

Newly Announced Leadership Changes: China's Economic Team

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In the lead up to the important 19th Plenum of the Chinese Communist Party where the new Party line up will be announced, President Xi Jinping is already making personnel changes in the government. Today, three new Ministerial-level appointments were announced. Two of the three officials served with President Xi in the provinces.



GUO SHUQING

Chairman, China Banking Regulatory Commission

Career Snapshot

Formerly Governor of Shandong, Chairman Guo is well known in Chinese and Western financial circles given his extensive experience in the financial sector. He is viewed as open minded and a reformer. It is a positive sign that someone of his caliber was tapped to take on this important position. His recent experience in Shandong groomed him for central leadership positions by giving him the requisite governing experience before being brought back to Beijing.

Career Highlights

- Guo served as Chairman, Secretary of China Securities Regulatory Commission from October 2011-March 2013.
- He served as President and Party Secretary of China Construction Bank from March 2005 to July 2010.
- Guo served as Deputy Governor of the People's Bank of China and the head of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

Early Years

Guo Shuqing was born in Ulanqab, Inner Mongolia Province in August 1956. He holds a B.A. in philosophy from Nankai University, and an M.A. and PhD in Law from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He was a visiting scholar at Oxford University.

ZHONG SHAN

Minister of Commerce

Career Snapshot

Elevated from Vice Minister of Commerce, Zhong Shan has been serving as China's International Trade Representative. He is also the Deputy Party Secretary of the Ministry. In recent years, MOFCOM and its former Minister, Gao Hucheng, have not played a major role in China's reform agenda, unlike previous Ministers. Zhong notably served as Vice Governor of Zhejiang Province when President Xi was the Governor.



Zhong Shan is a sophisticated negotiator and bureaucratic player. He is well known in U.S. trade circles and should play an important role in U.S.-China relations, especially as recalibrating the trade relationship is a priority for the Trump Administration.

Career Highlights

- Zhong served as Vice Minister of Commerce since November 2008.
- He was promoted to the International Trade Representative in 2013.
- Zhong was the Vice Governor of Zhejiang Province, from 2003 to 2008, serving under President Xi.

Early Years

Zhong Shan was born in Shangyu, Zhejiang Province, in October 1955. He earned a PhD of international trade and economics from Zhejiang University.





HE LIFENG

Chairman, National
Development and Reform Commission

Career Snapshot

Elevated from the Vice Chairman position, He Lifeng is close to President Xi, having served in roles supporting Xi since they were together in Fujian almost 20 years ago. He spent his career in Fujian rising through the ranks before moving to take up the top post in Tianjin. He replaces former Chairman Xu Shaoshi who reached retirement age.

Career Highlights

- He Lifeng served as Party Secretary of Tianjin.
- Prior to serving in Tianjin, He was a Member of the Standing Committee of Fujian Province.

Early Years

He Lifeng was born in Xingning, Guangdong Province in February 1955. He holds an M.A. in finance and a PhD in economics from Xiamen University.

