

Country Historic Profile: CHINA

World Bank Group Archives

Profile completed: December 4, 2020

Basic Historical Information

Membership days for each affiliate

Information is taken from [World Bank Group membership page](#).

- IBRD: December 27, 1945
- IDA: September 24, 1960
- IFC: January 15, 1969
- MIGA: April 30, 1988
- ICSID: February 6, 1993

First loan(s)

Information taken from [Projects & Operations website](#).

- August 30, 1961: [Ground Water Project](#)
- August 30, 1961: [Harbor Dredging Project](#)

Resident Mission establishment

Information taken from internal World Bank Group Archives resource.

- July 1, 1985

Photo resources related to country

Hyperlink links to photos in the World Bank Group Archives' [Photo Catalog](#) for a given country. Digitization and description of archival photos are ongoing, and photos are added to the catalog regularly. In instances where the catalog contains no photos for a given country, check back frequently for additions, or contact the Archives for consultation by emailing archives@worldbank.org.

- [Historical photos related to the China](#)

Project profiles related to country

Link is to a list in the [Projects & Operations website](#) of all projects approved, dropped, or in the pipeline for a given country. Each project links to a project profile that includes description, financial details, and lists of reports, archival record folders, and photos, when available. This can be helpful to study the evolution of the Bank's work in the country over time, and to identify notable projects that represent important shifts or moments in the country's history. Projects are also excellent examples of case

studies of how the Bank made an impact in a particular sector. The WBG Archives have original records and other information related to these projects. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

- [China \(Taiwan\) project profiles in Projects & Operations](#)
- [China project profiles in Projects & Operations](#)

Description of operational records in Archives Holdings

Archival records relating to Bank operations are described according to the ISAD(g) standard and are accessible in our [Archives Holdings catalog](#). Descriptions include lengthy organizational histories of the regional vice presidency responsible for operations in that region and a description of records created and transferred to the Archives by that vice presidency. The descriptions in the catalog can be helpful to understand the organizational context of Bank work, and to understand more about the content of the records in the Archives.

- [Records of the East Asia and Pacific Regional Vice Presidency](#)

Chronology events

Events have been selected from the Archivists' Chronology, an 800+ page resource compiled by Bank Group archivists over the course of the institution's history. Events chosen include important firsts, milestones and other events that evidence the country's development history and/or its relationship with the World Bank Group. The Archivists' Chronology is accessible on [this page](#). This list of events can be helpful to determine if you'd like to dig deeper into any moments in the country's history of engagement with the Bank. The WBG Archives may have original records and other information about these events. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

Bretton Woods Conference; Representatives of China Attend

July 1-22, 1944

IBRD Articles of Agreement Signed by China

December 27, 1945

IDA Articles of Agreement Signed by China

September 24, 1960

First Funding for China

August 30, 1961

IFC Articles of Agreement Signed by China

January 15, 1969

People's Republic of China Assumes Representation as China in the World Bank Group

May 15, 1980

Resident Mission in Beijing, China Opens

July 1, 1985

MIGA Articles of Agreement Signed by China

April 30, 1988

IDA Governors Limit the Combined Allocation of IDA Funds to China and India to 30%

January 23, 1991

China Replaces India as Largest IDA Borrower

June 30, 1991

China Joins ICSID

February 6, 1993

Senior Vice President and Chief Economist Joseph Stiglitz Visits Beijing

July 19, 1998

President Wolfensohn Visits China

May 22, 2002

President Wolfowitz to Travel to Asia and Europe, Including China

October 7, 2005

World Bank Group Timeline Events

Events are selected from the [World Bank Group Timeline](#). The Timeline is an online platform created by the Archives designed to highlight the important events in the Bank Group's history and to illuminate those events through a variety of archival records, photos, video and audio clips, oral history transcripts, reports, and more.

[China becomes largest IDA borrower](#)

June 30, 1991

[IDA15 replenishment features six first-time donors including China](#)

November 6, 2008

Early Country Economic Reports

Reports have been selected from the [Documents & Reports website](#), a database of publicly available World Bank Group authored reports and publications dating to the opening of the Bank in 1946. Country economic reports selected here are, in many cases, some of the earliest economic studies ever published on Bank member countries. Reports discussing the whole economy of a country, rather than individual sectors, are prioritized in this list.

China - Economic report on China (Taiwan)	June 17, 1959
Taiwan - The economy of Taiwan	August 18, 1961
China - Current economic position and prospects	February 28, 1963

China - Current economic position and prospects	July 31, 1964
China - Memorandum on the current economic situation	December 3, 1964
China - Current economic position and prospects	November 30, 1966
China - Current economic position and prospects	September 11, 1968
China - Current economic position and prospects (Vol. 2)	September 11, 1968
China - Economic position and prospects (Vol. 2): Tax system and reform	September 11, 1970
China - Economic position and prospects (Vol. 3): Statistical appendix	September 11, 1970
China - Economic position and prospects: Main report	September 11, 1970
Economic growth and employment in China	January 1, 1979
China - Socialist economic development: Main report	March 2, 1982
China - Socialist economic development (Vol. 2): Annex A: Statistical system and basic data	March 10, 1982
China - Socialist economic development (Vol. 3): Annex B: Population, health and nutrition	March 10, 1982
China - Socialist economic development (Vol. 4): Annex C: Agricultural development	March 10, 1982
China - Socialist economic development (Vol. 5): Annex D: Challenges and achievements in industry	March 10, 1982
China - Socialist economic development (Vol. 6): Annex E: The energy sector	March 10, 1982
China - Socialist economic development (Vol. 7): Annex F: The transport sector	March 10, 1982
China - Socialist economic development (Vol. 8): Annex G: Education	March 10, 1982
China - Socialist economic development (Vol. 9): Annex H: External trade and finance	March 10, 1982
China - Socialist economic development (Vol. 2): The social sectors: population, health, nutrition, and education	August 1, 1983
China - Socialist economic development: The economy, statistical system, and basic data	August 1, 1983
China - Socialist economic development (Vol. 3): The economic sectors: agriculture, industry, energy, transport, and external trade and finance	August 31, 1983
China - Long-term issues and options (Vol. 2): Annex A: issues and prospects in education	May 31, 1985
China - Long-term issues and options (Vol. 3): Annex B: agriculture to the year 2000: prospects and options	May 31, 1985

China - Long-term issues and options (Vol. 4): Annex C: energy	May 31, 1985
China - Long-term issues and options (Vol. 5): Annex D: model and projections	May 31, 1985
China - Long-term issues and options (Vol. 6)	May 31, 1985
China - Long-term issues and options (Vol. 7): Annex F: transport	May 31, 1985
China - Long-term issues and options: The main report	May 31, 1985
China - Country economic memorandum: between plan and market	May 8, 1990
China - Country economic memorandum: reform and the role of the plan in the 1990s	June 19, 1992
China - Country economic memorandum: macroeconomic stability in a decentralized economy	October 26, 1994

Country Assistance Strategies

List is based on a similar list compiled by World Bank's Secretary's staff. Introduced in 1990 and replaced by the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) in 2014, the CAS is an overview of each borrowing country's current economic situation and contains a discussion of its development challenges, prospects, and project-planning. CASs were often initially published as part of project documents but later on were published as standalone documents.

China - Country assistance strategy	May 4, 1995
China - Country Assistance Strategy	February 25, 1997
China - Country assistance strategy: progress report	May 5, 1998
China - Country assistance strategy	January 22, 2003
China - Country partnership strategy	May 23, 2006
China - Country partnership strategy progress report for the period 2006-2010	December 24, 2008
China - Country partnership strategy for the period FY13-FY16	November 11, 2012
China - Performance and learning review of the country partnership strategy for the period FY13-16	January 6, 2016
China - Country Partnership Framework for the Period FY2020-2025	November 11, 2019

Staff Newsletters

Resources have been selected from the World Bank Group's [Documents & Reports website](#). The World Bank has produced a staff newsletter since 1947. The publication has changed its name twice: from International Bank Notes to Bank Notes in 1971 and then to Bank's World in 1982. The newsletter

moved online in 2000 and physical publication ceased. In addition to offering news relating to Bank operations and country development, the newsletters were intended to foster a sense of community among staff by highlighting social events, marriages and births, arrival of new staff, recreational events, favorite cooking recipes submitted by staff, and features on different aspects of staff's home country and culture.

International Bank Notes -- Vol. 2, Iss. 11	June 15, 1948	"Impressions from Shanghai and Peiping"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 3, Iss. 2	January 15, 1949	"Dr. Joseph S. Gould, Economic Department, Took These Pictures on Recent Far East Mission"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 3, Iss. 4	March 1, 1949	"My Trip to China"
Bank Notes	June 1, 1977	"China film draws crowds"
Bank's World -- Vol. 2, Iss. 7	July 1, 1983	"Visit to China"
Bank's World -- Vol. 2, Iss. 12	December 1, 1983	"Institute Extends Its Program to Most Populous Nation -- EDI, China - A New Partnership"
Bank's World -- Vol. 4, Iss. 1	January 1, 1985	Bank Supports Country's Program of Economic Reform - China Looks to the Year 2000
Bank's World -- Vol. 4, Iss. 10	October 1, 1985	"New World Bank Publication Looks at Long-Term Iss., Options - China Report"
Bank's World -- Vol. 4, Iss. 10	October 1, 1985	"Mission to Gansu Province"
Bank's World -- Vol. 6, Iss. 9	September 1, 1987	"Hands on for PRC - China Computes"
Bank's World -- Vol. 7, Iss. 5	May 1, 1988	"Conables Note Many Differences - China is Changing"
Bank's World -- Vol. 7, Iss. 7	July 1, 1988	"Saving the Wood - After the Fire" (p. 2-4)
Bank's World -- Vol. 9, Iss. 11	November 1, 1990	"Ten Chinese Officials on a Training Program - Coming to America"
Bank's World -- Vol. 12, Iss. 2	February 1, 1993	"Water, Water Everywhere - But Fish Farms Protect Luoxi"
Bank's World -- Vol. 14, Iss. 2	February 1, 1995	"Conserving China's Cultural Relics"
Bank's World -- Vol. 1, Iss. 11	August 22, 1997	"It's still like Manhattan on steroids"
Bank's World -- Vol. 1, Iss. 12	September 18, 1997	"China's challenging voyage of change"

Oral histories

Oral histories are selected from the World Bank Group Archives' [Oral History website](#). The site contains transcripts of oral history interviews with departed staff and, in lesser number, Executive Directors and other individuals affiliated with or impacted by the World Bank Group. Interviews were conducted as part of an ongoing effort by the Archives to collect the personal stories and reflections of Bank Group

staff. A portion of the interviews were conducted as research for publications. Each transcript provides a valuable first-person account of Bank activities and decision-making from the very beginning of its operations.

Syed Shahid Husain	July 5, 1991 and September 29, 1992
J. Burke Knapp	October 6 and 29, 1981
Sir Denis H. F. Rickett	August 20, 1986
Barber B. Conable	May 8 and August 19, 1991
Sven Burmester, Leif Christoffersen, Caio Koch-Weser, and Olivier Lafourcade	September 29, 1992
Shahid Javed Burki	January 16, 1992 and February 2, 1993
Syed Shahid Husain	March 18, April 20, and June 14, 1994
Attila Karaosmanoglu	November 17, 1994 and January 10, and 18, 1995
Shahid Javed Burki	June 27 and 28 and July 2, 2002
Edwin R. Lim	October 30 and 31, 2002
Lester Nurick	November 10, December 5, 2003; February 20, April 7, 2004; February 22, 2005
Uma Lele	October 25 and 26, 2005
Jochen Kraske	March 3, 13, and 20, 2006
Paul Cadario	April 4, 17, 22, 30, 2013

Online exhibits

Online exhibits are authored by World Bank Group staff and are accessible on both the Archives' [external site](#) and as a [series of older exhibits](#) in the Documents & Reports website. Exhibits focus on notable personalities and accomplishments in the Bank Group's history.

None.

Executive Directors

List based on World Bank Group [Board of Directors website](#). The country following the name of each ED indicates their nationality.

SHEN, Yuen-Ting, (Republic of China)	May 7, 1946	November 28, 1948
CHANG, Yueh-Lien, (Republic of China)	January 1, 1949	August 26, 1953
LEE, Kan (Republic of China)	August 27, 1953	October 31, 1960
CHEN, Reignson C., (Republic of China)	November 1, 1960	October 31, 1966
CHEN, Reignson C., (Republic of China)	November 1, 1966	July 24, 1972
WONG, Martin, (Republic of China)	July 25, 1972	October 31, 1972
WANG, Liansheng (China)	November 1, 1980	October 31, 1983
XU Naijiong (China)	December 12, 1983	October 31, 1988

ZHANG, Junyi, (China)	November 1, 1988	October 31, 1990
WANG, Liansheng (China)	November 1, 1990	October 31, 1992
WANG, Liansheng (China)	November 1, 1992	October 31, 1994
ZHANG, Shengman, (China)	November 1, 1994	December 31, 1995
LI, Yong, (China)	March 15, 1996	December 31, 1998
ZHU Xian, (China)	January 1, 1999	February 28, 2001
ZHU, Guangyao, (China)	March 1, 2001	February 15, 2005
ZOU Jiayi (China)	February 1, 2005	September 8, 2009, PD to September 18, 2009
YANG, Shaolin (China)	September 7, 2009	October 25, 2013
CHEN, Shixin, (China)	October 21, 2013	May 27, 2016
YANG, Yingming(China)	June 28, 2016	July 16, 2020
CHANG, Junhong, (China)	August 14, 2020	present

For More Information

If you would like information or guidance on accessing more historic sources, we invite you to contact us by emailing archives@worldbank.org.