



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

China

China – CHN37579 – Communist Youth League – Communist Party of China

15 October 2010

1. What are the rules for position holders in the Communist Youth League (CYL) in a workplace?

Information on the specific rules governing the holding of positions in the Communist Youth League (CYL) within a workplace was not found. The website of a Chinese private company does refer to the “China Communist Youth League Constitution” and the “China Communist Youth League of grass-roots organizations of electoral rules (Interim)”¹, suggesting that CYL committee positions in the workplace are subject to regulations. No versions of these documents in English were, however, located.

The Constitution of the CYL and other regulations related to CYL membership are provided in Chinese on the website of the CYL.² Google translations of these documents are, however, not of sufficient accuracy to provide any information on the rules relating to CYL positions, including that of secretary.

2. Are there time limits on how long a person can serve as a CYL Secretary?

No information was found on whether there are time limits on how long a person can serve as secretary of a particular CYL organisation. There is evidence that CYL secretary leaders and senior CYL members can hold these positions after the age of 28. Reports referring to individual deputy secretaries and secretaries of CYL committees in the workplace, as well as regional committees of the CYL, show that individuals can hold these positions while aged in their early 30s.³ The average age of the 1,539 delegates from the organisation attending the CYL Congress in 2003 was 29.7 years.⁴ The current national first secretary of the CYL, Mr Lu Hao, was elected to this position in 2008 aged 41.⁵

¹ ‘The Communist Youth League of China Chemical Industry Group Company on behalf of the first General Assembly in Beijing held a grand’ 2008, NangTong XingChen Synthetic Material Co. Ltd website, 29 May <http://www.ntsmp.com/english/show.asp?action=news&id=57> – Accessed 12 October 2010 – Attachment 1.

² See <http://www.cycl.org.cn/ccylmaterial/regulation/>.

³ ‘China Communist Youth League official jailed for corruption’ 2010, *People’s Daily Online* website, 1 June <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/7008219.html> – Accessed 12 October 2010 – Attachment 2; ‘Wang Zhaoguo -- Vice-chairman of NPC Standing Committee’ 2009, National People’s Congress (NPC) of the People’s Republic of China website, 2 November http://www.npc.gov.cn/englishnpc/Special/ViceChairmanWangZhaoguovisitsSouthAfrica/2009-11/02/content_1525431.htm – Accessed 12 October 2010 – Attachment 3.

⁴ ‘Chinese Communist Youth League congress scheduled’ 2003, *Xinhua News Agency*, 8 July – Attachment 4.

⁵ Jiano, W., 2008, ‘In Sight: Lu Continues ‘Phenomenal’ Rise’, *China Daily*, 16 June – Attachment 5.

3. Is it likely that someone who has not yet been accepted into the Communist Party of China (CPC) would be regarded as such a leader that they would remain in the position of Secretary of the workplace CYL four years beyond the normal age limit, including two years while they are not even in China?

Few sources were found discussing the relationship between acceptance into the CPC and how a person is regarded in terms of their leadership capacities in the CYL, and whether this may influence their ability to hold leadership roles beyond normally prescribed periods or in absentia. As discussed in question two above, the age of 28 does not apply to senior positions in the CYL such as secretary, with people holding this position into their 30s. Furthermore, CPC membership is not a requirement for holding the position of CYL secretary. The *Constitution of the Communist Party of China* only states that CPC membership is required if CYL secretaries wish to attend party meetings at the corresponding level:

Those secretaries of League committees at or below the county level or in enterprises and institutions who are Party members may attend meetings of Party committees at the corresponding levels and meetings of their standing committees as non-voting participants.⁶

Together, this information suggests that individuals in their early 30s may be CYL secretaries and not yet be accepted as CPC members.

High standards of leadership shown by individuals in the CYL can lead to recruitment into the CPC. There is considerable evidence to show that holding senior positions in the CYL is important to future recruitment into senior levels of the CPC, such as village CPC secretary and provincial CPC leaders.⁷ One recent writer on the workings of local government and politics in China has stated that “promising and educated young people” who are secretaries of the CYL are targeted for promotion into key village cadre positions.⁸ The closeness of the relationship between the CPC and the CYL is stipulated in the Constitution of the CPC. It declares that the CYL is the CPC’s “assistant and reserve force”, and is the “shock force and bridge” between the CPC and young people:

Chapter X: Relationship between the Party and the Communist Youth League of China

Article 49

The Communist Youth League of China is a mass organization of advanced young people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China; it is a school where a large number of young people learn about socialism with Chinese characteristics and about communism through practice; it is the Party’s assistant and reserve force. The Central Committee of the Communist Youth League functions under the leadership

⁶ See Article 50: Communist Party of China 2002, *Party Constitution* (Amended & Adopted 14 November 2002), Communist Party of China website <http://english.cpc.people.com.cn/65732/4446148.html> – Accessed 19 May 2009 – Attachment 6.

⁷ The importance of a background in the CYL to the current leadership of the CPC is discussed in Li, Cheng 2002. ‘Hu’s Followers: Provincial Leaders with Background in the Communist Youth League’, *China Leadership Monitor*, No. 3, May <http://www.hoover.org/publications/clm/issues/2906756.html> – Accessed 21 March 2007 – Attachment 7.

⁸ Zhong, Y. 2003, *Local Government and Politics in China: Challenges from Below*, M. E. Sharpe Inc, New York, p. 174 – Attachment 8.

of the Central Committee of the Party. The local chapters of the Communist Youth League are under the leadership of the Party committees at the corresponding levels and of the higher organizations of the League itself.

Article 50

Party committees at all levels must strengthen their leadership over Communist Youth League organizations and pay attention to selecting and training League cadres. The Party must firmly support the Communist Youth League in the lively and creative performance of its work to suit the characteristics and needs of young people, and give full play to the League's role as a shock force and as a bridge linking the Party with young people.⁹

Therefore, if a person has shown outstanding qualities as secretary of the CYL, acceptance into the CPC is more likely. It is, however, unknown at what age recruitment would normally occur. It is also possible that if someone had shown such qualities, CPC leaders may be flexible with regard to their position in the CYL, with the expectation that they would in the future be recruited into the CPC. The likelihood of such a scenario occurring within a particular CYL organisation is, however, difficult to determine with any precision. The lack of definitive information on regulations governing the holding of positions within the CYL, together with the large size of the CYL (75 million members, 2.9 million grassroots organisations and 191,000 officials in 2009),¹⁰ contribute to the difficulty in assessing how individual leaders and secretary positions are viewed and treated within China.

Attachments

1. 'The Communist Youth League of China Chemical Industry Group Company on behalf of the first General Assembly in Beijing held a grand' 2008, NangTong XingChen Synthetic Material Co. Ltd website, 29 May
<http://www.ntsmp.com/english/show.asp?action=news&id=57> – Accessed 12 October 2010.
2. 'China Communist Youth League official jailed for corruption' 2010, *People's Daily Online* website, 1 June
<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/7008219.html> – Accessed 12 October 2010.
3. 'Wang Zhaoguo – Vice-chairman of NPC Standing Committee' 2009, National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China website, 2 November
http://www.npc.gov.cn/englishnpc/Special/ViceChairmanWangZhaoguovisitsSouthAfrica/2009-11/02/content_1525431.htm – Accessed 12 October 2010.
4. 'Chinese Communist Youth League congress scheduled' 2003, *Xinhua News Agency*, 8 July. (FACTIVA)

⁹ Communist Party of China 2002, *Party Constitution* (Amended & Adopted 14 November 2002), Communist Party of China website <http://english.cpc.people.com.cn/65732/4446148.html> – Accessed 19 May 2009 – Attachment 6.

¹⁰ 'Engaging youth in China, S'pore' 2009, *Straits Times*, 13 January – Attachment 9.

5. Jiano, W., 2008, 'In Sight: Lu Continues 'Phenomenal' Rise', *China Daily*, 16 June. (FACTIVA)
6. Communist Party of China 2002, *Party Constitution* (Amended & Adopted 14 November 2002), Communist Party of China website
<http://english.cpc.people.com.cn/65732/4446148.html> – Accessed 19 May 2009.
7. Li, Cheng 2002. 'Hu's Followers: Provincial Leaders with Background in the Communist Youth League', *China Leadership Monitor*, No. 3, May
<http://www.hoover.org/publications/clm/issues/2906756.html> – Accessed 21 March 2007.
8. Zhong, Y. 2003, *Local Government and Politics in China: Challenges from Below*, M. E. Sharpe Inc, New York. (RRT Library Sydney)
9. 'Engaging youth in China, S'pore' 2009, *Straits Times*, 13 January (FACTIVA)