

## The International Program – People’s Republic of China



The U.S. Department of State’s [country page](#) for the People’s Republic of China reports that “the United States seeks to build a positive, cooperative, and comprehensive relationship with China by expanding areas of cooperation and addressing areas of disagreement. . . .” Two of the targeted areas of the U.S. Assistance programs in China are “advancing the rule of law and human rights.”

The State Department’s [Fact Sheet](#) for China states that “the U.S. approach to its economic relations with China has two main elements: The United States seeks to fully integrate China into the global, rules-based economic and trading system and seeks to expand U.S. exporters’ and investors’ access to the Chinese market.” Most notably, the report indicates that “two-way trade between China and the United States has grown from \$33 billion in 1992 to over \$536 billion in goods in 2012.” China is “currently the third largest export market for U.S. goods (after Canada and Mexico), and the United States is China’s largest export market.”

On behalf of the visiting Chinese dignitaries, a meeting was requested with Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton through the auspices of the U.S-China Business Training Center. The dignitaries were “participating in an overseas program on topics related to government anti-corruption” and were keenly interested in learning about “the role and responsibilities of a government watchdog,” as well as “the role that media plays in promoting government transparency.”

The US-China Business Training Center was established in 1992 and is designated as “a China State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA) certified provider of professional training programs for Chinese officials.” The training center “helps arrange exchanges with institutions, universities and speakers across the US to facilitate academic, business and cultural discussions.” As the China country page indicates, such meetings are

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in keeping with the United States emphasis on “the need to enhance bilateral trust through increased high-level exchanges, formal dialogues, and expanded people-to-people ties.”

Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton met with the Chinese delegation at JW’s headquarters in Washington, DC, on September 3, 2013, and discussed the organization’s mission in the promotion of transparency, integrity and accountability in government, politics, and the law. He emphasized the fact that corruption is not ideological. He told the delegates that members of both major political parties in the U.S. have been investigated by Judicial Watch—and members of both parties have been found guilty.

Further, Mr. Fitton told the officials that JW holds to conservative values, but it is not affiliated with any political party, and it does not support any candidate for public office. It is independent of the government and is supported by the donations of over 300,000 Americans who believe in its mission. JW’s focus is on keeping government open and transparent and accountable to the people, without regard to party affiliation. It accomplishes its mission through the use of open records laws: the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which allows public access to government records on the federal level, as well as other sunshine laws enacted at the state and local levels.

As set forth in its Mission Statement, “through its educational endeavors, Judicial Watch advocates high standards of ethics and morality in the nation’s public life and seeks to ensure that political and judicial officials do not abuse the powers entrusted to them by the American people. JW fulfills its educational mission through litigation, investigations, and public outreach.” The International Program is an integral part of its educational program.