can also be seen in the Ministry of Justice. For instance, Ms. Bai Ping was promoted to Director-General of Foreign Affairs under the Ministry of Justice, and we heard that she may have been further promoted at the recent meeting. After the China Program, Wu Qizhen and Kang Yu, both from the Ministry of Justice, were promoted to Deputy Director-General and may have been further promoted. These young legal officers are playing and will play more and more important roles in the establishment and perfection of a modern legal

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system in China. They are an important part of the future of China. The China Program has made and is continuing to make its contribution to China's growth and maturity.

The China Program has become a prestigious program in China's legal circles, and its merits and achievements have drawn the attention of top leaders of the Chinese Government. Mr. Cao Kangtai, Minister of the State Council Legislative Affairs Office said on the Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the China Program: "The China Program not only establishes the image of the Academy in China, but also greatly promotes the legal exchange and friendship between our two countries. The Chinese Government appreciates it." Every year when the Program starts, Mr. Yang Jingyu, Chairman of the Law Committee of the National People's Congress and Mr. Shi Taifeng, Vice-President of the Central Party School of CPC recommend candidates. This ensures that the China Program always gets the best candidates.

To improve the English communication skills of the Chinese legal professionals, the State Council Legislative Affairs Office sponsors an English training course at the Beijing Foreign Languages Studies. Participants come from provinces all over China as well as from the ministries of the Central Government. Up to now, more than 20 China Program delegates completed the English training course. The English training course shows not only the strong support given by China's Central Government to the China Program but also its wish to make this Program continue successfully.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Tam,

Dear Professor Liu Chu,

During the past 14 years, both the State Council Legislative Affairs Office and the International Academy of Trial Layers have always attached great importance to the China Program and cherished the cooperation between the two organizations. I think

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this is one of the fundamental reasons of the extraordinary longer term continuity and success of the China Program. Here I especially want to thank Mr. Tam, Mother Audrey and Professor Liu for your strenuous efforts you have made for the China Program in 14 years. On every occasion when I talked about the Program with the delegates, I was told that they were deeply touched and impressed by your high sense of responsibility and your spirit of selfless contribution. Please allow me to express our thanks once again to all of you, to the members of the Academy who have ever hosted or will host the China Program delegates, and to the members of the Academy for their continuous support and generous contribution to the smooth progress of the Program.

The Chinese Government has set the goal of promoting administration and governance according to law in an all-round way and building a government under the rule of law. I believe that the China Program will play a positive role and help to achieve the goal in the whole process.

Best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,



Wu Hao

Director-General

Foreign Affairs Department

State Council Legislative Affairs Office