

Overall Score:

55 - Very Weak

Legal Framework Score:

74 - Moderate

Actual Implementation Score:

35 - Very Weak

Category I. Civil Society, Public Information and Media

I-1. ⁵⁷Civil Society Organizations

1. Are anti-corruption/good governance CSOs legally protected?

100

1a. In law, citizens have a right to form civil society organizations (CSOs) focused on anti-corruption or good governance.

YES | NO

Comments:

We must be aware that there are many restrictions concerning the right to form CSOs, such as to find one mother organization, which is usually a government branch or allies of government, an impossible mission for many civil society organizations. That is the reason why there are so many CSOs in China without formal registration or registered as consulting firms.

References:

On Oct. 25, 1998, the then Premier Zhu Rongji ratified No. 250 Statute, The Regulation of Social Organizations, which was a statute specifically dealing with the right to form civil society organizations. Article 1 recognized the right to form CSOs. However, articles 3, 9 require the permission from ruling organizations, which is extremely difficult to get.

YES: A YES score is earned when freedom to assemble into groups promoting good governance or anti-corruption is protected by law, regardless of political ideology, religion or objectives. Groups with a history of violence or terrorism (within last ten years) may be banned. Groups sympathetic to or related to banned groups must be allowed if they have no history of violence.

NO: A NO score is earned when any single non-violent group is legally prohibited from organizing to promote good governance or anti-corruption. These groups may include non-violent separatist groups, political parties or religious groups.

1b. In law, anti-corruption/good governance CSOs are free to accept funding from any foreign or domestic sources.

YES | NO

Comments:

This is really a plus. Chinese CSOs can accept funding from any foreign sources, even from organizations which are banned by the Chinese government. Of course, the funds from banned donors should reach one personal account, not the organization account. A yes score is given because the authorities have full knowledge that CSOs are accepting funds from banned donors.

References:

According to the Accounting Rules of Civil Society Organizations issued by Ministry of Civil Affairs, valid through Jan.1, 2005, Civil Society Organizations are allowed to establish one bank account of foreign currencies, which implies that CSOs are allowed to accept foreign funds.

<http://www.chinanpo.gov.cn/web/showBulletin.do?id=17979&dictionid=1101>

YES: A YES score is earned if anti-corruption/good governance CSOs face no legal or regulatory restrictions to raise or accept funds from any foreign or domestic sources. A YES score may still be earned if funds from groups with a history of violence or terrorism (within last ten years) are banned.

NO: A NO score is earned if there any formal legal or regulatory bans on foreign or domestic funding sources for CSOs focused on anti-corruption or good governance.

1c. In law, anti-corruption/good governance CSOs are required to disclose their sources of funding.

YES | NO

References:

Article 21 of Registration and Administration Rules of Private, Non-enterprises Organizations issued by State Council of P. R. China on Oct. 25 (Statute No. 251) requires CSOs, including anti-corruption/good governance CSOs, to disclose sources of funding.

<http://www.mca.gov.cn/artical/content/PMJN/2003122285909.htm>

YES: A YES score is earned if anti-corruption/good governance CSOs are required to publicly disclose their sources of funding.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such public disclosure requirement exists.

2. Are good governance/anti-corruption CSOs able to operate freely?

17

2a. In practice, the government does not create barriers to the organization of new anti-corruption/good governance CSOs.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

People are almost free to form some organizations and can indeed carry out activities. However, it is extremely difficult to get licenses. The authorities know these organizations are working in related areas, but they do not legally ban these activities.

References:

1): He Bin
No Permission Is Needed to Establish one CSO
china-review.com, June 9, 2006
<http://www.china-review.com/lafi.asp?id=17562>

2): Interview Prof. Yu Dazhang, Prof. of Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Unirule Institute of Economics, July 14, Office

100: CSOs focused on promoting good governance or anti-corruption can freely organize with little to no interaction with the government, other than voluntary registration.

75:

50: CSOs focused on promoting good governance or anti-corruption must go through formal steps to form, requiring interaction with the state such as licenses or registration. Formation is possible, though there is some burden on the CSO. Some unofficial barriers, such as harassment of minority groups, may occur.

25:

0: Other than pro-government groups, CSOs focused on promoting good governance or anti-corruption are effectively prohibited, either by official requirements or by unofficial means, such as intimidation or fear.

2b. In practice, anti-corruption/good governance CSOs actively engage in the political and policymaking process.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Chinese CSOs in general can influence public opinion and in some cases can change public policy. One most striking example was Sun Zhigang Case in 2004. The protests, demonstrations and seminar organized by CSOs at last made the Chinese authorities abolish the relevant law. Of course, we should be aware that this strength is limited. According to one Report, over 80 percent of CSOs cannot get registration in China. The activities are thus restricted. Only in some cases can CSOs influence public policy.

<http://bhuef.buaa.edu.cn/dispnews.php?nid=170&ntype=23>

References:

1): Liu Yu,
How to Protect Underprivileged Group" "Southern People's Magazine" Fairbank Center of Harvard University
July 17, 2007

100: Civil society organizations focused on anti-corruption or good governance are an essential component of the political process. CSOs provide widely valued insights and have political power. Those CSOs play a leading role in shaping public opinion on political matters.

75:

50: Anti-corruption/good governance CSOs are active, but may not be relevant to political decisions or the policymaking process. Those CSOs are willing to articulate opinions on political matters, but have little access to decision makers. They have some influence over public opinion, but considerably less than political figures.

25:

0: Anti-corruption/good governance CSOs are effectively prohibited from engaging in the political process. Those CSOs are unwilling to take positions on political issues. They are not relevant to changes in public opinion.

2c. In practice, no anti-corruption/good governance CSOs have been shut down by the government for their work on corruption-related issues during the study period.

YES | NO

Comments:

One measure to close CSOs is to shut them down, while the other prevalent method is not to allow CSOs to register.

Chang Kun, the head of Xinjiang Snow Lotus, one CSO aiming at increasing the transparency of Chinese AIDS policies and educating people about some AIDs basic knowledge, published one report on the details that his organization was shut down on Oct. 18, 2006, and the way he was intimidated by local policemen.

References:

1): Chang Kun
Chang Kun sues Xinjiang Normal University"
2007
http://blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog_53d8974a010009i7.html

2): Interview Mr. Gao Yan, deputy director of Unirule Institute of Economics,
August 13, office

YES: A YES score is earned if there were no CSOs shut down by the government or forced to cease operations because of their work on corruption-related issues during the study period.

NO: A NO score is earned if any CSO has been effectively shut down by the government or forced to cease operations because of its work on corruption-related issues during the study period. The causal relationship between the cessation of operations and the CSO's work may not be explicit, however the burden of proof here is low. If it seems likely that the CSO was forced to cease operations due to its work, then the indicator is scored as a NO. Corruption is defined broadly to include any abuses of power, not just the passing of bribes.

3. Are civil society activists safe when working on corruption issues?

33

3a. In practice, in the past year, no civil society activists working on corruption issues have been imprisoned.

YES | **NO**

Comments:

There are some others jailed for activities associated with anti-corruption, however, only very few such cases were made public.

References:

1): Guangcheng, please go home"
chenyuanweijing.spaces.live.com

This is a report by Mr. Chen Guangcheng's wife. Chen Guangcheng, a human rights advocate was sentenced to jail for seven months by a local court on Aug. 20, 2006

2): Interview Mr. Gao Yan, deputy director of Unirule Institute of Economics,
August 13, 2007

YES: A YES score is earned if there were no CSO activists imprisoned because of their work covering corruption. YES is a positive score.

NO: A NO score is earned if any activist was jailed in relation to work covering corruption. The causal relationship between the official charges and the person's work may not be explicit, however the burden of proof here is low. If it seems likely that the person was imprisoned due to his or her work, then the indicator is scored as a NO. Corruption is defined broadly to include any abuses of power, not just the passing of bribes. Imprisoned" is defined here as detention by the government lasting more than 24 hours.

3b. In practice, in the past year, no civil society activists working on corruption issues have been physically harmed.

YES | **NO**

References:

1, interview Mr. Guo Yushan, vice director of Transition Institute, December 25, 2007

YES: A YES score is earned if there were no documented cases of CSO activists covering corruption being assaulted in the specific study period. A YES score can be earned if there was an attack but it was clearly unrelated to the activist's work. YES is a positive score.

NO: A NO score is earned if there were any documented cases during the study period of assault to an activist who covers corruption. Corruption is defined broadly to include any abuses of power, not just the passing of bribes.

3c. In practice, in the past year, no civil society activists working on corruption issues have been killed.

YES | NO

References:

Interview Mr. Gao Yan, deputy director of Unirule Institute of Economics,
Aug. 13, 2007

YES: A YES score is earned if there were no documented cases of CSO activists being killed because of their work covering corruption in the specific study period. YES is a positive score.

NO: A NO score is earned if there were any documented cases during the study period where a person was killed related to a corruption trial, scandal or investigation. The relationship between a mysterious death and an individual's history may not be clear, however the burden of proof here is low. If it is reasonable that a person was killed in relation to his or her work on corruption issues, then the indicator is scored as a NO. Corruption is defined broadly to include any abuses of power, not just the passing of bribes.

4. Can citizens organize into trade unions?

75

4a. In law, citizens have a right to organize into trade unions.

YES | NO

Comments:

China has trade unions and labor unions. In comparison to trade unions, labor unions face more restrictions. The labor unions are generally headed by party members. China also had reservations about the right to form labor unions when ratifying the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

References:

Article 35 of Chinese Constitution recognized the right to form associations, including trade unions.
http://www.gov.cn/ziliao/flfg/2005-06/14/content_6310_4.htm

YES: A YES score is earned when trade unions are allowed by law, regardless of political ideology, religion or objectives. Groups with a history of violence or terrorism (within last ten years) may be banned. Groups sympathetic to or related to banned groups must be allowed if they have no history of violence.

NO: A NO score is earned when any single non-violent trade union is legally prohibited by the government from organizing.

4b. In practice, citizens are able to organize into trade unions.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Trade unions face very few restrictions. However, their role in the political process is not overly important.

References:

1): <http://www.88088.com/wzqysh/sp/2007/0429/204796.shtml>
A report about the establishment of one trade union.

2): Wang Huitong
The Development of CSOs in "Studies on Economic Rights" edited by Mao Yushi.
2007

100: Trade unions are common and are an important part to the political process and political discourse. Trade union organizers have widely understood rights. Trade unions are free from intimidation or violence.

75:

50: Trade unions exist, but are not always relevant to politics or policy debates. Barriers to organizing trade unions exist, such as intimidation at work, or retribution firings. Trade union organizers have some rights, but these may not be commonly known, or are difficult to defend.

25:

0: Trade unions are rare. Significant barriers to organization exist, including direct violence. Rights of union organizers are not widely known, or are ineffective in protecting organizers.

I-2. Media

5. Are media and free speech protected?

100

5a. In law, freedom of the media is guaranteed.

YES | NO

Comments:

In constitution, right of free speech is recognized, which implies a freedom of the media. However, some topics are prohibited. For example, the recent slavery case in one brick factory was banned. There is one censorship committee composed of party members that is in charge of all contents. In one word, freedom of speech is recognized in law, however in practice this right is seriously violated.

References:

Chapter 2 of the Constitution of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if freedom of the press is guaranteed in law, including to all political parties, religions, and ideologies.

NO: A NO score is earned if any specific publication relating to government affairs is legally banned, or any general topic is prohibited from publication. Specific restrictions on media regarding privacy or slander are allowed, but not if these amount to legal censorship of a general topic, such as corruption or defense. A NO score is earned if non-government media is prohibited or restricted.

5b. In law, freedom of speech is guaranteed.

YES | NO

Comments:

In China, the individual can voice an opinion on any topic, including negative comments on the president, while in the company of friends, at home and in the office. The only restriction is that some speeches cannot be published in newspapers, but they can be posted on the internet.

References:

Article 35 of the Constitution of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if freedom of individual speech is guaranteed in law, including to all political parties, religions, and ideologies.

NO: A NO score is earned if any individual speech is legally prohibited, regardless of topic. Specific exceptions for speech linked with a criminal act, such as a prohibition on death threats, are allowed. However, any non-specific prohibition earns a NO score.

6. Are citizens able to form print media entities?

31

6a. In practice, the government does not create barriers to form a print media entity.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

It is possible to form a print media organization, however, there are too many restrictions.

References:

1: "The Restrictions of Media Should Be Lifted"

China Youth Daily, June 26, 2007

http://www.cnci.gov.cn/news/media/news_6164.htm

2): Interview Mr. Gao Yan, Deputy director of Unirule Institute of Economics,

Aug. 13, 2007

100: Print media entities can freely organize with little to no interaction with the government. This score may still be earned if groups or individuals with a history of political violence or terrorism (within last ten years) are banned from forming media entities.

75:

50: Formation of print media groups is possible, though there is some burden on the media group including overly complicated registration or licensing requirements. Some unofficial barriers, such as harassment of minority groups, may occur.

25:

0: Print media groups are effectively prohibited, either by official requirements or by unofficial means, such as intimidation or fear.

6b. In law, where a print media license is necessary, there is an appeal mechanism if a license is denied or revoked.

YES | NO

References:

Two laws concerning this question, the Regulation of Publications issued by the General Administration of Press and Publication of P. R. China and State Council in 2001 prescribed the right of print media from illegal interference from government.

The Administrative License Law of the Peoples Republic of China valid through July 1, 2004 gives the legal protection of appeal. Any people and organization can go to court to require a review on the executive's actions using this law.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is, in law or in accompanying regulations, a formal process to appeal a denied print media license, including through the courts. A YES score is also earned if no print license is necessary.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no appeal process for print media licenses.

6c. In practice, where necessary, citizens can obtain a print media license within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Usually, a media outlet must find one mother organization. Otherwise, it is extremely difficult to receive a license.

References:

1): Interview Mr. Gao Yan, Deputy director of Unirule Institute of Economics,

100: Licenses are not required or licenses can be obtained within two months.

75:

50: Licensing is required and takes more than two months. Some groups may be delayed up to six months.

25:

0: Licensing takes close to or more than one year for most groups.

6d. In practice, where necessary, citizens can obtain a print media license at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

According to the Regulation of Publication, licenses require a visit to the government office in provincial capital cities. However, some financial burden will occur, mainly bribing regulators.

References:

Interview Mr. Gao Yan, deputy director of Unirule Institute of Economics, Aug. 13, 2007

100: Licenses are not required or can be obtained at minimal cost to the organization. Licenses can be obtained on-line or through the mail.

75:

50: Licenses are required, and impose a financial burden on the organization. Licenses may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Licenses are required, and impose a major financial burden on the organization. Licensing costs are prohibitive to the organization.

7. Are citizens able to form broadcast (radio and TV) media entities?

25

7a. In practice, the government does not create barriers to form a broadcast (radio and TV) media entity.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

According to Article 10 of the Regulation of Radio and Broadcast issued by State Council valid through Sept. 1, 1997, any entities other than the government are prohibited to establish a broadcast media entity.

100: Broadcast media entities can freely organize with little to no interaction with the government. Media groups have equal access to broadcast bandwidth through a reasonably fair distribution system. This score may still be earned if groups or individuals with a history of political violence or terrorism (within last ten years) are banned from forming media entities.

75:

50: Formation of broadcast media groups is possible, though there is some burden on the media group including overly complicated registration or licensing requirements. Some unofficial barriers, such as harassment of minority groups, may occur. Division of broadcast bandwidth is widely viewed to be somewhat unfair.

25:

0: Broadcast media groups are effectively prohibited, either by official requirements or by unofficial means, such as intimidation or fear. This score is appropriate if the division of broadcast bandwidth is widely viewed to be used as a political tool.

7b. In law, where a broadcast (radio and TV) media license is necessary, there is an appeal mechanism if a license is denied or revoked.

YES | NO

References:

According to Administrative License Law of the Peoples Republic of China, the radio and TV station can appeal to the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, or go to court, although there is no record that such cases ever happened, because in China only the government is allowed to establish radio and TV stations.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is, in law or in accompanying regulations, a formal process to appeal a denied broadcast media license, including through the courts. A YES score is also earned if no broadcast license is necessary.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no appeal process for broadcast media licenses.

7c. In practice, where necessary, citizens can obtain a broadcast (radio and TV) media license within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | **0**

References:

According to the law, only the government is eligible to establish radio or TV stations.

100: Licenses are not required or licenses can be obtained within two months.

75:

50: Licensing is required and takes more than two months. Some groups may be delayed up to six months.

25:

0: Licensing takes close to or more than one year for most groups.

7d. In practice, where necessary, citizens can obtain a broadcast (radio and TV) media license at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | **0**

References:

It is not a matter of cost. Citizens are not allowed to establish a radio or TV station.

100: Licenses are not required or can be obtained at minimal cost to the organization. Licenses can be obtained on-line or through the mail.

75:

50: Licenses are required, and impose a financial burden on the organization. Licenses may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Licenses are required, and impose a major financial burden on the organization. Licensing costs are prohibitive to the organization.

8. Can citizens freely use the Internet?

25

8a. In practice, the government does not prevent citizens from accessing content published online.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Some websites, such as VOA, The Freedom House, Amnesty International etc, are banned in China. Internet users can access this information only through proxy servers in other countries. At the same time, internet users can voice their dissents, even very sensitive contents via BBS, although the webmaster will delete it very soon.

References:

1): Radio Asia China Journalists without Borders Protest against China's internet Censorship
Oct. 27, 2006
<http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/shenrubao/2006/10/27/rsf/>

2): Rebecca MacKinnon
"China's Internet: Let a Thousand Filters Bloom"
YaleGlobal, June 28, 2005
http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display_article?id=5928

100: The government does not prevent Internet users from accessing online content. While some forms of content may be illegal to download or own (such as child pornography), the government does not manipulate networks to prevent access to this information. This indicator addresses direct government intervention in the transfer of information, not indirect deterrents such as intimidation, surveillance or technical difficulties in countries with poor infrastructure.

75:

50: Internet users are prevented by the government from reaching online content in some cases. Government tactics may include firewalls preventing access to networks in other countries, or manipulating search engine results to exclude politically sensitive topics.

25:

0: Internet users are routinely prevented from accessing online content. Government restrictions are in place at all times for certain topics. Government tactics may include firewalls preventing access to networks in other countries, or manipulating search engine results to exclude politically sensitive topics.

8b. In practice, the government does not censor citizens creating content online.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Some websites containing political opinions, such as yitahutu, were shut down.

References:

1): China Shuts Down Website Popular with Western NGOs,
July 1, 2007
<http://www.theage.com.au/news/Technology/China-shuts-down-website-popular-with-Western-NGOs/2007/07/11/1183833600370.html>

2): Chinese Public Governance Indicators 2007, Unirule Research

100: The government never removes online information or disables servers due to their political content. All political speech is protected with limited exceptions, such as legitimate intellectual property restrictions; direct calls to violence; or pornography.

75:

50: In some cases, the government restricts political speech by its citizens on the Internet. This is accomplished either directly by controlling servers hosting restricted content, or indirectly through threats or intimidation against the persons posting political content.

25:

0: The government regularly restricts political speech by its citizens on the Internet. This is accomplished either directly by controlling servers hosting the restricted content, or indirectly through threats or intimidation against the persons posting political content.

9. Are the media able to report on corruption?

42

9a. In law, it is legal to report accurate news even if it damages the reputation of a public figure.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 2 of the Constitution of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if it is legal to report accurate information on public figures regardless of damage to their reputations. Public figures are defined broadly, including anyone in a position of responsibility in the government or civil service; any political leader; leaders of civil society groups including religious groups, trade unions, or NGOs; leaders or officers of large businesses. A YES score can still be earned if a reckless disregard for the truth (i.e. slander) is prohibited.

NO: A NO score is earned if privacy laws protect any public figures (as defined in the YES coding) from accurate information.

9b. In practice, the government or media owners/distribution groups do not encourage self-censorship of corruption-related stories.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Censorship in China is very powerful. A list of topics that are prohibited from coverage will be given beforehand to the media outlets, and if they report on these topics, they will be punished. The general punishment is that the editor will be replaced. The more severe punishment will close down the media outlet. The media owners/editors have to follow these rules, otherwise they will lose their job. Thus, media owners will have to practice censorship in the first place to guarantee that there are no sensitive subjects.

References:

1): Li Datong A letter to Editor in Chief of China Youth Daily"
2005
CEO&CIO<http://www.ceocio.com.cn/blog/user1/15/archives/2005/178.html>

2): "China Increases Censorship of 'Dangerous' Foreign News (Roundup)"
Asia-Pacific News, Sept. 10, 2006
http://news.monstersandcritics.com/asiapacific/article_1199934.php/China_increases_censorship_of_dangerous_foreign_news_Roundup

100: The government, its proxies, or media ownership/distribution groups make no attempt to restrict media coverage of corruption-related issues through unofficial means.

75:

50: The government, its proxies, or media ownership/distribution groups make some attempts to restrict media coverage of corruption-related issues through unofficial means, such as restricting access by disfavored media outlets, or other short-term consequences. Violent reprisals against media outlets are rare.

25:

0: The government, its proxies, or media ownership/distribution groups actively use illegal methods to restrict reporting of corruption-related issues. This may include harassment, arrests, and threats. Journalists and publishers take a personal risk to report on corruption, and media outlets who commonly report on corruption face long-term consequences or violent reprisals.

9c. In practice, there is no prior government restraint (pre-publication censoring) on publishing corruption-related stories.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

In China, it is often the case that a censorship agency will give the media outlets a list of topics that should not be covered. In case the rules are disobeyed, the media outlets will be punished.

References:

1): Duke University

News Tip: Internet Censorship Reflects Chinas Changing Attitude About Economic Reform” , 2006

<http://www.dukenews.duke.edu/2006/02/chinesemediatip.html>

2): Jane Martinson “China Censorship Damaged Us, Google Founders Admit”
The Guardian, Jan. 27, 2007

3): Interview Zhou Yue, a reporter at Beijing TV sation,
August 11, at home

<http://business.guardian.co.uk/davos2007/story/0,,1999994,00.html>

100: The government never prevents publication of controversial corruption-related materials.

75:

50: The government prevents publication of controversial corruption-related material in cases where there is a strong political incentive to suppress the information. This score is appropriate if in countries where illiteracy is high, the government may allow a free print press but censor broadcast media.

25:

0: The government regularly censors material prior to publication, especially politically sensitive or damaging corruption-related material. This score is appropriate even if the government restricts only politically damaging news while allowing favorable coverage.

10. Are the media credible sources of information?

15

10a. In law, print media companies are required to disclose their ownership.

YES | NO

Comments:

There is no mandatory legal requirement for the disclosure of ownership.

References:

No such laws exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if print media companies are required by law to disclose all owners of the company.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no such requirement or if the requirement is optional, only partially applicable, or exempts certain types of entities or agents from being disclosed.

10b. In law, broadcast (radio and TV) media companies are required to disclose their ownership.

YES | **NO**

Comments:

In China, broadcast media companies are owned by the government. There is no mandatory legal requirement for the disclosure of ownership.

References:

No such laws exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if broadcast media companies are required by law to disclose all owners of the company.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no such requirement or if the requirement is optional, only partially applicable, or exempts certain type of entities or agents from being disclosed.

10c. In practice, journalists and editors adhere to strict, professional practices in their reporting.

100 | 75 | 50 | **25** | 0

Comments:

We should bear in mind that some journalists refuse to sell favorable or unfavorable coverage, for example Mr. Lu Yuegang at China Youth Daily.

References:

1): Li Datong

A letter to Editor in chief of China Youth Daily", 2005 CEO&CIO <http://www.ceocio.com.cn/blog/user1/15/archives/2005/178.html>

2): "China Increases Censorship of 'Dangerous' Foreign News (Roundup)"

Asia-Pacific News, Sept. 10, 2006

http://news.monstersandcritics.com/asiapacific/article_1199934.php/China_increases_censorship_of_dangerous_foreign_news_Roundup

100: Editors and journalists at the major media outlets abide by a strict journalistic code of conduct and are unwilling to alter their coverage of a particular issue, event or person in exchange for money, gifts, or other favors or remuneration.

75:

50: Editors and journalists at the major media outlets generally avoid altering coverage in exchange for favors but some exceptions have been noted. Not all newsrooms abide by a formal journalistic code of conduct.

25:

0: Editors and journalists are widely known to sell" favorable or unfavorable coverage in exchange for money, gifts, or other remuneration. The major media outlets do not abide by any formal journalistic code of conduct.

10d. In practice, during the most recent election, political parties or independent candidates received fair media coverage.

100 | 75 | 50 | **25** | 0

Comments:

A 25 score is given because 1, there are very few cases of independent candidates, particularly above the county level; and 2,

the media are generally benign to independent candidates because their ranks are too low, and the topics is not a danger to the central government.

References:

1): Independent Candidate Defeats Official Candidate To Be A Representative"
China Youth Daily, May 21, 2003
http://news.xinhuanet.com/newscenter/2003-05/21/content_879122.htm

2): Yin Donghua "Independent Candidates: Walking ahead with Difficulties"
China Elections & Governance, June 1, 2007
<http://www.chinaelections.com/NewsInfo.asp?NewsID=109746>

100: All political parties and independent candidates have some access to media outlets. Individual media outlets may have biases, but on balance, the national media coverage reflects the interests of the electorate. Media groups generally act as disinterested parties in an election. In places where a government is popular with the public, opposition viewpoints can access the public via media outlets.

75:

50: Major popular media outlets have a persistent bias regarding some parties or independent candidates. Some major parties may be partially excluded from media coverage, or draw more negative coverage. Media sectors may have distinct biases, such as newspapers favoring one party, while radio favors another.

25:

0: The mass media, on balance, have clear preferences in election outcomes and coverage is driven to achieve these goals. Some major parties or independent candidates are excluded or consistently negatively portrayed by mass media. Dissenting political opinions are only found on fringe or elite media outlets, such as Web sites.

10e. In practice, political parties and candidates have equitable access to state-owned media outlets.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Independent Candidate Defeats Official Candidate To Be A Representative"
China Youth Daily, May 21, 2003
http://news.xinhuanet.com/newscenter/2003-05/21/content_879122.htm

2): Yin Donghua "Independent Candidates: Walking ahead with Difficulties"
China Elections & Governance, June 1, 2007
<http://www.chinaelections.com/NewsInfo.asp?NewsID=109746>

100: The government ensures that equal access and fair treatment of election contestants is provided by all state-owned media outlets, including all electronic and print media. This obligation extends to news reports, editorial comment, and all other content. All parties and candidates are offered consistent and equivalent rates for campaign advertising on state-owned media outlets.

75:

50: The government generally ensures equal access and fair treatment of all candidates and parties by state-owned media outlets but some exceptions exist. State-owned media may occasionally discriminate against particular parties or candidates and advertising rates may be confusing or non-transparent.

25:

0: The government uses state-owned media to routinely discriminate against opposition candidates and parties. Advertising space may be denied to opposition candidates and parties or higher rates may be charged.

11. Are journalists safe when investigating corruption?

67

11a. In practice, in the past year, no journalists investigating corruption have been imprisoned.

YES | NO

References:

1): http://www.cpj.org/attacks06/pages06/imprison_06.html

YES: A YES score is earned if there were no journalists imprisoned related to work covering corruption during the study period. A YES score is positive.

NO: A NO score is earned if any journalist was jailed because of his/her work covering corruption during the study period. The causal relationship between the official charges and the journalist's work may not be explicit, however the burden of proof here is low. If it seems likely that the journalist was imprisoned due to his or her work, then the indicator is scored as a NO. Corruption is defined broadly to include any abuses of power, not just the passing of bribes. Imprisoned" is defined here as detention by the government lasting more than 24 hours.

11b. In practice, in the past year, no journalists investigating corruption have been physically harmed.

YES | NO

Comments:

Despite many cases of police abuse against reporters investigating issues such as environmental accidents, there have been no concrete linkages in those cases with corruption-related issues directly.

References:

Zhou Yue, Reporter at Beijing TV station,
Aug. 11, at home

YES: A YES score is earned if there were no documented cases of journalists being assaulted during the specific study period for their work covering corruption issues. A YES score is positive.

NO: A NO score is earned if there were any documented cases of assault to a journalist covering corruption during the study period. Corruption is defined broadly to include any abuses of power, not just the passing of bribes.

11c. In practice, in the past year, no journalists investigating corruption have been killed.

YES | NO

References:

Zhou Yue, Reporter at Beijing TV station,
Aug. 11, at home

YES: A YES score is earned if there were no documented cases of journalists being killed because of their work covering corruption-related issues during the study period. A YES score is positive.

NO: A NO score is earned if there were any documented cases where a journalist was killed in relation to his or her work covering corruption-related issues in the study period. The relationship between a mysterious death and an individual's work may not be clear, however the burden of proof here is low. If it is a reasonable guess that a person was killed in relation to his or her work on corruption issues, then the indicator is scored as a NO. Corruption is defined broadly to include any abuses of power, not just the passing of bribes.

12. Do citizens have a legal right of access to information?

100

12a. In law, citizens have a right of access to government information and basic government records.

YES | NO

References:

Regulations of Disclosing Government Information valid through May 1, 2008, was passed by State Council on Jan.17, 2007, and recognized the right of access to government information.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal right to access government documents, including constitutional guarantees. Exceptions can be made for national security reasons or individual privacy, but they should be limited in scope. All other government documents should be available upon a public request.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no such right.

12b. In law, citizens have a right of appeal if access to a basic government record is denied.

YES | NO

References:

According to article 33 of the Decree of Government Information Disclosure passed by China's State Council, citizens can appeal to authorities related if the right of access to government information is denied.
http://www.gov.cn/zwjg/2007-04/24/content_592937.htm

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal process of appeal for rejected information requests. A YES score can still be earned if the appeals process involves redress through the courts rather than administrative appeal.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no such formal process.

12c. In law, there is an established institutional mechanism through which citizens can request government records.

YES | NO

References:

Articles 15, 16 of the Decree of Government Information require disclosure
http://www.gov.cn/zwjg/2007-04/24/content_592937.htm

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal government mechanism/institution through which citizens can access government records available under freedom of information laws. This mechanism could be a government office (or offices within agencies or ministries) or an electronic request system.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no such formal mechanism or institution.

13. Is the right of access to information effective?

13a. In practice, citizens receive responses to access to information requests within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1); Unirule Center for Governance Studies
The Chinese Public Governance Indicators"
Unirule's Working Paper series, 2007

100: Records are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two weeks. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information. Legitimate exceptions are allowed for sensitive national security-related information.

75:

50: Records take around one to two months to obtain. Some additional delays may be experienced. Politically-sensitive information may be withheld without sufficient justification.

25:

0: Records take more than four months to acquire. In some cases, most records may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records. National security exemptions may be abused to avoid disclosure of government information.

13b. In practice, citizens can use the access to information mechanism at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1); Unirule Center for Governance Studies
The Chinese Public Governance Indicators"
Unirule's Working Paper series 2007

100: Records are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Records can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Records impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving records may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving records imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Records costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

13c. In practice, citizens can resolve appeals to access to information requests within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Why It Is So Difficult To Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily, June 12, 2006

2): "Violating Right to Information by The Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: The agency/entity acts on appeals quickly. While some backlog is expected and inevitable, appeals are acknowledged promptly and cases move steadily towards resolution.

75:

50: The agency/entity acts on appeals quickly but with some exceptions. Some appeals may not be acknowledged, and simple issues may take more than two months to resolve.

25:

0: The agency/entity does not resolve appeals in a timely fashion quickly. Appeals may be unacknowledged for many months and simple issues may take more than three months to resolve.

13d. In practice, citizens can resolve appeals to information requests at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Why It Is So Difficult To Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily, June 12, 2006

2): "Violating Right to Information by The Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: In most cases, the appeals mechanism is an affordable option to middle class citizens seeking to challenge an access to information determination.

75:

50: In some cases, the appeals mechanism is not an affordable option to middle class citizens seeking to challenge an access to information determination.

25:

0: The prohibitive cost of utilizing the access to information appeals mechanism prevents middle class citizens from challenging access to information determinations.

13e. In practice, the government gives reasons for denying an information request.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Why It Is So Difficult To Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily, June 12, 2006

2): "Violating Right to Information by The Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: The government always discloses to the requestor the specific, formal reasons for denying information requests.

75:

50: The government usually discloses reasons for denying an information request to the requestor, with some exceptions. The reasons may be vague or difficult to obtain.

25:

0: The government does not regularly give reasons for denying an information request to the requestor.

Category II. Elections

II-1. ⁴⁰Voting & Citizen Participation

14. Is there a legal framework guaranteeing the right to vote?

100

14a. In law, universal and equal adult suffrage is guaranteed to all citizens.

YES | NO

Comments:

There is a difference between rural areas and cities in terms of elections. Generally, four people in the rural areas are equivalent to one city resident for the purpose of electing one representative.

see
Ma Ying,
"To Protect Peasants' Political Rights", People's Political Scene,
March 22, 2005
<http://www.people.com.cn/GB/14576/15037/3261572.html>

In China, citizens vote for representatives and representatives then vote for the leaders of the government. Candidates are usually nominated by the government. However, in recent years, there have been some independent candidates who have won elections, although at the township level.

References:

Chapter 1 of People's Republic of China Election Law of the National People's Congress and Various Levels of Local Peoples Congresses

YES: A YES score is earned if the right to vote is guaranteed to all citizens of the country (basic age limitations are allowed). A YES score can still be earned if voting procedures are, in practice, inconvenient or unfair.

NO: A NO score is earned if suffrage is denied by law to any group of adult citizens for any reason. Citizen is defined broadly, to include all ethnicities, or anyone born in the country. A NO score is earned if homeless or impoverished people are legally prohibited from voting.

14b. In law, there is a legal framework requiring that elections be held at regular intervals.

YES | NO

References:

Article 58 of Peoples Republic of China Organic Law of the Various Levels of Local Peoples Congresses and Governments.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a statutory or other framework enshrined in law that mandates elections at reasonable intervals.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such framework exists.

15. Can all citizens exercise their right to vote?

42

15a. In practice, all adult citizens can vote.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

The government does encourage adults to vote, but most are aware that it can rarely change the results. Thus, any elections above the village level are not true elections.

References:

1): Zhao Ying
On the Rights of Voters And Why Some Voters Don't Vote"
Renda Yanjiu No 4, 2007
<http://www.rdyj.com.cn/2007/rdqk-04-06.html>

2): The Development of Election Rights of China,
Sept. 6, 2004
http://www.china.com.cn/zhuanti2005/txt/2004-09/06/content_5653257.htm

3): "The Independent Candidate Accusing Chinese Authorities of Rigging Elections"
http://www.rfi.fr/actucn/articles/083/article_1052.asp

100: Voting is open to all citizens regardless of race, gender, prior political affiliations, physical disability, or other traditional barriers.

75:

50: Voting is often open to all citizens regardless of race, gender, prior political affiliations, physical disability, or other traditional barriers, with some exceptions.

25:

0: Voting is not available to some demographics through some form of official or unofficial pressure. Voting may be too dangerous, expensive, or difficult for many people.

15b. In practice, ballots are secret or equivalently protected.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

There are still some places where the voting process is not secret or secret voting is violated. A 50 score is given based on following two considerations: 1, many provinces are adopting secret voting methods; 2, the Standing Committee of National People's Congress in 2006 issued one order requiring that all votings be secret.
http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2006-07/25/content_4877169.htm

References:

1): Tian Biyao
The Evolution of Voting Techniques Documents the Improvement of Democracy" Renmin Quanli,
Nov. 19, 2004
<http://www.people.com.cn/GB/14576/15017/2976367.html>

2): "Secret Voting Is One Big Progress of Politics",
Qilu Evening News,

March 10, 2005
<http://zjczjzj.com.cn/05zjzj/system/2005/03/10/006069216.shtml>

3): Liu Jianping
"The Voting by Clapping Is Disappearing"
Nanfang Weekend, Feb.5, 2007
<http://history.163.com/07/0205/11/36lJMH3Q00011OS5.html>

100: Ballots are secret, or there is a functional equivalent protection, in all cases.

75:

50: Ballots are secret, or there is a functional equivalent protection, in most cases. Some exceptions to this practice have occurred. Ballots may be subject to tampering during transport or counting.

25:

0: Ballot preferences are not secret. Ballots are routinely tampered with during transport and counting.

15c. In practice, elections are held according to a regular schedule.

100 | 75 | **50** | 25 | 0

References:

1): Xie Zhenghua
"Some Points about Elections"
China Rural, 2005
http://www.chinarural.org/news_show.aspx?cols=1938&ID=13856

2): Cai Youqun
"The Keyword of 2006: Election"
Shaowu People's Congress, Sept. 7, 2006
<http://www.swrd.net/News/200697153328.html>

100: Elections are always held according to a regular schedule, or there is a formal democratic process for calling a new election, with deadlines for mandatory elections.

75:

50: Elections are normally held according to a regular schedule, but there have been recent exceptions. The formal process for calling a new election may be flawed or abused.

25:

0: Elections are called arbitrarily by the government. There is no functioning schedule or deadline for new elections.

16. Are citizens able to participate equally in the political process?

30

16a. In law, all citizens have a right to form political parties.

YES | **NO**

References:
It is not allowed.

YES: A YES score is earned if citizens have the right to form political parties without interference from government. A YES score may still be earned if groups or individuals with a history of violence or terrorism (within last ten years) are banned from forming political parties. Non-discriminatory minimal criteria (e.g. minimum age) are also allowed.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are any legal or regulatory restrictions or prohibitions barring any types of political parties from being formed.

16b. In law, all citizens have a right to run for political office.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 1 of The Electoral Law of the National People's Congress and People's Congresses at local levels of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if all citizens (citizen is defined broadly, to include all ethnicities, or anyone born in the country) have the right under law to run for political office. A YES score may still be earned if Individuals with a history of violence, terrorism, or criminality are banned from running for office.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are any legal restrictions barring certain individuals or groups from running for political office.

16c. In practice, all citizens are able to form political parties.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): It Is Illegal to Organize Opposition Parties",
The Beijing News
http://news.xinhuanet.com/newscenter/2003-12/05/content_1214821.htm

2): White Book
"The Development of Chinese Democratic Politics",
News Agency of State Council, Oct. 19, 2005,
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2005-10-19/17197210732s.shtml>

100: While there is no guarantee of electoral success, political parties can form freely without opposition.

75:

50: Some barriers to formation are present, such as burdensome registration requirements that may not be fairly applied. Some parties' political viewpoints may draw pressure from the government, such as surveillance or intimidation. Some political parties or organizations may have extra barriers to getting on a ballot.

25:

0: Some political parties are effectively barred from forming through some manner of official or unofficial pressure. This may include threats, arrest, or violence from competing parties or other groups.

16d. In practice, all citizens can run for political office.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

According to the law, one individual must receive at least 10 nominations from voters to be able to run for political office. 50 score

is given based on following considerations: 1, there are some places, particularly in urban areas, where the leaders were elected by voters, not by the government; 2, for the upper level beyond county level, it is extremely difficult to copy this model; 3, there are some manipulations in some areas to control the candidacy.

References:

1): Zou Jing
The Return of Rights and Roles",
Renda Jianshe No1, 2004
<http://scholar.lib.cn/Abstract.aspx?A=rdjs200401033>

2): Liu Zhiming and Fang Huahai
"Some Thoughts about Improving the Structure of Local Representatives", 2006 http://www.hsrdw.gov.cn/news_view008.asp?id=832

100: While there is no guarantee of electoral success, anyone can run for office under transparent and equitable guidelines. There is a formal process for access to the ballot which is fairly applied. The costs of running a campaign are reasonable and do not deter candidates from entering a race.

75:

50: Some barriers exist to getting on the ballot and bureaucratic or regulatory requirements for doing so may be unfairly applied. The costs of running a political campaign are significant and result in dissuading some candidates from running for office.

25:

0: Citizens can effectively be barred from the ballot through government abuse of official rules and/or unofficial pressure. The costs of running a campaign are extremely high and result in most average citizens being unable to run an effective campaign for office.

16e. In practice, an opposition party is represented in the legislature.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

No opposition party is allowed in Chinese politics.

References:

1):Xin Jing Bao
It is Illegal to Organize Opposition Parties",
http://news.xinhuanet.com/newscenter/2003-12/05/content_1214821.htm

2): White Book "The Development of Chinese Democratic Politics",
News Agency of State Council, Oct. 19, 2005,
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2005-10-19/17197210732s.shtml>

100: The opposition party always has some influence on the proceedings of the legislature. The opposition party can introduce legislation or bring pending matters to a vote without the consent of the ruling party.

75:

50: The opposition party has influence on the proceeding of the legislature, but it is limited in scope. The opposition's ability to force votes or publicly debate certain topics may be limited.

25:

0: The opposition party has only token participation in the legislature's proceedings and cannot advance legislation or force a debate.

17. In law, is there an election monitoring agency or set of election monitoring agencies/entities?

100

17. In law, is there an election monitoring agency or set of election monitoring agencies/entities?

YES | NO

References:

The standing committee of the People's Congresses at various levels can supervise elections.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a domestic agency or set of domestic agencies/entities formally assigned to ensure the integrity of the election process.

NO: A NO score is earned if no domestic agency or set of domestic agencies/entities that monitors elections. A NO score is earned if elections are only monitored by an agency informally, such as poll booth monitoring by the police, only by international observers, or only by NGOs. A NO score is earned if the domestic election agency or set of domestic agencies simply facilitates the process of voting but is not empowered to report violations or abuses.

18. Is the election monitoring agency effective?

30

18a. In law, the agency or set of agencies/entities is protected from political interference.

YES | NO

References:

No such monitoring agency exists.

YES: A YES score is earned only if the agency or set of agencies/entities has some formal organizational independence from the bodies contesting in the election. A YES score is still earned even if the entity is legally separate but in practice staffed by partisans.

NO: A NO score is earned if the election monitoring agency or set of agencies/entities is legally tied to bodies contesting the election (i.e. an executive branch agency such as the Interior Ministry, or a committee of the legislature). A NO score is automatically earned if there is no domestic election monitoring agency.

18b. In practice, agency (or set of agencies/entities) appointments are made that support the independence of the agency.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

In China, there is no specific elections monitoring agency. However, voters can go to court or appeal to People's Congress at various levels. Thus, for this section, the People's Congress is referred to as the election monitoring agency.

References:

1): Cong Yaping
Social Transition and the Qualifications of Representatives”
Xinhua Wang, March 12 , 2005
http://news.xinhuanet.com/comments/2005-03/12/content_2678913.htm

2): “The Quality of Representatives Is Improving”
Guangming Daily, March 8, 2006
<http://news.enorth.com.cn/system/2006/03/08/001250287.shtml>

100: Appointments to the agency or set of agencies/entities are made based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed are free of conflicts of interest due to personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed usually do not have clear political party affiliations.

75:

50: Appointments are usually based on professional qualifications. However, individuals appointed may have clear party loyalties.

25:

0: Appointments are often based on political considerations. Individuals appointed often have conflicts of interest due to personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed often have clear party loyalties.

18c. In practice, the agency or set of agencies/entities has a professional, full-time staff.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

As far as People's Congress is concerned, the number of representatives is settled according to the law.

References:

In China, there is no specific elections monitoring agency. However, voters can go to court or appeal to People's Congress at various levels. Thus, for this section, the People's Congress is referred to as the election monitoring agency.

100: The agency or set of agencies/entities has staff sufficient to fulfill its basic mandate.

75:

50: The agency or set of agencies/entities has limited staff, or staff without necessary qualifications to fulfill its basic mandate.

25:

0: The agency or set of agencies/entities has no staff, or such a limited staff that is clearly unqualified to fulfill its mandate.

18d. In practice, the agency or set of agencies/entities makes timely, publicly available reports following an election cycle.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

Wu Jianyi,
On Disclosing National People's Congress”
Social Science Research, No.3, 2001

Tian Biyao,
“The Evolution of People's Congress”,
Renmin Daily, March 17, 2004

100: Reports are released to the public on a predictable schedule, without exceptions.

75:

50: Reports are released, but may be delayed, difficult to access, or otherwise limited.

25:

0: The agency or set of agencies/entities makes no public reports, issues reports which are effectively secret, or issues reports of no value.

18e. In practice, when necessary, the agency or set of agencies/entities imposes penalties on offenders.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

People's Congress and its standing committee in various levels should supervise elections. However, the People's Congress is held once a year and cannot effectively do its job.

References:

1): Zhu Yingping
"Judiciary Sector Should Be Involved in Elections Monitoring"
China Elections May 2006
<http://www.chinaelections.org/NewsInfo.asp?NewsID=87646>

2): Wang Weixing
"Enhancing Prosecutor's Power and People's Congress' Supervision Capacity"
Zhongguo Jiancha Wang, Aug. 2, 2007
<http://www.cnjccn.com/html/2007821629013924.html>

100: When rules violations are discovered, the agency or set of agencies/entities is aggressive in penalizing offenders and/or in cooperating with other agencies in penalizing offenders.

75:

50: The agency or set of agencies/entities enforces rules, but is limited in its effectiveness. The agency may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically powerful offenders, reluctant to cooperate with other agencies, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The agency or set of agencies/entities does not effectively penalize offenders and/or cooperate with other agencies in penalizing offenders. The agency may make judgments but not enforce them, or may fail to make reasonable judgments against offenders. The agency may be partisan in its application of power.

19. Are elections systems transparent and effective?

42

19a. In practice, there is a clear and transparent system of voter registration.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Tang Min
"Several Law Issues on Voters Registration in Villages Committee Election—A Comparative Analysis on One Aspect of Provincial Villages Committee Election Rules"
The Journal of Huazhong Normal University, No 1, 2004

2): "Suspecting the Voters Registration Rigged, One Candidate Withdrew"
Nanfang City News, Sept. 27, 2006
<http://chinahexie.org/ReadNews.asp?NewsID=3767>

100: There is a transparent system of voter registration that provides voters with sufficient time to understand their rights, check the accuracy of their registration, and ensure that errors are corrected before they vote.

75:

50: There is a transparent voter registration system that provides voters with sufficient time to understand their rights, check the accuracy of their registration, and ensure that errors are corrected before they vote but there are some problems. Voters may have not access to registration lists with sufficient time to correct errors before voting or registration lists may at times be inaccessible.

25:

0: The system of voter registration is incomplete or does not exist. Government may routinely falsify registration lists to affect voting patterns and limit access to the polls. Double voting and ghost" voting by non-existent voters is common.

19b. In law, election results can be contested through the judicial system.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 15 of the Procedural Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if citizens or political parties can challenge allegedly fraudulent election results through the courts or other judicial mechanisms.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no legal right for citizens or political parties to challenge allegedly fraudulent election results in the courts or other judicial mechanisms.

19c. In practice, election results can be effectively appealed through the judicial system.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Zhao Xicheng, Zhang Denglian, "The Diagnosis and Policy Suggestion Concerning Elections at Village Level", (Second prize for Elections and Autonomy in the village level paper contests.) Sun Qinghai, 2003
<http://www.people.com.cn/GB/14576/28320/29243/29246/2025232.html>

2): "Should Complainers Be Jailed?" a special report by Xinhua News Agency
http://news.xinhuanet.com/focus/2003-04/16/content_833579.htm

3): The verdict concerning Mr. Huang Jianhua suing Long Chuan Government's mispractice in elections, Sept. 20, 2005, <http://law.asiaec.com/alpj/xzal/516877.html>

100: The electoral appeals mechanism takes cases from both candidates complaining of flaws in the electoral process as well as citizens bringing complaints related to denial of suffrage or registration errors. There is an expedited process for resolving such complaints to avoid delaying a timely announcement of electoral results.

75:

50: The electoral appeals mechanism takes complaints from both candidates and voters but may not always act on complaints promptly. The appeals mechanism may be abused at times by parties or candidates seeking to delay the announcement of electoral results.

25:

0: The electoral appeals mechanism rarely or never acts on complaints brought by candidates or citizens. Citizens may not be able to bring complaints related to denial of suffrage or voter registration errors.

19d. In practice, the military and security forces remain neutral during elections.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

In the Chinese context, military forces and security forces are strictly controlled by the Communist Party of China. The military forces actively participate in electing leaders, unofficially supporting or opposing leaders. Although there is no serious action taken by the military to support or oppose one leader, a 50 score is given based on the consideration that military and security forces in China are not neutral and independent.

References:

1): Zong Chengkang
Opposing the Nationalization of Army"
Liberation Army Newspaper, June 19, 2007 <http://www.bullog.cn/blogs/moogee/archives/72747.aspx>

2): Fulfilling Army's Role in the New Century,
Qiushi Magazine, July 16, 2007

100: The military, military officers, and other security forces refrain from overtly supporting or opposing political candidates or commenting on elections. The military or security forces refrain from physically interfering with political campaigns, rallies, or voting.

75:

50: The military, military officers, and security forces may be known to unofficially support or oppose particular candidates or parties. The military or security forces generally refrain from the use of force to support or oppose particular candidates or parties but there are exceptions.

25:

0: The military or other security forces are an active and explicit player in politics and overly support or oppose particular candidates or parties. The military or security forces routinely exercise the use of force to support or oppose parties or candidates.

19e. In law, domestic and international election observers are allowed to monitor elections.

YES | NO

References:

No such laws exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if domestic and international election observers are allowed to monitor the electoral process.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are any legal or regulatory prohibitions on the monitoring of the electoral process by domestic or international election observers.

19f. In practice, election observers are able to effectively monitor elections.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

Interview Prof. Yu Dazhang, Prof at Chinese Academy of Social Sciences,
July 16, at the office

100: Election observers have unfettered access to polling sites, counting stations, and voters themselves. The government does not interfere with the observers' activities.

75:

50: Election observers generally have access to polling sites, counting stations, and voters but encounter restrictions in certain areas. The government may impose burdensome regulatory or bureaucratic requirements on observers to discourage their involvement.

25:

0: Election observers' movements are significantly limited by the government and many polling and counting sites are restricted or barred from observers. The government imposes so many bureaucratic or regulatory burdens on the observers that their mission is rendered ineffective.

57
II-3. Political Financing

20. Are there regulations governing political financing?

0

20a. In law, there are regulations governing private contributions to political parties.

YES | **NO**

Comments:

All expenditures concerning the running of the ruling party and democratic parties are covered by the government.

References:

No such laws exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are any formal rules (by law or regulation) controlling private contributions to political parties.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no regulation of private contributions to political parties.

20b. In law, there are limits on individual donations to candidates and political parties.

YES | **NO**

References:

No such limits exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are any limits, regardless of size, on individual contributions to political candidates and political parties. A YES score is earned if individual contributions are prohibited.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no limits on contributions from individuals. A NO score is also earned if limits are applied by the government on opposition parties/candidates in a discriminatory manner.

20c. In law, there are limits on corporate donations to candidates and political parties.

YES | **NO**

References:

No such limits exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are any limits, regardless of size, on corporate contributions to political candidates and political parties. A YES score is earned if contributions are prohibited.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no limits on corporate contributions to candidates or political parties. A NO score is also earned if limits are applied by the government on opposition parties/candidates in a discriminatory manner.

20d. In law, there are limits on total political party expenditures.

YES | **NO**

References:

No relevant limits exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are any limits, regardless of size, on political party expenditures. A YES score is earned if all party expenditures are prohibited.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no limits on political party expenditures. A NO score is also earned if limits are applied by the government on opposition parties in a discriminatory manner.

20e. In law, there are requirements for disclosure of donations to political candidates and parties.

YES | **NO**

References:

No requirements exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are any requirements mandating the disclosure of financial contributions to political parties or candidates.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no requirements mandating the disclosure of contributions to political parties or candidates, existing regulations do not require a donor's name or amount given, or the regulations allow for anonymous donations.

20f. In law, there are requirements for the independent auditing of the finances of political parties and candidates.

YES | **NO**

Comments:

The auditing agency in China will only look at government expenditures, not at the expenditures of political parties.

References:
No requirements exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a legal or regulatory requirement for independent auditing of candidate and party finances. The auditing is performed by an impartial third-party.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no legal or regulatory requirements for the independent auditing of political parties and candidates or if such requirements exist but allow for candidates or parties to self-audit.

20g. In law, there is an agency or entity that monitors the political financing process.

YES | **NO**

References:
No such agency exists.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a domestic agency or set of domestic agencies/entities formally assigned to monitor and enforce laws and regulations around political financing. A YES score is earned even if the agency/entity is ineffective in practice.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no such agency or entity.

21. Are the regulations governing political financing effective?

4

21a. In practice, the limits on individual donations to candidates and political parties are effective in regulating an individual's ability to financially support a candidate or political party.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | **0**

Comments:

In the strict sense, political financing is not an issue in China because all expenditures of political activities, either of the ruling party and of other parties, are covered by the central government. In comparison to political financing in western countries, Chinese firms generally achieve their goals by developing personal relationships with officials for preferential treatments.

References:

1): Interview Mr. Zhao Xu, the director of international cooperation and the researcher of Unirule Institute of Economics, Aug. 13, office

2): Zhang Jianjun
The Political Strategies of Chinese Private Enterprises"
PKU Business Review, 2005
<http://www.pkubr.com/showarticle.php?aid=46>

100: Existing limits represent the full extent to which an individual can directly or indirectly financially support a candidate or political party. Limits are reasonably low enough in the context of the total costs of running a campaign.

75:

50: Existing limits generally represent the full extent to which an individual can directly or indirectly financially support a candidate or political party. However, exceptions and loopholes exist through which individuals can indirectly support candidates or political parties above and beyond those formal limitations. Such loopholes could include making donations to third-party groups that advocate on behalf of (or against) a particular candidate or party; unregulated loans to candidates or parties (rather than direct donations); or in-kind support that is not explicitly regulated by laws or regulations. The limits may be too high in the context of the overall costs of running a campaign.

25:

0: Existing limits are routinely bypassed or willfully ignored. The vast majority of individual contributions to a candidate or political party are made outside of the formal limitation system. There is no enforcement of violations. Limits are so high that they are meaningless in the context of the overall costs of running a campaign.

21b. In practice, the limits on corporate donations to candidates and political parties are effective in regulating a company's ability to financially support a candidate or political party.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Interview Mr. Zhao Xu, the director of international cooperation and the researcher of Unirule Institute of Economics, Aug. 13, office

2): Zhang Jianjun
The Political Strategies of Chinese Private Enterprises"
PKU Business Review, 2005
<http://www.pkubr.com/showarticle.php?aid=46>

100: Existing limits represent the full extent to which a company can directly or indirectly financially support a candidate or political party. Limits are reasonably low enough in the context of the total costs of running a campaign to be meaningful.

75:

50: Existing limits generally represent the full extent to which a company can directly or indirectly financially support a candidate or political party. However, exceptions and loopholes exist through which companies can indirectly support candidates or political parties above and beyond those formal limitations. Such loopholes could include making to donations to third-party groups that advocate on behalf of (or against) a particular candidate or party; unregulated loans to candidates or parties (rather than direct donations); or in-kind support that is not explicitly regulated by laws or regulations. The limits may be too high in the context of the overall costs of running a campaign.

25:

0: Existing limits are routinely bypassed or willfully ignored. The majority of corporate contributions to a candidate or political party are made outside of the formal limitation system. There is no enforcement of violations. Limits are so high that they are meaningless in the context of the overall costs of running a campaign.

21c. In practice, the limits on total party expenditures are effective in regulating a political party's ability to fund campaigns or politically-related activities.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Sun Guoliang
Establishing A Formal Management System of Party Member Charges"
China Elections and Governance, April 3, 2007
<http://www.chinaelections.org/NewsInfo.asp?NewsID=107807>

2): Zhou Cheng
"The Fate of Reform"
Huang Hua Gang Magazine, Issue 4, 2005
<http://huanghuagang.org/issue15/index.htm>

100: Existing limits represent the full extent to which political parties are able to finance their activities. Limits are reasonably low enough in the context of the total costs of running a party to be meaningful.

75:

50: Existing limits generally represent the full extent to which a political party can finance its activities. However, exceptions and loopholes exist through which parties can generate revenue or finance their activities beyond the scope of existing regulations. Such loopholes could include taking loans that are outside of the scope of regulations covering direct donations; links to revenue-generating business activities that are beyond the scope of electoral or campaign-related regulations; or accepting in-kind support that is not explicitly regulated by laws or regulations. The limits may be too high in the context of the overall costs of running a party

25:

0: Existing limits are routinely bypassed or willfully ignored. The majority of expenditures are made outside of the formal limitation system. Limits are so high that they are meaningless in the context of the overall costs of running a party.

21d. In practice, when necessary, an agency or entity monitoring political financing independently initiates investigations.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Sun Guoliang
Establishing A Formal Management System of Party Member Charges"
China Elections and Governance, April 3, 2007
<http://www.chinaelections.org/NewsInfo.asp?NewsID=107807>

2): Zhou Cheng
"The Fate of Reform"
Huang Hua Gang Magazine, Issue 4, 2005
<http://huanghuagang.org/issue15/index.htm>

100: The agency or entity aggressively starts investigations into allegations of wrong doing with respect to political financing. The agency is fair in its application of this power.

75:

50: The agency or entity will start investigations, but often relies on external pressure to set priorities, or has limited effectiveness when investigating. The agency, though limited in effectiveness, is still fair in its application of power.

25:

0: The agency or entity rarely investigates on its own, or the agency or entity is partisan in its application of this power.

21e. In practice, when necessary, an agency or entity monitoring political financing imposes penalties on offenders.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Sun Guoliang
Establishing A Formal Management System of Party Member Charges"
China Elections and Governance, April 3, 2007
<http://www.chinaelections.org/NewsInfo.asp?NewsID=107807>

2): Zhou Cheng
"The Fate of Reform"
Huang Hua Gang Magazine, Issue 4, 2005
<http://huanghuagang.org/issue15/index.htm>

100: When rules violations are discovered, the agency or entity is aggressive in penalizing offenders.

75:

50: The agency or entity enforces rules, but is limited in its effectiveness. The agency or entity may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically powerful offenders, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The agency or entity does not effectively penalize offenders. The agency or entity may make judgments but not enforce them, or may fail to make reasonable judgments against offenders. The agency or entity may be partisan in its application of power.

21f. In practice, contributions to political parties and candidates are audited.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Peng Zhe
"China's Political Reform Should Start from Separating Party Affairs from Government Running"
Xindao Global, March 29, 2007
http://www.singtaonet.com/pol_op/200703/t20070329_502485.html

2): Li Delong
"Several Points on the Relationship between Government and Party"
Study Times, July 17, 2007
<http://www.bjgj.gov.cn/Article/ShowArticle.asp?ArticleID=31380>

100: Political party and candidate finances are regularly audited using generally accepted auditing practices. This includes the auditing of nominally independent financial organizations that act as financial extensions of the party.

75:

50: Political party and candidate finances (as defined) are audited, but audits are limited in some way, such as using inadequate auditing standards, or the presence of exceptions to disclosed contributions. Contributions to the political party or candidate may be sufficiently audited, but the auditing of nominally independent extensions of the party may not be.

25:

0: Party and candidate finances are not audited, or the audits performed have no value in tracking contributions. Audits may be performed by entities known to be partisan or biased in their practices.

22. Can citizens access records related to political financing?

8

22a. In practice, political parties and candidates disclose data relating to financial support and expenditures within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Why Is It So Difficult to Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily June 12, 2006

2): "Violating Right to Information by the Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: Political parties and candidates disclose their sources of funding and expenditures at least every quarter.

75:

50: Political parties and candidates disclose their sources of funding and expenditures only one or two times per year. Delays may occur when sensitive political information is involved.

25:

0: Political parties and candidates never publish their sources of funding or expenditures or publish that information only rarely with more than a year in between publication. Politically sensitive information is regular withheld from public disclosure.

22b. In practice, citizens can access the financial records of political parties and candidates within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Why Is It So Difficult to Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily June 12, 2006

2): "Violating Right to Information by the Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: Records are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information.

75:

50: Records take two to four weeks to obtain. Some delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Records take more than a month to acquire. There may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

22c. In practice, citizens can access the financial records of political parties and candidates at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Why Is It So Difficult to Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily June 12, 2006

2): "Violating Right to Information by the Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: Records are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Records can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Records impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving records may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving records imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Records costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

Category III. Government Accountability

III-1. ~~45~~ Executive Accountability

23. In law, can citizens sue the government for infringement of their civil rights?

100

23. In law, can citizens sue the government for infringement of their civil rights?

YES | NO

References:

Citizens can use the Administrative License Law of the Peoples Republic of China to sue the government.

YES: A YES score is earned if all citizens (citizen is defined broadly, to include all ethnicities, or anyone born in the country) can receive compensation or redress through the courts for civil rights violations committed by the government, such as failure to follow due process of law when detaining suspected criminals.

NO: A NO score is earned if any group of citizens is excluded from the right to sue the government, or no such mechanism exists.

24. Can the chief executive be held accountable for his/her actions?

50

24a. In practice, the chief executive gives reasons for his/her policy decisions.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Jiao Yang
"Establishing Government News Briefing Mechanism"
Center for International Communication Studies of Tsinghua University, 2007

2): "Government News Briefing Practices Are Improving"
Duiwai Dachuanbo, Nov. 13, 2006
<http://media.people.com.cn/GB/22114/41180/73963/5032645.html>

100: The chief executive and/or cabinet ministers give formal explanations of all policy matters. The chief executive regularly takes critical questions from journalists or an opposition party, usually at least once a month. There is no censoring of such sessions.

75:

50: The chief executive and/or cabinet ministers give explanations of policy, but not always in a timely or complete way. The chief executive occasionally takes critical questions from journalists or an opposition party, but not in a regular or formalized process. Particular issues of political sensitivity may be censored by government broadcasters.

25:

0: The chief executive and/or cabinet ministers do not give substantial justifications for policy. Public appearances by the chief executive offer no exposure to critical questions. The government and government-run media routinely censor such sessions.

24b. In law, the judiciary can review the actions of the executive.

YES | NO

Comments:

In China, there is no judiciary review system or constitutional court, but this does not mean that judiciary has no right to review actions of the executive. It is called min gao guan" (citizens sue the officials).

References:

The Administrative Procedure Law of the P. R. China, recognizes the right of the judiciary to review the actions of the executive.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal process by which the judiciary can pass judgments on the legality or constitutionality of actions taken by the executive.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such mechanism exists. A NO score is earned if judicial review is vaguely established in law or regulation without formal procedures. A NO score is earned if general exemptions exist with respect to executive actions that are reviewable (a national security exemption, for example).

24c. In practice, when necessary, the judiciary reviews the actions of the executive.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Judiciary will not aggressively get involved in cases with the government as defendants. However, citizens do have such rights and in the past 17 years over 1 million such cases went through the formal court system.

References:

To understand the increase of min gao guan cases, see Liaowang Magazine from April 22, 2006.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2006-04/22/content_4459792.htm

100: When constitutional or legal questions or possible violations are raised, the judiciary is aggressive in reviewing executive actions and can void illegal or unconstitutional actions. The judiciary is fair and nonpartisan in its application of this power. It does not need to rely upon the executive to initiate a constitutional or legal review.

75:

50: The judiciary will review executive actions, but is limited in its effectiveness. The judiciary may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically sensitive issues, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The judiciary does not effectively review executive policy. The judiciary may make judgments but not enforce them, or may fail to pass judgments on executive abuses. The judiciary may be partisan in its application of power. It must rely on instructions from the executive in order to initiate a legal or constitutional review.

24d. In practice, the chief executive limits the use of executive orders for establishing new regulations, policies, or government practices.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Abolishing Executive Orders To Establish Rule of Law in China"
Xinhua News, March 27, 2007

http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2007-03/27/content_5903659.htm

2): "China Will Examine 'Red Head Documents'"
China Youth Daily, March 22, 2007

http://www.ycwb.com/ycwb/2007-03/22/content_1423914.htm

100: The chief executive utilizes executive orders only when there is no constitutional or legal requirement for official legislative action or approval. Executive orders are limited in number and narrow in scope.

75:

50: The chief executive sometimes relies on executive orders to implement policies and regulations opposed by the legislature. Some executive orders are overly broad in scope and are designed to circumvent constitutional or legal requirements for legislative action or approval.

25:

0: The chief executive routinely abuses executive orders to render the legislature practically useless. Executive orders are the norm, not the exception, and directly contravene constitutional or legal requirements for legislative action or approval.

25. Is the executive leadership subject to criminal proceedings?

100

25a. In law, the heads of state and government can be prosecuted for crimes they commit.

YES | NO

Comments:

In constitution, the heads of state and government can be dismissed from the office by the National People's Congress. However, in practice such cases rarely happen.

References:

Article 5 of the Constitution and Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if the heads of state and government can be investigated, charged or prosecuted for criminal allegations. Figurehead officials (symbolic figures without day-to-day authority) may be exempt.

NO: A NO score is earned if either the head of state or government cannot be investigated, charged or prosecuted for criminal allegations or the executive branch controls whether investigative or prosecutorial immunity can be lifted on the heads of state or government.

25b. In law, ministerial-level officials can be prosecuted for crimes they commit.

YES | NO

Comments:

Last year, nine ministerial-level officials were prosecuted.

See report by the head of Highest Court
<http://news.tom.com/2007-03-13/OI27/30018651.html>

References:

Ministerial-level officials are subject to the Criminal Law of People's Republic of China.

YES: A YES score is earned if ministerial-level officials, or their equivalents, can all be investigated, charged or prosecuted for criminal allegations.

NO: A NO score is earned if any ministerial-level official, or equivalent official, cannot be investigated, charged or prosecuted for criminal allegations or the executive branch controls whether investigative or prosecutorial immunity can be lifted on ministerial-level officials.

26. Are there regulations governing conflicts of interest by the executive branch?

31

26a. In law, the heads of state and government are required to file a regular asset disclosure form.

YES | NO

Comments:

In 1995, the Rule on the Income Disclosures was enacted, but it is only dealing with salary and honorarium, which are very transparent because they are dependent on the ranks. However, the most important part is about officials' assets. There are no such laws to require officials to disclose their total assets.

References:

There are no such laws.

YES: A YES score is earned if the heads of state and government are required by law to file an asset disclosure form while in office, illustrating sources of income, stock holdings, and other assets. This form need not be publicly available to score a YES. Figurehead officials (symbolic figures without day-to-day authority) may be exempt.

NO: A NO score is earned if either the head of state or government is not required to disclose assets.

26b. In law, ministerial-level officials are required to file a regular asset disclosure form.

YES | NO

Comments:

In 1995, the Rule on the Income Disclosures was enacted, but it is only dealing with salary and honorarium, which are very transparent because they are dependent on the ranks. However, the most important part is about officials' assets. There are no such laws to require officials to disclose their total assets.

References:

No laws in China require ministerial-level officials to disclose their assets.

YES: A YES score is earned if ministerial-level officials, or their equivalents, are all required by law to file an asset disclosure form while in office, illustrating sources of income, stock holdings, and other assets.

NO: A NO score is earned if ministers are not required to disclose assets. A NO score is earned if some ministers must disclose assets, but other ministers are not required.

26c. In law, there are regulations governing gifts and hospitality offered to members of the executive branch.

YES | NO

References:

Rules about Cadres Accepting Gifts, Stocks and Coupons enacted by Central Disciplinary Committee in 2001.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are formal guidelines regulating gifts and hospitality offered to members of the executive branch of government.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no guidelines or regulations with respect to gifts and hospitality offered to members of the executive branch. A NO score is earned if the guidelines are overly general and do not specify what is and is not appropriate.

26d. In law, there are requirements for the independent auditing of the executive branch asset disclosure forms (defined here as ministers and heads of state and government).

YES | NO

References:

An Auditing Law exists, but ministers and heads of state and government are not subject to this law.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a legal or regulatory requirement for independent auditing of executive branch asset disclosures. The auditing is performed by an impartial third-party. Figurehead officials (symbolic figures without day-to-day authority) may be exempt.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no legal or regulatory requirements for the independent auditing of executive branch asset disclosures or if such requirements exist but allow for self-auditing.

26e. In law, there are restrictions on heads of state and government and ministers entering the private sector after leaving the government.

YES | NO

Comments:

After leaving government, officials can not take certain private positions that present a conflict of interest and must technically wait several years before accepting such positions.

References:

The Civil Servants Law, valid since Jan.1, 2006 prohibits civil servants to take a part-time job with payment.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are regulations restricting the ability of heads of state/government and ministers to take positions in the private sector after leaving government that would present a conflict of interest, including positions that directly seek to influence their former government colleagues. Figurehead officials (symbolic figures without day-to-day authority) may be exempt.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such restrictions exist.

26f. In practice, the regulations restricting post-government private sector employment for heads of state and government and ministers are effective.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

A 25 score is given because, 1, there are no documented records that heads of government took jobs in firms, although it is absolutely possible that their relatives are doing business with improper help from them; 2, for the lower rank officials, the regulations on post-government employment in private sector is not effective. The regulations are rarely enforced.

References:

1): "Red Hat Entrepreneurs"
Jiangsu News Sept. 28, 2004
<http://news.jschina.com.cn/gb/jschina/2003/24/node8644/userobject1ai550266.html>

2): "To Prohibit Red Hat Entrepreneurs"
China Newsweek, March 29, 2004
<http://www.chinanewsweek.com.cn/2004-04-01/1/3295.html>

100: The regulations restricting post-government private sector employment for heads of state/government and ministers are uniformly enforced. There are no or few cases of those officials taking jobs in the private sector after leaving government where they directly lobby or seek to influence their former government colleagues without an adequate cooling off" period.

75:

50: The regulations are generally enforced though some exceptions exist. In certain sectors, heads of state/government or ministers are known to regularly take jobs in the private sector that entail directly lobbying or seeking to influence their former government colleagues. Cooling off periods are short and sometimes ignored.

25:

0: The regulations are rarely or never enforced. Heads of state/government or ministers routinely take jobs in the private sector following government employment that involve direct lobbying or influencing of former government colleagues. Cooling off periods are non-existent or never enforced.

26g. In practice, the regulations governing gifts and hospitality offered to members of the executive branch are effective.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): He Chengjun and Liu Xia
"Gifts Is One Form of Corruption"
Gansu Economic Daily, March 9, 2005
<http://www.gansudaily.com.cn/20050309/456/2005309A02306001.htm>

2): Cheng Baoku
"60 Percent of Respondents Don't Trust Anti-corruption on Gifts and Hospitality"
China Youth Daily, Aug. 21, 2006
<http://www.gansudaily.com.cn/20050309/456/2005309A02306001.htm>

100: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to members of the executive branch are regularly enforced and sufficiently restrict the amounts of gifts and hospitality that can be given. Members of the executive branch never or rarely accept gifts or hospitality above what is allowed.

75:

50: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to members of the executive branch are generally applied though exceptions exist. Some ministers in certain sectors are known to accept greater amounts of gifts and hospitality from outside interest groups or private sector actors than is allowed.

25:

0: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to members of the executive branch are routinely ignored and unenforced. Ministers and other members of the executive branch routinely accept significant amounts of gifts and hospitality from outside interest groups and actors seeking to influence their decisions.

26h. In practice, executive branch asset disclosures (defined here as ministers and above) are audited.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

It is a serious issue in China. Many researchers and activists advocate for initiating assets disclosures rules. However, it was not integrated into the Civil Servants Law, valid since Jan.1, 2006.

References:

1): Law Professors Suggest Assets Disclosure Should Be Integrated into Law,
Feb. 5, 2005
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2005-02-05/05135050339s.shtml>

2): Prof. Sang Yucheng
Assets Disclosure Is More Important in Curbing Corruption,
published on Wenhui Bao, Feb.8, 2002
<http://www.china.org.cn/chinese/OP-c/106573.htm>

3): Kong Shanguang
Assets Disclosure Is Still up in The Air,
published on China Value
<http://www.chinavalue.net/article/4397.html>

100: Executive branch asset disclosures are regularly audited using generally accepted auditing practices.

75:

50: Executive branch asset disclosures are audited, but audits are limited in some way, such as using inadequate auditing standards, or the presence of exceptions to disclosed assets.

25:

0: Executive branch asset disclosures are not audited, or the audits performed have no value. Audits may be performed by entities known to be partisan or biased in their practices.

27. Can citizens access the asset disclosure records of the heads of state and government?

0

27a. In law, citizens can access the asset disclosure records of the heads of state and government.

YES | **NO**

References:

There are no such regulations requiring the heads of state and government to disclose their assets.

YES: A YES score is earned if the heads of state and government file an asset disclosure form that is, in law, accessible to the public (individuals, civil society groups or journalists).

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no asset disclosure for either the head of state or government. A NO score is earned if the form is filed, but not available to the public.

27b. In practice, citizens can access the asset disclosure records of the heads of state and government within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | **0**

Comments:

Assets Disclosure was actually denied by legislators when drafting Civil Servants Law. Legislators thought that it was not the time to initiate assets disclosure policies.

References:

1): When to Initiate Assets Disclosure? "
China Youth Daily Nov.2, 2006

2): Cai Xuebin and Luo Xiaoguang
"On Perfection of China's Property Declaration System"
Journal of Guangxi Economic Management Cadre College, issue 4, 2005

100: Records are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information.

75:

50: Records take around two weeks to obtain. Some additional delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Records take more than a month to acquire. In some cases, most records may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

27c. In practice, citizens can access the asset disclosure records of the heads of state and government at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Assets Disclosure was actually denied by legislators when drafting Civil Servants Law. Legislators thought that it was not the time to initiate assets disclosure policies.

References:

1): When to Initiate Assets Disclosure? “
China Youth Daily Nov.2, 2006

2): Cai Xuebin and Luo Xiaoguang
“On Perfection of China’s Property Declaration System”
Journal of Guangxi Economic Management Cadre College, issue 4, 2005

100: Records are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Records can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Records impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving records may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving records imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Records costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

28. In practice, official government functions are kept separate and distinct from the functions of the ruling political party.

0

28. In practice, official government functions are kept separate and distinct from the functions of the ruling political party.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

This is a striking characteristic of Chinese politics which needs reforming.

References:

1): Sun Guohua
On the Relationship between Party and Executive Branches,”
published by China Jurisdiction Research, August, 2005, <http://www.jus.cn/include/shownews.asp?newsid=753>

2): Several Issues Concerning Rule of Law,
Published by Study Times, October 2005

100: Clear rules are followed distinguishing state functions from party activities. Government funds are never used for party activities. The civil service is completely distinct from party bureaucracy.

75:

50: The ruling party is, in principal, separate from the state, but exceptions to this standard sometimes occur. Examples may be the use of civil servants to organize political rallies, use of government vehicles on campaign trips, or use of government funds for party purposes.

25:

0: The government bureaucracy is an extension of the ruling party. There are few boundaries between government and party activities. Government funds, equipment and personnel are regularly used to support party activities.

III-2. Legislative Accountability

29. Can members of the legislature be held accountable for their actions?

33

29a. In law, the judiciary can review laws passed by the legislature.

YES | NO

References:

According to the constitution, China's People's Congress is responsible for amending, revising and enacting laws. The judiciary sector will work under NPC's leadership. The judiciary can only interpret laws enacted by NPC.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal process by which the judiciary or constitutional courts can pass judgments on the legality or constitutionality of laws passed by the legislature.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such mechanism exists. A NO score is earned if judicial review is vaguely established in law or regulation without formal procedures. A NO score is earned if general exceptions exist exempting certain legislative actions from being reviewed (a national security exemption, for example).

29b. In practice, when necessary, the judiciary reviews laws passed by the legislature.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Yang Xingyi
A Comparison Study between America and China's Judiciary Review Systems,
published by China Court on Dec.13, 2006

2): Ji Weidong
On the Function of Highest Court,
published by Law Thinker, November 2006

100: When constitutional or legal questions or possible violations are raised, the judiciary is aggressive in reviewing laws passed and can void illegal or unconstitutional actions. The judiciary is fair and nonpartisan in its application of this power.

75:

50: The judiciary will review laws passed, but is limited in its effectiveness. The judiciary may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically sensitive issues, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The judiciary does not effectively review laws passed. The judiciary may make judgments but not enforce them, or may fail to pass judgments on executive abuses. The judiciary may be partisan in its application of power.

29c. In law, are members of the national legislature subject to criminal proceedings?

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 5 of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Deputies to the National People's Congress and to the Local People's Congresses at Various Levels prescribes that members of national legislature are subject to criminal proceedings.

YES: A YES score is earned if all members of the legislature can, in law, be investigated and prosecuted for criminal allegations.

NO: A NO score is earned if any member of the legislature cannot, in law, be investigated and prosecuted for criminal proceedings.

30. Are there regulations governing conflicts of interest by members of the national legislature?

4

30a. In law, members of the national legislature are required to file an asset disclosure form.

YES | NO

Comments:

The majority of the members of national legislature are government officials. Just like there are no requirements for disclosing officials' assets, national legislature members are not subject to any law of the kind.

References:

There are no such laws.

YES: A YES score is earned if all members of the legislature are required by law to file an asset disclosure form while in office, illustrating sources of income, stock holdings, and other assets. This form does not need to be publicly available to score a YES.

NO: A NO score is earned if any member of the legislature is not required to disclose assets.

30b. In law, there are restrictions for national legislators entering the private sector after leaving the government.

YES | NO

Comments:

In China, legislators are not professional legislators, they are officials, peasants, workers, entrepreneurs, which means that actually many well-known entrepreneurs are legislators.

References:

There are no such laws.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are regulations restricting national legislators' ability to take positions in the private sector after leaving government that would present a conflict of interest, including positions that directly seek to influence their former government colleagues.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such restrictions exist.

30c. In law, there are regulations governing gifts and hospitality offered to members of the national legislature.

YES | **NO**

Comments:

Members of the national legislature are not professional congressmen, but entrepreneurs, officials, scholars, etc.

References:

No such laws exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are formal guidelines regulating gifts and hospitality for members of the legislature.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no guidelines or regulations with respect to gifts or hospitality offered to members of the legislature. A NO score is earned if the guidelines are general and do not specify what is and is not appropriate.

30d. In law, there are requirements for the independent auditing of the asset disclosure forms of members of the national legislature.

YES | **NO**

References:

No such laws exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a legal or regulatory requirement for independent auditing of legislative branch asset disclosures. The auditing is performed by an impartial third-party.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no legal or regulatory requirements for the independent auditing of legislative branch asset disclosures or if such requirements exist but allow for self-auditing.

30e. In practice, the regulations restricting post-government private sector employment for national legislators are effective.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | **0**

References:

1): Zhang Houyi,
Private Entrepreneurs in the New Century",
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of Sociology Working Paper, January 2007,
<http://www.sociology.cass.cn/shxw/shgz/shgz30/P020070104398620150311.pdf>

2): Dong Wei,
"A New Era for Private Entrepreneurs"
China Youth Daily, Jan. 10, 2006
http://zqb.cyol.com/content/2006-01/10/content_1229904.htm

100: The regulations restricting post-government private sector employment for national legislators are uniformly enforced. There are no or few cases of legislators taking jobs in the private sector after leaving government where they directly lobby or seek to influence their former government colleagues without an adequate cooling off" period.

75:

50: The regulations are generally enforced though some exceptions exist. In certain sectors, legislators are known to regularly take jobs in the private sector that entail directly lobbying or seeking to influence their former government colleagues. Cooling off periods are short and sometimes ignored.

25:

0: The regulations are rarely or never enforced. Legislators routinely take jobs in the private sector following government employment that involve direct lobbying or influencing of former government colleagues. Cooling off periods are non-existent or never enforced.

30f. In practice, the regulations governing gifts and hospitality offered to national legislators are effective.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): He Chengjun and Liu Xia
"Gifts Is One Form of Corruption"
Gansu Economic Daily, March 9, 2005
<http://www.gansudaily.com.cn/20050309/456/2005309A02306001.htm>

2): Cheng Baoku
"60 Percent of Respondents Don't Trust Anti-corruption on Gifts and Hospitality"
China Youth Daily, Aug. 21, 2006
<http://www.gansudaily.com.cn/20050309/456/2005309A02306001.htm>

100: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to national legislators are regularly enforced and sufficiently restrict the amounts of gifts and hospitality that can be given to legislators. Legislators never or rarely accept gifts or hospitality above what is allowed.

75:

50: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to national legislators are generally applied though exceptions exist. Some legislators in certain sectors are known to accept greater amounts of gifts and hospitality from outside interest groups or private sector actors than is allowed.

25:

0: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to national legislators are routinely ignored and unenforced. Legislators routinely accept significant amounts of gifts and hospitality from outside interest groups and actors seeking to influence their decisions.

30g. In practice, national legislative branch asset disclosures are audited.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Law Professors Suggest Assets Disclosure Should Be Integrated into Law",
Feb. 5, 2005
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2005-02-05/05135050339s.shtml>

2): Sang Yucheng
"Assets Disclosure Is More Important in Curbing Corruption",
Wenhui Bao, Feb. 8, 2002
<http://www.china.org.cn/chinese/OP-c/106573.htm>

3): Kong Shangguang
"Assets Disclosure Is Still up in the Air",
China Value
<http://www.chinavalue.net/article/4397.html>

100: Legislative branch asset disclosures are regularly audited using generally accepted auditing practices.

75:

50: Legislative branch asset disclosures are audited, but audits are limited in some way, such as using inadequate auditing standards, or the presence of exceptions to disclosed assets.

25:

0: Legislative branch asset disclosures are not audited, or the audits performed have no value. Audits may be performed by entities known to be partisan or biased in their practices.

31. Can citizens access the asset disclosure records of members of the national legislature?

0

31a. In law, citizens can access the asset disclosure records of members of the national legislature.

YES | **NO**

Comments:

Asset disclosure is required by people, however rejected by government.

References:

No such laws exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if members of the national legislature file an asset disclosure form that is, in law, accessible to the public (individuals, civil society groups or journalists).

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no asset disclosure for members of the national legislature. A NO score is earned if the form is filed, but not available to the public.

31b. In practice, citizens can access legislative asset disclosure records within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | **0**

References:

1): "When to Initiate Assets Disclosure?"
China Youth Daily, Nov. 2, 2006

2): Cai Xuebin and Luo Xiaoguang
"On Perfection of China's Property Declaration System"
Journal of Guangxi Economic Management Cadre College, issue 4, 2005

100: Records are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information.

75:

50: Records take around two weeks to obtain. Some delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Records take more than a month to acquire. In some cases, most records may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

31c. In practice, citizens can access legislative asset disclosure records at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | **0**

References:

1): When to Initiate Assets Disclosure?"
China Youth Daily, Nov. 2, 2006

2): Cai Xuebin and Luo Xiaoguang
"On Perfection of China's Property Declaration System"
Journal of Guangxi Economic Management Cadre College, issue 4, 2005

100: Records are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Records can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Records impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving records may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving records imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Records costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

32. Can citizens access legislative processes and documents?

83

32a. In law, citizens can access records of legislative processes and documents.

YES | NO

References:

Article 18 of Rules of Procedure for the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a general legal right to access records of legislative proceedings including voting records. A YES score can still be given if there are formal rules for specific exemptions to the right to disclosure (special secret sessions related to national security).

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no general right to access documents recording legislative proceedings. A NO score is earned if there exemptions to the general right that are not clearly defined by formal rules.

32b. In practice, citizens can access records of legislative processes and documents within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

The records of the National People's Congress are compiled into Gazette of the Standing Committee of the National Peoples Congress of the Peoples Republic of China" and can be obtained via internet. <http://www.cnki.com.cn/Journal/G-G1-CWGB.htm>

References:

Wu Jianyi
On Disclosing National People's Congress",
Social Science Research, No.3, 2001

Tian Biyao,
"The Evolution of People's Congress",
Renmin Daily, March 17, 2004

100: Records are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information.

75:

50: Records take around two weeks to obtain. Some delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Records take more than a month to acquire. In some cases, most records may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

32c. In practice, citizens can access records of legislative processes and documents at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

The records of the National People's Congress are compiled into Gazette of the Standing Committee of the National Peoples Congress of the Peoples Republic of China" and can be obtained via internet. <http://www.cnki.com.cn/Journal/G-G1-CWGB.htm>.

References:

Wu Jianyi
On Disclosing National People's Congress",
Social Science Research, No.3, 2001

Tian Biyao,
"The Evolution of People's Congress",
Renmin Daily, March 17, 2004

100: Records are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Records can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Records impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving records may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving records imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Records costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

30
III-3. Judicial Accountability

33. Are judges appointed fairly?

83

33a. In law, there is a transparent procedure for selecting national-level judges.

YES | NO

References:
Chapter 5 of Judges Law of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal process for selecting national level justices. This process should be public in the debating and confirmation stages. National-level judges are defined as judges who have powers that derive from a national law or constitution; are nominated/appointed by a national governmental body (head of state/government or national legislature); and/or are elected nationally.

NO: A NO score is given if there is no formal process of selection or the process is conducted without public oversight. National-level judges are defined as judges who have powers that derive from a national law or constitution; are nominated/appointed by a national governmental body (head of state/government or national legislature); and/or are elected nationally.

33b. In practice, there are certain professional criteria required for the selection of national-level judges.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:
Since 2002, candidates have to pass the national judicial exam in order to become judges.

References:
1): Improving Judge Selection Mechanism"
Xinhua News Agency, April 26, 2007, http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2007-04/26/content_6032011.htm
2): Qian Wenjuan, Liu Wenjuan
"On the Judge Management System of China"
China Court, June 11, 2007
<http://www.chinacourt.org/public/detail.php?id=251077>

100: National-level judges selected have relevant professional qualifications such as formal legal training, experience as a lower court judge or a career as a litigator.

75:

50: Most national-level judges selected meet these qualifications, with some exceptions.

25:

0: National-level judges are often unqualified due to lack of training or experience.

33c. In law, there is a confirmation process for national-level judges (i.e. conducted by the legislature or an independent body).

YES | NO

References:
Chapter 5 of Judges Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal process establishing a review of national-level judicial nominees by an agency independent from the body appointing the judges.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no formal review. A NO score is earned if the review is conducted by a body directed by the body appointing the judges (such as review by the head of police if judges are appointed by the executive).

34. Can members of the judiciary be held accountable for their actions?

34a. In law, members of the national-level judiciary are obliged to give reasons for their decisions.

YES | NO

Comments:

See http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2005-08/29/content_3416750.htm for examples.

References:

Judges Law of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal and mandatory process for judges to explain their decisions.

NO: A NO score is earned if justices are not required to explain decisions. A NO score is earned if there is a general exemption from explaining some decisions (such as national security).

34b. In practice, members of the national-level judiciary give reasons for their decisions.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Nanchang Court Explained Reasons for Their Decisions"

Legal Daily, Aug. 29, 2005

http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2005-08/29/content_3416750.htm

2): Dong Zhaohong, Fang Hengzu

"On the Reform of Judgement Reasons",

The Journal of Zhejiang University, 2007

<http://www.chinalawedu.com/news/21601/21626/2007/4/zh6471492110247002668-0.htm>

3): Chen Ruihua

"The Trial Should Be Public"

Caijing Magazine June 19, 2007

<http://www.caijing.com.cn/newcn/home/shts/2007-06-19/22638.shtml>

100: Judges are formally required to explain their judgments in detail, establishing a body of precedent. All judges comply with these requirements.

75:

50: Judges are compelled to give substantial reasons for their decisions, but some exceptions exist. These may include special courts, such as military courts or tribunals.

25:

0: Judges commonly issue decisions without formal explanations.

34c. In law, there is a disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) for the national-level judicial system.

YES | NO

Comments:

Judges are subject to the criminal law. Generally, various levels of disciplinary committees will investigate judges in order to decide whether to turn the matter to judicial process or not.

References:

Disciplinary Committee of the Chinese Communist Party,
Criminal Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) for the judicial system. A disciplinary agency is defined here as an agency or mechanism specifically mandated to investigate breaches of procedure, abuses of power or other failures of the judiciary.

NO: A NO score is earned if no agency or mechanism is specifically mandated to act as a disciplinary mechanism for the national-level judiciary.

34d. In law, the judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) is protected from political interference.

YES | **NO**

References:

No such laws exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are formal rules establishing that the judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) is operationally independent from political interference by the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no formal rules establishing the independence of the judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism). A NO score is given if the judicial disciplinary agency or equivalent mechanism function is carried out by an inherently subordinate organization, such as an executive ministry, legislative committee, or by an internal judiciary committee or council that can only act with the approval of judges themselves.

34e. In practice, when necessary, the judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) initiates investigations.

100 | 75 | **50** | 25 | 0

References:

1): Baoshan District Prosecutor Initiates Investigations on One State-owned Coal Field"
Long Jianwang, June 10, 2006
<http://www.hl.jcy.gov.cn/detail.cfm?id=228B43&newsid=2A8D47922E>

2): "Prosecutor's Office Investigates Ministry Level Officials"
The Beijing News, March 21, 2006
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2006-03-12/01488419594s.shtml>

100: The judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) aggressively starts investigations — or participates fully with cooperating agencies' investigations — into judicial misconduct. The judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) is fair in its application of this power.

75:

50: The judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) will start or cooperate in investigations, but often relies on external pressure to set priorities, or has limited effectiveness when investigating. The judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism), though limited in effectiveness, is still fair in its application of power.

25:

0: The judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) rarely investigates on its own or cooperates in other agencies' investigations, or the judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) is partisan in its application of this power.

34f. In practice, when necessary, the judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) imposes penalties on offenders.

References:

1): Baoshan District Prosecutor Initiates Investigations on One State-owned Coal Field"
Long Jianwang, June 10, 2006
<http://www.hl.jcy.gov.cn/detail.cfm?id=228B43&newsid=2A8D47922E>

2): "Prosecutor's Office Investigates Ministry Level Officials"
The Beijing News, March 21, 2006
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2006-03-12/01488419594s.shtml>

100: When rules violations are discovered, the judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) is aggressive in penalizing offenders or in cooperating with other agencies who penalize offenders.

75:

50: The judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) enforces rules, but is limited in its effectiveness. The judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically powerful offenders, resistant to cooperating with other agencies, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) does not effectively penalize offenders. The judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) may make judgments but not enforce them, does not cooperate with other agencies in enforcing penalties, or may fail to make reasonable judgments against offenders. The judicial disciplinary agency (or equivalent mechanism) may be partisan in its application of power.

35. Are there regulations governing conflicts of interest for the national-level judiciary?

39

35a. In law, members of the national-level judiciary are required to file an asset disclosure form.

YES | NO

References:

There are no such requirements.

YES: A YES score is earned if all members of the national-level judiciary are required by law to file an asset disclosure form while in office, illustrating sources of income, stock holdings, and other assets. This form does not need to be publicly available to score a YES.

NO: A NO score is earned if any member of the national-level judiciary is not required to publicly disclose assets.

35b. In law, there are regulations governing gifts and hospitality offered to members of the national-level judiciary.

YES | NO

References:

Rules about Cadres Accepting Gifts, Stocks and Coupons, enacted by Central Disciplinary Committee in 2001.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are formal guidelines regulating gifts and hospitality for members of the national-level judiciary.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no guidelines or regulations with respect to gifts or hospitality offered to members of the national-level judiciary. A NO score is earned if the guidelines are general and do not specify what is and is not appropriate.

35c. In law, there are requirements for the independent auditing of the asset disclosure forms of members of the national-level judiciary.

YES | **NO**

References:

There are no such requirements.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a legal or regulatory requirement for independent auditing of national-level judiciary asset disclosures. The auditing is performed by an impartial third-party.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no legal or regulatory requirements for the independent auditing of national-level judiciary asset disclosures or if such requirements exist but allow for self-auditing.

35d. In law, there are restrictions for national-level judges entering the private sector after leaving the government.

YES | NO

References:

Civil Servants Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there are regulations restricting national-level judges ability to take positions in the private sector after leaving government that would present a conflict of interest, including positions that directly seek to influence their former government colleagues.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such restrictions exist.

35e. In practice, the regulations restricting post-government private sector employment for national-level judges are effective.

100 | 75 | **50** | 25 | 0

References:

Chutian City News published one regulation of Hubei province prohibiting incumbent officials to enter the private sectors.
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2005-03-30/08276235976.shtml>

100: The regulations restricting post-government private sector employment for national-level judges are uniformly enforced. There are no or few cases of judges taking jobs in the private sector after leaving government where they directly lobby or seek to influence their former government colleagues without an adequate cooling off" period.

75:

50: The regulations are generally enforced though some exceptions exist. In certain cases, judges are known to regularly take jobs in the private sector that entail directly lobbying or seeking to influence their former government colleagues. Cooling off periods are short and sometimes ignored.

25:

0: The regulations are rarely or never enforced. Judges routinely take jobs in the private sector following government employment that involve direct lobbying or influencing of former government colleagues. Cooling off periods are non-existent or never enforced.

35f. In practice, the regulations governing gifts and hospitality offered to members of the national-level judiciary are effective.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): He Chengjun and Liu Xia
"Gifts Is One Form of Corruption"
Gansu Economic Daily, March 9, 2005
<http://www.gansudaily.com.cn/20050309/456/2005309A02306001.htm>

2): Cheng Baoku
"60 Percent of the Respondents Don't Trust Anti-corruption on Gifts and Hospitality"
China Youth Daily, Aug. 21, 2006
<http://www.gansudaily.com.cn/20050309/456/2005309A02306001.htm>

100: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to members of the national-level judiciary are regularly enforced and sufficiently restrict the amounts of gifts and hospitality that can be given to judges. Judges never or rarely accept gifts or hospitality above what is allowed.

75:

50: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to members of the national-level judiciary are generally applied though exceptions exist. Some judges are known to accept greater amounts of gifts and hospitality from outside interest groups or private sector actors than is allowed.

25:

0: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to members of the national-level judiciary are routinely ignored and unenforced. Judges routinely accept significant amounts of gifts and hospitality from outside interest groups and actors seeking to influence their decisions.

35g. In practice, national-level judiciary asset disclosures are audited.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Law Professors Suggest Assets Disclosure Should Be Integrated into Law"
Feb. 5, 2005
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2005-02-05/05135050339s.shtml>

2): Sang Yucheng
"Assets Disclosure Is More Important in Curbing Corruption"
Wenhui Bao, Feb.8, 2002
<http://www.china.org.cn/chinese/OP-c/106573.htm>

3): Kong Shanguang
"Assets Disclosure Is Still up in the Air"
China Value
<http://www.chinavalue.net/article/4397.html>

100: National-level judiciary asset disclosures are regularly audited using generally accepted auditing practices.

75:

50: National-level judiciary asset disclosures are audited, but audits are limited in some way, such as using inadequate auditing standards, or the presence of exceptions to disclosed assets.

25:

0: National-level judiciary asset disclosures are not audited, or the audits performed have no value. Audits may be performed by entities known to be partisan or biased in their practices.

36. Can citizens access the asset disclosure records of members of the national-level judiciary?

0

36a. In law, citizens can access the asset disclosure records of members of the national-level judiciary.

YES | **NO**

References:

There are no such requirements.

YES: A YES score is earned if members of the national-level judiciary file an asset disclosure form that is, in law, accessible to the public (individuals, civil society groups or journalists).

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no asset disclosure for members of the national-level judiciary. A NO score is earned if the form is filed, but not available to the public.

36b. In practice, citizens can access judicial asset disclosure records within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | **0**

References:

1): "When to Initiate Assets Disclosure?"
China Youth Daily, Nov.2, 2006

2): Cai Xuebin and Luo Xiaoguang
"On Perfection of China's Property Declaration System"
Journal of Guangxi Economic Management Cadre College, issue 4, 2005

100: Records are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information.

75:

50: Records take around two weeks to obtain. Some delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Records take more than a month to acquire. In some cases, most records may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

36c. In practice, citizens can access judicial asset disclosure records at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | **0**

References:

1): When to Initiate Assets Disclosure?"
China Youth Daily, Nov.2, 2006

2): Cai Xuebin and Luo Xiaoguang
"On Perfection of China's Property Declaration System"
Journal of Guangxi Economic Management Cadre College, issue 4, 2005

100: Records are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Records can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Records impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving records may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving records imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Records costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

III-4. Budget Processes

37. Can the legislature provide input to the national budget?

67

37a. In law, the legislature can amend the budget.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 3 of the Constitution of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if the legislature has the power to add or remove items to the national government budget.

NO: A NO score is earned if the legislature can only approve but not change details of the budget. A NO score is earned if the legislature has no input into the budget process.

37b. In practice, significant public expenditures require legislative approval.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

In some cases, the projects were initiated before the approval of the legislatures.

References:

1): News Agency of State Council,
"The Defense of China, 2006"

2): Yang Mingzhou 2007
"China Should Establish One Mechanism to Supervise Major Projects"

100: All significant government expenditures (defined as any project costing more than 1% of the total national budget), must be approved by the legislature. This includes defense and secret programs, which may be debated in closed hearings.

75:

50: Most significant government expenditures (as defined) are approved by the legislature, but some exceptions to this rule exist. This may include defense programs, an executive's personal budget, or other expenses.

25:

0: The legislature does not have the power to approve or disapprove large portions of the government budget, or the legislature does not exercise this power in a meaningful way.

37c. In practice, the legislature has sufficient capacity to monitor the budget process and provide input or changes.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Jiao Hongchang
On the Discussion Procedures of National People's Congress", 2004
http://www.china.com.cn/zhuanti2005/txt/2004-09/08/content_5654994.htm

2): Zou Pingxue
The empirical studies of China's representative system"
Chongqing Publishing House, 2005

100: Legislators benefit from a sufficient and qualified staff as well as adequate financial and physical resources. Lack of capacity is never a reason why legislators cannot carry out their duties effectively.

75:

50: Legislators have some staff and financial resources but are limited by a shortfall of resources to adequately perform all of their budgetary oversight functions. Legislators are occasionally overwhelmed by the volume of work to be performed.

25:

0: Legislators have little to no staff and virtually no financial resources with which to perform their budgetary oversight role. Lack of resources is a regular and systemic problem that cripples the performance of the legislature.

38. Can citizens access the national budgetary process?

33

38a. In practice, the national budgetary process is conducted in a transparent manner in the debating stage (i.e. before final approval).

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Yang Mingzhou
China Should Establish One Mechanism to Supervise Major Projects"
Liaowang Weekly, March 15, 2007
<http://scitech.people.com.cn/GB/5473013.html>

2): "Representatives Discussing on the Transparent Budgeting"
China Youth Daily, March 8, 2007
http://www.newstock.com.cn/ArticleNews/Article_Show.asp?ArticleID=31604

100: Budget debates are public and records of these proceedings are easily accessible. Authors of individual budget items can easily be identified. Nearly all budget negotiations are conducted in these official proceedings.

75:

50: There is a formal, transparent process for budget debate, but major budget modifications may be negotiated in separate, closed sessions. Some items, such as non-secret defense projects, may be negotiated in closed sessions. Authors of individual line items may be difficult to identify.

25:

0: Budget negotiations are effectively closed to the public. There may be a formal, transparent process, but most real discussion and debate happens in other, closed settings.

38b. In practice, citizens provide input at budget hearings.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Representatives Suggesting Increasing Transparency in Budgeting Process",
Xinhua News Agency, March 8, 2007
<http://business.sohu.com/20070308/n248594185.shtml>

2): "Reforming Budgeting Mechanism"
Shanghai Securities News
http://www.ccmdu.com/bbs4_35945.html

100: Citizens, usually acting through CSOs, can provide information or commentary to the budget debate through a formal process. This information is essential to the process of evaluating budget priorities.

75:

50: Citizens or CSOs can provide input, but this information is often not relevant to budget decisions.

25:

0: Citizens or CSOs have no formal access to provide input to the budget debate.

38c. In practice, citizens can access itemized budget allocations.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

At the current stage, the public can access government budget through yearbooks, however, the process is not timely.

References:

1): "Representatives Suggesting Increasing Transparency in Budgeting Process",
Xinhua News Agency, March 8, 2007
<http://business.sohu.com/20070308/n248594185.shtml>

2): "Reforming Budgeting Mechanism"
Shanghai Securities News
http://www.ccmdu.com/bbs4_35945.html

3): "Let the Public Participate in the Budget Process—Interviewing Three Scholars"
Beijing News, May 6, 2007
<http://comment.thebeijingnews.com/0730/2007/05-06/021@002346.htm>

100: Citizens, journalists and CSOs can access itemized lists of budget allocations. This information is easily available and up to date.

75:

50: Citizens, journalists and CSOs can access itemized lists of budget allocations but this information may be difficult to access, incomplete or out of date.

25:

0: Citizens cannot access an itemized list of budget allocations, due to secrecy, prohibitive barriers or government inefficiency.

39. In law, is there a separate legislative committee which provides oversight of public funds?

100

39. In law, is there a separate legislative committee which provides oversight of public funds?

YES | NO

References:

The Finance and Economic Committee of Standing Committee of National People's Congress by Organic Law of National People's Congress of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a dedicated legislative committee (or equivalent group located in the legislature) that oversees the expenditure of public funds.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such body exists within the legislature. A NO score is earned if there is a body executing this function but it is not part of the legislature (such as a separate supreme audit institution).

40. Is the legislative committee overseeing the expenditure of public funds effective?

25

40a. In practice, department heads regularly submit reports to this committee.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Yang Mingzhou
China Should Establish One Mechanism to Supervise Major Projects"
Liaowang Weekly, March 15, 2007
<http://scitech.people.com.cn/GB/5473013.html>

2): "Representatives Discussing on the Transparent Budgeting"
China Youth Daily, March 8, 2007
http://www.newstock.com.cn/ArticleNews/Article_Show.asp?ArticleID=31604

100: Heads of ministry- or cabinet-level agencies submit regular, formal reports of expenses to a budget oversight committee.

75:

50: Agency heads submit reports to a budget oversight committee, but these reports are flawed in some way. The reports may be inconsistently delivered, or lacking important details.

25:

0: There is no budget oversight committee or equivalent, or heads of agencies do not submit meaningful reports to the agency.

40b. In practice, the committee acts in a non-partisan manner with members of opposition parties serving on the committee in an equitable fashion.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

The democratic parties are not opposition parties in China.

References:

- 1): According to the constitution, the National People's Congress is ruled by the Chinese Communist Party
- 2): Interview with Prof. Yu Dazhang, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, July 27, 2007, at the office

100: The committee is comprised of legislators from both the ruling party (or parties) and opposition parties in a roughly equitable distribution. All members of the committee — including opposition party members — are able to fully participate in the activities of the committee and influence the committee's work to roughly the same extent as any other member of the committee.

75:

50: The committee is comprised of legislators from both the ruling party (or parties) and opposition parties although the ruling party has a disproportionate share of committee seats. The chairperson of the committee may be overly influential and curb other members' ability to shape the committee's activities.

25:

0: The committee is dominated by legislators of the ruling party and/or the committee chairperson. Opposition legislators serving on the committee have in practice no way to influence the work of the committee.

40c. In practice, this committee is protected from political interference.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

China's political structure is a combination of legislature and administration, that means National People's Congress is the highest power agency. However, it has nothing to do with independence.

References:

- 1): Prof. Yu Dazhang, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, July 27, 2007, at the office

100: This committee operates independently of the political process, without incentive or pressure to render favorable judgments on politically sensitive issues. Investigations are rarely praised or criticized by political figures.

75:

50: This committee is usually independent but is sometimes influenced by negative or positive political incentives. This may include public praise or criticism by the government.

25:

0: This committee is commonly influenced by personal or political forces or incentives. This may include conflicting family relationships, professional partnerships, or other personal loyalties that ultimately influence the committee's behavior and decision-making. Negative incentives may include threats, harassment or other abuses of power by the government.

40d. In practice, when necessary, this committee initiates independent investigations into financial irregularities.

References:

1): "The Finance and Economic Committee of NPC Will Investigate Four State-owned Commercial Banks"
Shanghai Securities News, March 7, 2007,
http://news.cnfol.com/060307/101_1591_1721064_00.shtml

2): "The Finance and Economic Committee of NPC Looks at the Price Increases of Real Estate"
21 Century Economic Report, March 30, 2005
<http://finance.sina.com.cn/g/20050330/15101473872.shtml>

100: When irregularities are discovered, the committee is aggressive in investigating the government.

75:

50: The committee starts investigations, but is limited in its effectiveness. The committee may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically powerful offenders, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The committee does not effectively investigate financial irregularities. The committee may start investigations but not complete them, or may fail to detect offenders. The committee may be partisan in its application of power.

Category IV. Administration and Civil Service

IV-1. ⁶⁴Civil Service Regulations

41. Are there national regulations for the civil service encompassing, at least, the managerial and professional staff?

50

41a. In law, there are regulations requiring an impartial, independent and fairly managed civil service.

YES | **NO**

References:

No such laws exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are specific formal rules establishing that the civil service carry out its duties independent of political interference.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no formal rules establishing an independent civil service.

41b. In law, there are regulations to prevent nepotism, cronyism, and patronage within the civil service.

YES | NO

References:

Chapters 7, 12, of Rules of Civil Servants,
Chapter 8 of the Criminal Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there are specific formal rules prohibiting nepotism, cronyism, and patronage in the civil service. These should include competitive recruitment and promotion procedures as well as safeguards against arbitrary disciplinary actions and dismissal.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such regulations exist.

41c. In law, there is an independent redress mechanism for the civil service.

YES | NO

Comments:

A No score is given based on the following considerations: 1) civil servants can only appeal the mechanism's decisions, but cannot appeal to the judiciary; 2) the current redress mechanism is not an independent mechanism. Civil servants must appeal to higher-level governments for arbitration.

References:

No such redress mechanism exists.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a mechanism to which civil servants and applicants for the civil service can take grievances regarding civil service management actions. Civil servants are able to appeal the mechanism's decisions to the judiciary.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such mechanism exists.

41d. In law, civil servants convicted of corruption are prohibited from future government employment.

YES | NO

References:

Article 24 of Civil Servants Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there are specific rules prohibiting continued government employment following a corruption conviction.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such rules exist.

42. Is the law governing the administration and civil service effective?

42

42a. In practice, civil servants are protected from political interference.

References:

1): Chongqing Pengshui Poet Case",
Southern City News, Oct. 19, 2006

2): Pan Wei,
" Party Controls Officials: A Model Needs Reforming",
Phenix Weekly, No 157, 2004

3): Lian Yanhui,
"Analysis on Party Controlling Officials",
Officials' Forum, No 7, 2005

100: Civil servants operate independently of the political process, without incentive or pressure to render favorable treatment or policy decisions on politically sensitive issues. Civil servants rarely comment on political debates. Individual judgments are rarely praised or criticized by political figures. Civil servants can bring a case to the courts challenging politically-motivated firings.

75:

50: Civil servants are typically independent, yet are sometimes influenced in their judgments by negative or positive political or personal incentives. This may include favorable or unfavorable treatment by superiors, public criticism or praise by the government, or other forms of influence. Civil servants may bring a case to the judicial system challenging politically-motivated firings but the case may encounter delays or bureaucratic hurdles.

25:

0: Civil servants are commonly influenced by political or personal matters. This may include conflicting family relationships, professional partnerships, or other personal loyalties. Negative incentives may include threats, harassment or other abuses of power. Civil servants are unable to find a remedy in the courts for unjustified or politically-motivated firings.

42b. In practice, civil servants are appointed and evaluated according to professional criteria.

References:

1): Chongqing Pengshui Poet Case",
Southern City News, Oct. 19, 2006

2): Pan Wei,
" Party Controls Officials: A Model Needs Reforming",
Phenix Weekly, No 157, 2004

3): Lian Yanhui,
"Analysis on Party Controlling Officials",
Officials' Forum, No 7, 2005

4): Interview with Prof. Yu Dazhang, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences,
July 19, 2007, at the office

100: Appointments to the civil service and their professional evaluations are made based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed are free of conflicts of interest arising from personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed usually do not have clear political party affiliations.

75:

50: Appointments and professional assessments are usually based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed may have clear party loyalties, however.

25:

0: Appointments and professional assessments are often based on political considerations. Individuals appointed often have conflicts of interest due to personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed often have clear party loyalties.

42c. In practice, civil service management actions (e.g. hiring, firing, promotions) are not based on nepotism, cronyism, or patronage.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Chongqing Pengshui Poet Case", Southern City News, Oct. 19, 2006

2): Pan Wei, "Party Controls Officials: A Model Needs Reforming", Phenix Weekly, No 157, 2004

3): Lian Yanhui, "Analysis on Party Controlling Officials", Officials' Forum, No 7, 2005

4): Interview with Prof. Yu Dazhang, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, July 19, 2007, at the office

5): Lang Jia "An Analysis on Factors Conducive to Unhealthy Relationship among Officials", Beijing Daily (Theoretical version) Sept. 14, 2006

100: Nepotism (favorable treatment of family members), cronyism (favorable treatment of friends and colleagues), and patronage (favorable treatment of those who reward their superiors) are actively discouraged at all levels of the civil service. Hirings, firings, and promotions are based on merit and performance.

75:

50: Nepotism, cronyism, and patronage are discouraged, but exceptions exist. Political leaders or senior officials sometimes appoint family member or friends to favorable positions in the civil service, or lend other favorable treatment.

25:

0: Nepotism, cronyism, and patronage are commonly accepted principles in hiring, firing and promotions of civil servants.

42d. In practice, civil servants have clear job descriptions.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Civil servants generally have job descriptions for different roles. However, many agencies are over-staffed, thus job descriptions are more requirements for the divisions than for individual civil servants.

References:

1): Interview Ms. Zeng Min, civil servant at CAAC, July 19, at the office

2): Beijing Statistic Bureau's job description.

100: Civil servants almost always have formal job descriptions establishing levels of seniority, assigned functions, and compensation. Job descriptions are a reliable means to map positions to both human capital requirements (including the position's authority and responsibilities) and base pay.

75:

50: Civil servants often have formal job descriptions, but exceptions exist. Some civil servants may not be part of the formal assignment of duties and compensations. Some job descriptions may not map clearly to pay or responsibilities in some cases.

25:

0: Civil servants do not have formal roles or job descriptions. If they do, such job descriptions have little or nothing to do with the position's responsibilities, authority, or pay.

42e. In practice, civil servant bonuses constitute only a small fraction of total pay.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Yue Gongzheng, Su Hainan, 2007, "Shadow Incomes of Officials Propose A Big Threat to Welfare Reform", People's Forum, July 4, 2007
<http://politics.people.com.cn/GB/14562/5967642.html>

2): "Hundreds of PHDs Compete for One Position", Beijing Evening News, Oct. 16, 2003
<http://edu.sina.com.cn/2003-10-16/54757.html>

3): Wang Lixin "An Analysis of Civil Servants' Income", China Digest, 2006
<http://www.chinanews.com.cn/other/news/2006/08-07/769705.shtml>

100: Civil servant bonuses constitute no more than 10% of total pay and do not represent a major element of take-home pay.

75:

50: Civil servant bonuses are generally a small percentage of total take-home pay for most civil servants though exceptions exist where some civil servants' bonuses represent a significant part of total pay.

25:

0: Most civil servants receive bonuses that represent a significant amount of total take-home pay. In some cases bonuses represent the majority of total pay to civil servants.

42f. In practice, the government publishes the number of authorized civil service positions along with the number of positions actually filled.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

China in recent years formed a unified examination system for recruiting public servants. All job vacancies are listed and approved by higher-level government, and all prospective civil servants must pass examinations. Only candidates ranked very high have the opportunity to go through the interview process. Generally, corruption can only happen in the interview process.

References:

1): "The Basic Procedure for Hiring Public Servants" Tengxun Education May 25, 2005
<http://edu.qq.com/a/20060525/000188.htm>

2): Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Job Openings", 2007

0: The government rarely or never publishes such a list, or when it does it is wholly incomplete.

42g. In practice, the independent redress mechanism for the civil service is effective.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

The redress mechanism is not independent.

References:

1): Feng Xingwu and Zhou Zhongsheng
"On the Redress Mechanism of Civil Servants"
Fa Xin Wang, August 2006
<http://www.law863.com/n217584c451.shtml>

2): Wang Cunfu
"Thoughts on the Legalization of Appealing Judgements Against Civil Servants"
The Journal of Chengdu Academy of Public Administration No 1, 2001
<http://scholar.ilib.cn/Abstract.aspx?A=cdxzxyxb200101018>

100: The independent redress mechanism for the civil service can control the timing and pace of its investigations without any input from the bodies that manage civil servants on a day-to-day basis.

75:

50: The independent civil service redress mechanism can generally decide what to investigate and when but is sometimes subject to pressure from the executive or the bodies that manage civil servants on a day-to-day basis on politically sensitive issues.

25:

0: The civil service redress mechanism must rely on approval from the executive or the bodies that manage civil servants on a day-to-day basis before initiating investigations. Politically sensitive investigations are almost impossible to move forward on.

42h. In practice, in the past year, the government has paid civil servants on time.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

In rural areas, it is not unusual that the payment of civil servants is delayed. However, in comparison to the payment delay of civil servants, the payment delay to teachers, especially primary school teachers, should be addressed, given its frequency and impact.

References:

1): An Investigation of Civil Servants' Payment Delay: Average Eight Months"
Xiaokang Magazine, Dec. 7, 2006
http://www.china.com.cn/city/txt/2006-12/07/content_7472832.htm

2): "Examining the Phenomenon of Payment Delay"
Employment Times, May 28, 2007

100: In the past year, no civil servants have been paid late.

75:

50: In the past year, some civil servants have been paid late.

25:

0: In the past year, civil servants have frequently been denied due pay.

42i. In practice, civil servants convicted of corruption are prohibited from future government employment.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Li Fang
"Can Citizens with Criminal Record Turn to be Civil Servants?—Analysis and Suggestions to the Article 6 of the Law to Civil Servants" J
ournal of Guangxi Administrative Cadre Institute of Politics and Law No 3, 2006
<http://scholar.iilib.cn/Abstract.aspx?A=gxyzfglgbyxb200603012>

2): Zhang Guifeng
"An Analysis of Restriction of Employment of Four Types of People"
Yanzhao City News March 20, 2006
http://www.ccmdu.com/bbs9_14927.html

100: A system of formal blacklists and cooling off periods is in place for civil servants convicted of corruption. All civil servants are subject to this system.

75:

50: A system of formal blacklists and cooling off periods is in place, but the system has flaws. Some civil servants may not be affected by the system, or the prohibitions are sometimes not effective.

25:

0: There is no such system, or the system is consistently ineffective in prohibiting future employment of convicted civil servants.

43. Are there regulations addressing conflicts of interest for civil servants?

63

43a. In law, there are requirements for civil servants to recuse themselves from policy decisions where their personal interests may be affected.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 11 of Civil Servants Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there are requirements for civil servants to recuse themselves from policy decisions where their personal interests, including personal financial interests as well as those of their family and friends, are affected.

NO: A NO score exists if no such requirements exist in regulation or law.

43b. In law, there are restrictions for civil servants entering the private sector after leaving the government.

YES | NO

References:

Article 102 of Civil Servants Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there are regulations restricting civil servants' ability to take positions in the private sector after leaving government that would present a conflict of interest, including positions that directly seek to influence their former government colleagues.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such restrictions exist.

43c. In law, there are regulations governing gifts and hospitality offered to civil servants.

YES | NO

References:

1. Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China <http://law.chinalawinfo.com/newlaw2002/SLC/SLC.asp?Db=chl&Gid=17010> 2. Civil Servant Law of the Peoples Republic of China <http://law.chinalawinfo.com/newlaw2002/SLC/SLC.asp?Db=chl&Gid=58050> 3. Regulation on the Punishment of Civil Servants of Administrative organs <http://law.chinalawinfo.com/newlaw2002/SLC/SLC.asp?Db=chl&Gid=90712> 4. Regulations on the Punishment of Leaders at Various Levels Giving and Receiving Cash, Negotiable Securities, and Payment Instruments http://www.34law.com/law/qiaw/6/1189/law_3889098917.shtml

YES: A YES score is earned if there are formal guidelines regarding gifts and hospitality given to civil servants.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no such guidelines or regulations.

43d. In practice, the regulations restricting post-government private sector employment for civil servants are effective.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

It is not so unusual for officials to enter business. In some areas, there are even preferential policies to encourage officials to enter business (see sources No 2). It is a common practice that officials find some agents, such as relatives, children, etc. to take ownership of some shares of some firms.

References:

1): Chang Hong, "New Red-Hat Entrepreneurs", 2003 <http://www.people.com.cn/GB/paper81/10465/953101.html>

2): "An Overview on Encouraging Officials to Enter Private Sectors", China Youth Daily, Aug. 17, 2004

3): "An Analysis on Officials Entering Business", Dangjian Neican, July 2003

100: The regulations restricting post-government private sector employment for civil servants are uniformly enforced. There are no or few cases of civil servants taking jobs in the private sector after leaving government where they directly lobby or seek to influence their former government colleagues without an adequate cooling off period.

75:

50: The regulations are generally enforced though some exceptions exist. In certain sectors, civil servants are known to regularly take jobs in the private sector that entail directly lobbying or seeking to influence their former government colleagues. Cooling off periods are short and sometimes ignored.

25:

0: The regulations are rarely or never enforced. Civil servants routinely take jobs in the private sector following government employment that involve direct lobbying or influencing of former government colleagues. Cooling off periods are non-existent or never enforced.

43e. In practice, the regulations governing gifts and hospitality offered to civil servants are effective.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Yi Ming,
"How Much Grey Income Officials Have",
Finance and Economics Times, June 21, 2006, http://www.cnr.cn/nx/xwzx/rdjj/200706/t20070621_504496374.html

2): Shen Yongquan,
"Be Cautious about Officials Receiving Gifts under the Name of Collection",
People's Political Scene, June 2005
<http://rmzt.fjzen.com/2005/200506/20050627.htm>

100: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to civil servants are regularly enforced and sufficiently restrict the amounts of gifts and hospitality that can be given to civil servants. Civil servants never or rarely accept gifts or hospitality above what is allowed.

75:

50: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to civil servants are generally applied though exceptions exist. Some civil servants in certain sectors are known to accept greater amounts of gifts and hospitality from outside interest groups or private sector actors than is allowed.

25:

0: The regulations governing gifts and hospitality to the civil service are routinely ignored and unenforced. Civil servants routinely accept significant amounts of gifts and hospitality from outside interest groups and actors seeking to influence their decisions.

43f. In practice, the requirements for civil service recusal from policy decisions affecting personal interests are effective.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Zhang Guoqing
"Five Suggestions to Curb Corruption"
Zhongguo Lianzheng Wenhua Wang, August 14, 2006
http://www.cnicw.gov.cn/info_disp.php?id=8664

2): "Interest Groups Affect Legislation"
a special report by Sohu News
<http://news.sohu.com/s2006/06xingzhenglifa/>

100: The requirements that civil servants recuse themselves from policy decisions where their personal interests are affected are routinely followed by most or all civil servants.

75:

50: The requirements that civil servants recuse themselves from policy decisions where their personal interests are affected are followed by most civil servants though exceptions exist. In certain sectors, civil servants are known to routinely participate in policy decisions where their personal interests are affected.

25:

0: Most civil servants routinely ignore recusal requirements and continue to participate in policy decisions where their personal interests are affected.

44. Can citizens access the asset disclosure records of senior civil servants?

0

44a. In law, citizens can access the asset disclosure records of senior civil servants.

YES | NO

References:

No such laws exist.

YES: A YES score is earned if laws or regulations guarantee that citizens can access the asset records of senior civil servants.

NO: A NO score is earned if senior civil servants do not file an asset disclosure. A NO score is earned if senior civil servants file an asset disclosure, but it is not available to the public.

44b. In practice, citizens can access the asset disclosure records of senior civil servants within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): When to Initiate Assets Disclosure?"
China Youth Daily, Nov. 2, 2006

2): Cai Xuebin and Luo Xiaoguang
"On Perfection of China's Property Declaration System"
Journal of Guangxi Economic Management Cadre College, issue 4, 2005

100: Records are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information.

75:

50: Records take around two weeks to obtain. Some delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Records take more than a month to acquire. In some cases, most records may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

44c. In practice, citizens can access the asset disclosure records of senior civil servants at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): When to Initiate Assets Disclosure?"
China Youth Daily, Nov. 2, 2006

2): Cai Xuebin and Luo Xiaoguang
"On Perfection of China's Property Declaration System"
Journal of Guangxi Economic Management Cadre College, issue 4, 2005

100: Records are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Records can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Records impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving records may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving records imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Records costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

IV-2. Whistle-blowing Measures

45. Are employees protected from recrimination or other negative consequences when reporting corruption (i.e. whistle-blowing)?

75

45a. In law, civil servants who report cases of corruption, graft, abuse of power, or abuse of resources are protected from recrimination or other negative consequences.

YES | NO

Comments:

But the regulations are too vague and their applicability needs improving.
See <http://www.southcn.com/opinion/bbs/200406150398.htm>

References:

Chapter 2 of Civil Servants Law of People's Republic of China
Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there are specific laws against recrimination against public sector whistleblowers. This may include prohibitions on termination, transfer, harassment or other consequences.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no legal protections for public-sector whistleblowers.

45b. In practice, civil servants who report cases of corruption, graft, abuse of power, or abuse of resources are protected from recrimination or other negative consequences.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Kong Weijun, Wu Jianwu
"To Protect the Whistleblowers' Rights"
Nan Fang Wang, 2004
<http://www.southcn.com/opinion/bbs/200406150398.htm>

2): "Rules of Protecting Whistleblowers"
issued by Central Disciplinary Committee
<http://www.jubao.gov.cn/xl/law/7.html>

100: Public sector whistleblowers can report abuses of power without fear of negative consequences. This may be due to robust mechanisms to protect the identity of whistleblowers or may be due to a culture that encourages disclosure and accountability.

75:

50: Public sector whistleblowers are sometimes able to come forward without negative consequences, but in other cases, whistleblowers are punished for disclosing, either through official or unofficial means.

25:

0: Public sector whistleblowers often face substantial negative consequences, such as losing a job, relocating to a less prominent position, or some form of harassment.

45c. In law, private sector employees who report cases of corruption, graft, abuse of power, or abuse of resources are protected from recrimination or other negative consequences.

YES | NO

References:

Criminal Procedural Law of People's Republic of China

Rules of Protecting Whistleblowers*
issued by Central Disciplinary Committee
<http://www.jubao.gov.cn/xf/law/7.html>

YES: A YES score is earned if there are specific laws against recrimination against private sector whistleblowers. This may include prohibitions on termination, transfer, harassment or other consequences.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no legal protections for private-sector whistleblowers.

45d. In practice, private sector employees who report cases of corruption, graft, abuse of power, or abuse of resources are protected from recrimination or other negative consequences.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Citizens Actively Whistleblowing, Not Afraid of Negative Consequences",
Shenzhen News, June 12, 2007
http://www.sznews.com/news/content/2007-06/12/content_1231190.htm

2): Liang Fahu
"From the Negative Consequences on Whistleblowers to Examine Legal Deficiencies",
China Economic Times, March 30, 2006
<http://finance.sina.com.cn/roll/20060330/0903622927.shtml>

100: Private sector whistleblowers can report abuses of power without fear of negative consequences. This may be due to robust mechanisms to protect the identity of whistleblowers or may be due to a culture that encourages disclosure and accountability.

75:

50: Private sector whistleblowers are sometimes able to come forward without negative consequences, but in other cases, whistleblowers are punished for disclosing, either through official or unofficial means.

25:

0: Private sector whistleblowers often face substantial negative consequences, such as losing a job, relocating to a less prominent position, or some form of harassment.

46. In law, is there an internal mechanism (i.e. phone hotline, e-mail address, local office) through which civil servants can report corruption?

46. In law, is there an internal mechanism (i.e. phone hotline, e-mail address, local office) through which civil servants can report corruption?

YES | NO

References:

Letters Center at Central Disciplinary Committee
<http://www.jubao.gov.cn/xf/law/7.html>

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a mechanism, or multiple mechanisms for multiple national government agencies, through which civil servants can report cases of graft, misuse of public funds, or corruption.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such mechanism (or equivalent series of mechanisms) exists.

47. In practice, is the internal mechanism (i.e. phone hotline, e-mail address, local office) through which civil servants can report corruption effective?

44

47a. In practice, the internal reporting mechanism for public sector corruption has a professional, full-time staff.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Nobody Answers Phone Hotline"
Xibu Shangbao, Aug. 21, 2006
<http://xbsb.gansudaily.com.cn/system/2006/08/21/010109993.shtml>

2): "Anti-corruption Agencies in China: Moving Forward with Many Barriers",
Youth Cankao, March 2, 2004
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2004-03-02/14032985447.shtml>

100: The agency/entity has staff sufficient to fulfill its basic mandate.

75:

50: The agency/entity has limited staff, a fact that hinders its ability to fulfill its basic mandate.

25:

0: The agency/entity has no staff, or a limited staff that is clearly unqualified to fulfill its mandate.

47b. In practice, the internal reporting mechanism for public sector corruption receives regular funding.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

In China, the internal reporting agencies will receive funding through the budgeting process. There are no tremendous cuts or increases in funding from year to year.

References:

Anti-corruption Agencies in China: Moving Forward with Many Barriers", Youth Cankao, March 2, 2004
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2004-03-02/14032985447.shtml>

100: The agency/entity has a predictable source of funding that is fairly consistent from year to year. Political considerations are not a major factor in determining agency funding.

75:

50: The agency/entity has a regular source of funding but may be pressured by cuts, or threats of cuts to the agency budget. Political considerations have an effect on agency funding.

25:

0: Funding source is unreliable. Funding may be removed arbitrarily or as retaliation for agency actions.

47c. In practice, the internal reporting mechanism for public sector corruption acts on complaints within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Wang Keqing, Liu Sikun
1,359 Complaints in the Past Six Years from Yongquan Village, Daqing"
China Rural Areas Research Network Working Paper, 2007
<http://www.shwd.net/shownews.asp?newsid=664>

2): A Comment Made by Prof. Sun Liping on Complaints
<http://www.shwd.net/shownews.asp?newsid=50>

100: The agency/entity acts on complaints quickly. While some backlog is expected and inevitable, complaints are acknowledged promptly and investigations into serious abuses move steadily towards resolution. Citizens with simple issues can expect a resolution within a month.

75:

50: The agency/entity acts on complaints quickly, with some exceptions. Some complaints may not be acknowledged, and simple issues may take more than two months to resolve.

25:

0: The agency/entity cannot resolve complaints quickly. Complaints may be unacknowledged for more than a month, and simple issues may take more than three months to resolve. Serious abuses are not investigated with any urgency.

47d. In practice, when necessary, the internal reporting mechanism for public sector corruption initiates investigations.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Prof. Zhou Yean, Renmin University,
July 27, 2007, via phone

100: When irregularities are discovered, the agency/entity is aggressive in investigating the government or in cooperating with other agencies' investigations.

75:

50: The agency/entity starts investigations, but is limited in its effectiveness. The agency/entity may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically powerful offenders, reluctant to cooperate with other investigative agencies, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The agency/entity does not effectively investigate. The agency/entity may start investigations but not complete them, may refuse to cooperate with other investigative agencies, or may fail to detect offenders. The agency/entity may be partisan in its application of power.

73
IV-3. Procurement

48. Is the public procurement process effective?

80

48a. In law, there are regulations addressing conflicts of interest for public procurement officials.

YES | NO

References:

Article 12 of Government Procurement Law of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there are specific formal regulations defining and regulating conflicts of interest between official public duty and private interests for public procurement officials. A YES score is earned if such regulations cover all civil servants, including procurement officials.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such rules exist.

48b. In law, there is mandatory professional training for public procurement officials.

YES | NO

References:

Article 62 of Government Procurement Law of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if public procurement officials receive regular mandatory training to ensure professional standards in supervising the tendering process.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no regular required training of public procurement officials or if training is sporadic, inconsistent, unrelated to procurement processes, or voluntary.

48c. In practice, the conflicts of interest regulations for public procurement officials are enforced.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Li Shuo

A Study on How to Audit Public Procurement",
Shandong Economy, No 4, 2005

2): The Phenomenal Case of Public Procurement"
China Business July 13, 2007
<http://finance.sina.com.cn/roll/20070713/23471540217.shtml>

100: Regulations regarding conflicts of interest for procurement officials are aggressively enforced.

75:

50: Conflict of interest regulations exist, but are flawed. Some violations may not be enforced, or some officials may be exempt from regulations.

25:

0: Conflict of interest regulations do not exist, or are consistently ineffective.

48d. In law, there is a mechanism that monitors the assets, incomes and spending habits of public procurement officials.

YES | NO

References:

There is no such mechanism.

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal mandate to some agency to monitor the assets, incomes and spending habits of public procurement officials, such as an inspector general, or ombudsman.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such mandate exists.

48e. In law, major procurements require competitive bidding.

YES | NO

References:

Chapters 3 and 4 of Government Procurement Law of the Peoples Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if all major procurements (defined as those greater than 0.5% of GDP) require competitive bidding.

NO: A NO score is earned if competitive bidding is not required by law or regulation for major procurement (greater than 0.5% OF GDP).

48f. In law, strict formal requirements limit the extent of sole sourcing.

YES | NO

References:

Article 31 of Government Procurement Law of the Peoples Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if sole sourcing is limited to specific, tightly defined conditions, such as when a supplier is the only source of a skill or technology.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no prohibitions on sole sourcing. A NO score is earned if the prohibitions on sole sourcing are general and unspecific.

48g. In law, unsuccessful bidders can instigate an official review of procurement decisions.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 6 of Government Procurement Law of Peoples Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal appeal process for unsuccessful bidders.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such process exists.

48h. In law, unsuccessful bidders can challenge procurement decisions in a court of law.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 6 of Government Procurement Law of Peoples Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if unsuccessful bidders can use the courts to appeal a procurement decision.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such process exists.

48i. In law, companies guilty of major violations of procurement regulations (i.e. bribery) are prohibited from participating in future procurement bids.

YES | NO

References:

Article 77 of Government Procurement Law of Peoples Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there are formal procurement blacklists, preventing convicted companies from doing business with the government.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such process exists.

48j. In practice, companies guilty of major violations of procurement regulations (i.e. bribery) are prohibited from participating in future procurement bids.

References:

1): Gu Liaohai
Case Studies on China's Government Procurement"
Qunzong Press, 2005
<http://www.chinabidding.com/zbjg,jhtml?method=detailTwo&docId=344072>

2): "Government Procurement Law Should Be Implemented More Strictly"
Tengxun Keji, March 14, 2007
<http://tech.qq.com/a/20070314/000188.htm>

100: A system of formal blacklists and cooling off periods is in place for companies convicted of corruption. All companies are subject to this system.

75:

50: A system of formal blacklists and cooling off periods is in place, but the system has flaws. Some procurements or companies may not be affected by the system, or the prohibitions are sometimes not effective.

25:

0: There is no such system, or the system is consistently ineffective in prohibiting future hiring of blacklisted companies.

49. Can citizens access the public procurement process?

63

49a. In law, citizens can access public procurement regulations.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 2 of The Decree of Government Information Openness

YES: A YES score is earned if procurement rules are, by law, open to the public. These regulations are defined here as the rules governing the competitive procurement process.

NO: A NO score is earned if procurement rules are officially secret for any reason or if there are no procurement rules.

49b. In law, the government is required to publicly announce the results of procurement decisions.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 2 of The Decree of Government Information Openness

YES: A YES score is earned if the government is required to publicly post or announce the results of the public procurement process. This can be done through major media outlets or on a publicly-accessible government register or log.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no requirement for the government to publicly announce the results of the public procurement process.

49c. In practice, citizens can access public procurement regulations within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Why Is It So Difficult to Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily, June 12, 2006

2): "Violating the Right to Information by the Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: Records are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information. These records are defined here as the rules governing the competitive procurement process.

75:

50: Records take around two weeks to obtain. Some delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Records take more than a month to acquire. In some cases, most records may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

49d. In practice, citizens can access public procurement regulations at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Why Is It So Difficult to Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily, June 12, 2006

2): "Violating the Right to Information by the Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: Records are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Records can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line. These records are defined here as the rules governing the competitive procurement process.

75:

50: Records impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving records may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving records imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Records costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

49e. In practice, major public procurements are effectively advertised.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Government Procurements Should Be Advertised, Otherwise Punished", China Government Procurements, July 23, 2007
<http://www.ccgp.gov.cn/dfcg/2007230001.htm>

2): Gu Liaohai
"Why Are Government Procurements Organized by Private Organizations?" China Economic Weekly, July 2007

100: There is a formal process of advertising public procurements. This may include a government website, newspaper advertising, or other official announcements. All major procurements are advertised in this way. Sufficient time is allowed for bidders to respond to advertisements.

75:

50: There is a formal process of advertisement but it is flawed. Some major procurements may not be advertised, or the advertising process may not be effective. The time between advertisements and bidding may be too short to allow full participation.

25:

0: There is no formal process of advertising major public procurements or the process is superficial and ineffective.

49f. In practice, citizens can access the results of major public procurement bids.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Government Procurements Should Be Advertised, Otherwise Punished", China Government Procurements, July 23, 2007
<http://www.ccgp.gov.cn/dfcg/2007230001.htm>

2): Gu Liaohai
"Why Are Government Procurements Organized by Private Organizations?" China Economic Weekly, July 2007

100: Records of public procurement results are publicly available through a formal process.

75:

50: Records of public procurements are available, but there are exceptions to this practice. Some information may not be available, or some citizens may not be able to access information.

25:

0: This information is not available to the public through an official process.

IV-4. Privatization

50. Is the privatization process effective?

75

50a. In law, all businesses are eligible to compete for privatized state assets.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 1 of Management Interim Procedures of Enterprises' State-Owned Property Right Transfer

YES: A YES score is earned if all businesses are equally eligible to compete for privatized assets. A YES score is still earned if the government did not privatize any state-owned assets during the study period.

NO: A NO score is earned if any group of businesses (other than those blacklisted due to corruption charges) is excluded by law.

50b. In law, there are regulations addressing conflicts of interest for government officials involved in privatization.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 9 of Rules on the Evaluation and Management of State Assets

YES: A YES score is earned if there are specific formal regulations defining and regulating conflicts of interest between official public duty and private interests for privatization officials. A YES score is earned if such regulations cover all civil servants, including privatization officials.

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no such formal regulations.

50c. In practice, conflicts of interest regulations for government officials involved in privatization are enforced.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Xiong Yan
To Discipline State-Owned Assets Transfer"
Keynote speech delivered at the Nighth International Forum on International Investment and Property Rights Transfer, Xiamen, Sept. 9, 2005

2): "The Auction Mechanism Is Urgently Needed to Transfer State-owned Assets"
Renmin Wang, Sept. 28, 2006
<http://finance.people.com.cn/GB/1037/4866411.html>

100: Regulations regarding conflicts of interest for privatization officials are aggressively enforced.

75:

50: Conflict of interest regulations exist, but are flawed. Some violations may not be enforced, or some officials may be exempt from the regulations.

25:

0: Conflict of interest regulations do not exist, or are consistently ineffective.

51. Can citizens access the terms and conditions of privatization bids?

51a. In law, citizens can access privatization regulations.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 2 of the Decree of Government Information Openness

YES: A YES score is earned if privatization rules (defined here as the rules governing the competitive privatization process) are, by law, open to the public. Even if privatization is infrequent or rare, the most recent privatization should be used as the basis for scoring this indicator.

NO: A NO score is earned if privatization rules are officially secret for any reason or if there are no privatization rules.

51b. In practice, privatizations are effectively advertised.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1, Rules of transferring state-owned assets. http://news.xinhuanet.com/zhengfu/2004-01/09/content_1267971.htm

100: There is a formal process of advertising privatizations. This may include a government website, newspaper advertising, or other official announcements. All major procurements are advertised in this way. Sufficient time is allowed for bidders to respond to advertisements.

75:

50: There is a formal process of advertisement but it is flawed. Some privatizations may not be advertised, or the advertising process may not be effective. The time between advertisements and bidding may be too short to allow full participation.

25:

0: There is no formal process of advertising privatizations or the process is superficial and ineffective.

51c. In law, the government is required to publicly announce the results of privatization decisions.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 2 of the Decree of Government Information Openness

YES: A YES score is earned if the government is required to publicly post or announce the results of the privatization process. This can be done through major media outlets or on a publicly-accessible government register or log.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no requirement for the government to publicly announce the results of the privatization process.

51d. In practice, citizens can access privatization regulations within a reasonable time period.

References:

1): "Why Is It So Difficult to Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily, June 12, 2006

2): "Violating the Right to Information by the Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: Records (defined here as the rules governing the competitive privatization process) are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information.

75:

50: Records take around two weeks to obtain. Some delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Records take more than a month to acquire. In some cases, most records may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

51e. In practice, citizens can access privatization regulations at a reasonable cost.

References:

1): "Why Is It So Difficult to Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily, June 12, 2006

2): "Violating the Right to Information by the Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: Records (defined here as the rules governing the competitive privatization process) are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Records can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Records impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving records may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving records imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Records costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

Category V. Oversight and Regulation

V-1. ⁶⁷National Ombudsman

52. In law, is there a national ombudsman, public protector or equivalent agency (or collection of agencies) covering the entire public sector?

52. In law, is there a national ombudsman, public protector or equivalent agency (or collection of agencies) covering the entire public sector?

YES | NO

References:

Ministry of Supervision of PRC

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a specific agency or set of agencies whose primary mandate is to investigate the actions of government on the behalf of common citizens. This agency or set of agencies should be specifically charged with seeking out and documenting abuses of power.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such agency or set of agencies exists, or that function is a secondary concern of a larger body, such as the legislature.

53. Is the national ombudsman effective?

48

53a. In law, the ombudsman is protected from political interference.

YES | NO

References:

Law Of the People's Republic of China on Administrative Supervision

YES: A YES score is earned only if the agency (or set of agencies) has some formal organizational independence from the government. A YES score is earned even if the entity is legally separate but in practice staffed by partisans.

NO: A NO score is earned if the agency is a subordinate part of any government ministry or agency, such as the Department of Interior or the Justice Department.

53b. In practice, the ombudsman is protected from political interference.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Mei Lihong
"The Change of China's Disciplinary System",
Study Times, April 2007

2): Cheng Longke,
"Chinese Style Disciplinary System",
Beijing Daily, May 14, 2007

100: This agency (or set of agencies) operates independently of the political process, without incentive or pressure to render favorable judgments in politically sensitive cases. Investigations can operate without hindrance from the government, including access to politically sensitive information. .

75:

50: This agency (or set of agencies) is typically independent, yet is sometimes influenced in its work by negative or positive political incentives. This may include public criticism or praise by the government. The ombudsman may not be provided with some information needed to carry out its investigations.

25:

0: This agency (or set of agencies) is commonly influenced by political or personal incentives. This may include conflicting family relationships, professional partnerships, or other personal loyalties. Negative incentives may include threats, harassment or other abuses of power. The ombudsman cannot compel the government to reveal sensitive information.

53c. In practice, the head of the ombudsman agency/entity is protected from removal without relevant justification.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Mei Lihong
"The Change of China's Disciplinary System",
Study Times, April 2007

2): Cheng Longke,
"Chinese Style Disciplinary System",
Beijing Daily, May 14, 2007

100: The director of the ombudsman (or directors of multiple agencies) serves a defined term and cannot be removed without a significant justification through a formal process, such as impeachment for abuse of power.

75:

50: The director of the ombudsman (or directors of multiple agencies) serves a defined term, but can in some cases be removed through a combination of official or unofficial pressure.

25:

0: The director of the ombudsman (or directors of multiple agencies) can be removed at the will of political leadership.

53d. In practice, the ombudsman agency (or agencies) has a professional, full-time staff.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "China Has 36,000 Anti-Corruption Officials"
Procuratorial Daily, Oct. 24, 2006
http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2006-10/24/content_5242351.htm

2): Wu Haili
"Some Views on Preventing Corruption"
Jiangxi Yufangwang, 2005
<http://www.gd.yfw.com.cn/shownews.asp?id=47273>

100: The ombudsman agency (or agencies) has staff sufficient to fulfill its basic mandate.

75:

50: The ombudsman agency (or agencies) has limited staff that hinders its ability to fulfill its basic mandate.

25:

0: The ombudsman agency (or agencies) has no staff, or a limited staff that is clearly unqualified to fulfill its mandate.

53e. In practice, agency appointments support the independence of the ombudsman agency (or agencies).

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Chongqing Pengshui Poet Case",
Southern City News, Oct. 19, 2006

2): Pan Wei
"Party Controls Officials: A Model Needs Reforming",
Phoenix Weekly, No 157, 2004

3): Lian Yanhui
"Analysis on Party Controlling Officials",
Officials' Forum, No 7, 2005

100: Appointments to the agency (or agencies) are made based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed are free of conflicts of interest due to personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed usually do not have clear political party affiliations.

75:

50: Appointments are usually based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed may have clear party loyalties.

25:

0: Appointments are often based on political considerations. Individuals appointed often have conflicts of interest due to personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed often have clear party loyalties.

53f. In practice, the ombudsman agency (or agencies) receives regular funding.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): China's Anti-Corruption Agency: Still in Progress"
Youth Information March 2, 2004
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2004-03-02/14032985447.shtml>

2): Sun Xuejiang
"On The Reorganization of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Prevention Agencies"
July 20, 2007
<http://www.hl.jcy.gov.cn/detail.cfm?id=2A8F&newsid=228E41962FFB>

100: The agency (or agencies) has a predictable source of funding that is fairly consistent from year to year. Political considerations are not a major factor in determining agency funding.

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) has a regular source of funding, but may be pressured by cuts, or threats of cuts to the agency budget. Political considerations have an effect on agency funding.

25:

0: Funding source is unreliable. Funding may be removed arbitrarily or as retaliation for agency functions.

53g. In practice, the ombudsman agency (or agencies) makes publicly available reports.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

There are many agencies to handle the complaints and relevant issues of citizens, such as letters office, court, disciplinary committee, etc. In most cases, citizens turn to the higher level government. In each year's congress season, these agencies will submit reports to various levels of the National People's Congress. In recent years, in some cases, these reports have been rejected. This is a change, because in the past NPR applied only rubber stamps. Of course, we must be aware that these reports are usually not complete and detailed.

References:

1): Taizhou Court and Prosecutor's Report Were Almost Rejected"
Southern Net, April 5, 2007
http://news.phoenixtv.com/mainland/200704/0405_17_98252.shtml

100: The agency (or agencies) makes regular, publicly available, substantial reports either to the legislature or directly to the public outlining the full scope of its work.

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) makes publicly available reports to the legislature and/or directly to the public that are sometimes delayed or incomplete.

25:

0: The agency (or agencies) makes no reports of its activities, or makes reports that are consistently out of date, unavailable to the public, or insubstantial.

53h. In practice, when necessary, the national ombudsman (or equivalent agency or agencies) initiates investigations.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

There are many agencies to handle the complaints and relevant issues of citizens, such as letters office, court, disciplinary committee, etc. In most cases, citizens turn to the higher level government.

References:

1): Shangxi Disciplinary Committee Decides to Investigate the Slavery Brick Factory"
China News Agency June 22, 2007
<http://news.qq.com/a/20070622/001394.htm>

2): "Central Disciplinary Committee Initiates Investigations on Shenzhen Judges"
Southern City News, Nov. 7, 2007
<http://www.southcn.com/news/gdnews/sd/200611070060.htm>

100: The agency aggressively starts investigations — or participates fully with cooperating agencies' investigations — into judicial misconduct. The agency is fair in its application of this power.

75:

50: The agency will start or cooperate in investigations, but often relies on external pressure to set priorities, or has limited effectiveness when investigating. The agency, though limited in effectiveness, is still fair in its application of power.

25:

0: The agency rarely investigates on its own or cooperates in other agencies' investigations, or the agency is partisan in its application of this power.

53i. In practice, when necessary, the national ombudsman (or equivalent agency or agencies) imposes penalties on offenders.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

There are many agencies to handle the complaints and relevant issues of citizens, such as letters office, court, disciplinary committee, etc. In most cases, citizens turn to the higher level government.

References:

1): Shangxi Disciplinary Committee Decides to Investigate the Slavery Brick Factory”

China News Agency June 22, 2007

<http://news.qq.com/a/20070622/001394.htm>

2): “Central Disciplinary Committee Initiates Investigations on Shenzhen Judges”

Southern City News, Nov. 7, 2007

<http://www.southcn.com/news/gdnews/sd/200611070060.htm>

100: When rules violations are discovered, the agency is aggressive in penalizing offenders or in cooperating with other agencies who penalize offenders.

75:

50: The agency enforces rules, but is limited in its effectiveness. The agency may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically powerful offenders, resistant to cooperating with other agencies, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The agency does not effectively penalize offenders. The agency may make judgments but not enforce them, does not cooperate with other agencies in enforcing penalties, or may fail to make reasonable judgments against offenders. The agency may be partisan in its application of power.

53j. In practice, the government acts on the findings of the ombudsman agency (or agencies).

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

There are many agencies to handle the complaints and relevant issues of citizens, such as letters office, court, disciplinary committee, etc. In most cases, citizens turn to the higher level government.

References:

1): Wang Keqing, Liu Sikun

1359 complaints in the Past six Years from Yongquan Village, Daqing”

China Rural Areas Research Network Working Paper, 2007

<http://www.shwd.net/shownews.asp?newsid=664>

2): A comment made by Prof. Sun Liping on complaints

<http://www.shwd.net/shownews.asp?newsid=50>

100: Ombudsman’s reports are taken seriously, with negative findings drawing prompt corrective action.

75:

50: In most cases, ombudsman’s reports are acted on, though some exceptions may occur for politicalallly sensitive issues, or particularly resistant agencies.

25:

0: Ombudsman reports are often ignored, or given superficial attention. Ombudsman reports do not lead to policy changes.

53k. In practice, the ombudsman agency (or agencies) acts on citizen complaints within a reasonable time period.

Comments:

There are many agencies to handle the complaints and relevant issues of citizens, such as letters office, court, disciplinary committee, etc. In most cases, citizens turn to the higher level government.

References:

1): Wang Keqing, Liu Sikun
1359 complaints in the Past six Years from Yongquan Village, Daqing”
China Rural Areas Research Network Working Paper, 2007
<http://www.shwd.net/shownews.asp?newsid=664>

2): A comment made by Prof. Sun Liping on complaints
<http://www.shwd.net/shownews.asp?newsid=50>

100: The agency (or agencies) acts on complaints quickly. While some backlog is expected and inevitable, complaints are acknowledged promptly and investigations into serious abuses move steadily towards resolution. Citizens with simple issues can expect a resolution within a month.

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) acts on complaints quickly, with some exceptions. Some complaints may not be acknowledged, and simple issues may take more than two months to resolve.

25:

0: The agency (or agencies) cannot resolve complaints quickly. Complaints may be unacknowledged for more than a month, and simple issues may take more than three months to resolve. Serious abuses are not investigated with any urgency.

54. Can citizens access the reports of the ombudsman?

67

54a. In law, citizens can access reports of the ombudsman(s).

YES | NO

Comments:

There are many agencies to handle the complaints and relevant issues of citizens, such as letters office, court, disciplinary committee, etc. In most cases, citizens turn to the higher level government. These agencies will submit reports to various levels of the National People's Congress.

References:

Chapter 2 of The Decree on Government Information Openness

YES: A YES score is earned if all ombudsman reports are publicly available.

NO: A NO score is earned if any ombudsman reports are not publicly available. This may include reports made exclusively to the legislature or the executive, which those bodies may choose not to distribute the reports.

54b. In practice, citizens can access the reports of the ombudsman(s) within a reasonable time period.

Comments:

There are many agencies to handle the complaints and relevant issues of citizens, such as letters office, court, disciplinary committee, etc. In most cases, citizens turn to the higher level government. These agencies will submit reports to various levels of the National People's Congress.

References:

1): Wang Keqing, Liu Sikun
"1359 complaints in the Past six Years from Yongquan Village, Daqing"
China Rural Areas Research Network Working Paper, 2007
<http://www.shwd.net/shownews.asp?newsid=664>

2): A comment made by Prof. Sun Liping on complaints
<http://www.shwd.net/shownews.asp?newsid=50>

100: Reports are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information.

75:

50: Reports take around two weeks to obtain. Some delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Reports take more than a month to acquire. In some cases, most records may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

54c. In practice, citizens can access the reports of the ombudsman(s) at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

There are many agencies to handle the complaints and relevant issues of citizens, such as letters office, court, disciplinary committee, etc. In most cases, citizens turn to the higher level government. These agencies will submit reports to various levels of the National People's Congress.

References:

1): "Why Is It So Difficult to Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily June 12, 2006

2): "Violating the Right to Information by the Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: Reports are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Reports can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Reports impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving reports may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving reports imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Reports costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

V-2. Supreme Audit Institution

55. In law, is there a national supreme audit institution, auditor general or equivalent agency covering the entire public sector?

55. In law, is there a national supreme audit institution, auditor general or equivalent agency covering the entire public sector?

YES | NO

References:

National Audit Office of People's Republic of China established by the State Council

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a specific agency whose primary mandate is to audit and track the movement of money through the government. This agency should be specifically charged to investigate and document the misuse of funds. A system of agencies located in each department is equivalent.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such agency exists, or that function is a secondary concern of a larger body, such as the executive.

56. Is the supreme audit institution effective?

59

56a. In law, the supreme audit institution is protected from political interference.

YES | NO

References:

Article 91 of the Constitution

YES: A YES score is earned only if the agency has some formal organizational independence from the government. A YES score is earned even if the entity is legally separate but in practice staffed by partisans.

NO: A NO score is earned if the agency is a subordinate part of any government ministry or agency, such as the Department of Interior or the Justice Department.

56b. In practice, the head of the audit agency is protected from removal without relevant justification.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

The audit office is ruled by local governments and the State Audit Bureau. It is subject to political pressures. However, it is becoming more and more independent within the current legal and political framework.

References:

1): Wu Jixue
The Change of Li Jinghua",
Sina Finance, 2006
<http://finance.sina.com.cn/review/zlhd/20060630/10492694958.shtml>

100: The director of the agency serves a defined term and cannot be removed without a significant justification through a formal process, such as impeachment for abuse of power.

75:

50: The director of the agency serves a defined term, but can in some cases be removed through a combination of official or unofficial pressure.

25:

0: The director of the agency can be removed at the will of political leadership.

56c. In practice, the audit agency has a professional, full-time staff.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1):Is the Audit Office More Powerful"
Phenix Weekly, April 13, 2006
<http://finance.163.com/06/0413/16/2EJPN3IO00251J6.html>

2): Wang Xiuming
"The Prospects of China's Audit"
Shicheng Audit, 2006
<http://www.scsjj.gov.cn/ReadNews.asp?NewsID=549>

100: The agency has staff sufficient to fulfill its basic mandate.

75:

50: The agency has limited staff that hinders its ability to fulfill its basic mandate.

25:

0: The agency has no staff, or a limited staff that is clearly unqualified to fulfill its mandate.

56d. In practice, audit agency appointments support the independence of the agency.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1):Is the Audit Office More Powerful"
Phenix Weekly, April 13, 2006
<http://finance.163.com/06/0413/16/2EJPN3IO00251J6.html>

2): Wang Xiuming
"The Prospects of China's Audit"
Shicheng Audit, 2006
<http://www.scsjj.gov.cn/ReadNews.asp?NewsID=549>

100: Appointments to the agency are made based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed are free of conflicts of interest due to personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed usually do not have clear political party affiliations.

75:

50: Appointments are usually based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed may have clear party loyalties.

25:

0: Appointments are often based on political considerations. Individuals appointed often have conflicts of interest due to personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed often have clear party loyalties.

56e. In practice, the audit agency receives regular funding.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Hao Zhiyuan
"The Effects of Limited Auditing Funds and Policy Implications"
State Audit Bureau, 2005
http://www.audit.gov.cn/cysite/docpage/c169/200409/0901_169_10212.htm

2): "Audit Office Should Be Audited By A Third Party"
Beijing News, July 25, 2007,
http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2007-07/25/content_6425831.htm

100: The agency has a predictable source of funding that is fairly consistent from year to year. Political considerations are not a major factor in determining agency funding.

75:

50: The agency has a regular source of funding, but may be pressured by cuts, or threats of cuts to the agency budget. Political considerations have an effect on agency funding.

25:

0: Funding source is unreliable. Funding may be removed arbitrarily or as retaliation for agency actions.

56f. In practice, the audit agency makes regular public reports.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Liu Jingjun
"On Perfecting Proclamation System for State Audit Result"
Journal of Fujian Institute of Financial Administration, No 3, 2005

2): Li Zhimin and Yu Lihui
"A Note on The Change of Auditing Rules"
Western Finance and Auditing No 12, 2006

100: The agency makes regular, publicly available, substantial reports to the legislature and/or to the public directly outlining the full scope of its work.

75:

50: The agency makes publicly available reports to the legislature and/or to the public directly that are sometimes delayed or incomplete.

25:

0: The agency makes no reports of its activities, or makes reports that are consistently out of date, unavailable to the public, or insubstantial.

56g. In practice, the government acts on the findings of the audit agency.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): National People's Congress Must Participate to Make Audit Reports Effective"
China News Weekly, July 9, 2007
<http://news.qq.com/a/20070709/002337.htm>

2): Deng Haijian,
"To Make Audit Reports Really Accountable"
Guangzhou Daily July 23, 2007
<http://business.sohu.com/20070723/n251208677.shtml>

100: Audit agency reports are taken seriously, with negative findings drawing prompt corrective action.

75:

50: In most cases, audit agency reports are acted on, though some exceptions may occur for politically sensitive issues, or particularly resistant agencies.

25:

0: Audit reports are often ignored, or given superficial attention. Audit reports do not lead to policy changes.

56h. In practice, the audit agency is able to initiate its own investigations.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Liu Yingpei
On The Targets of Audit"
China Audit Information and Methods, No 1, 2003
http://www.audit.gov.cn/cysite/docpage/c286/200301/0106_286_623.htm

2): "Audit Bureau Withdrew Auditing China Securities Regulatory Commission"
21st Century Economic Report, Feb.5, 2005,

100: The supreme audit institution can control the timing and pace of its investigations without any input from the executive or legislature.

75:

50: The supreme audit institution can generally decide what to investigate, and when, but is subject to pressure from the executive or legislature on politically sensitive issues.

25:

0: The supreme audit institution must rely on approval from the executive or legislature before initiating investigations. Politically sensitive investigations are almost impossible to move forward on.

57. Can citizens access reports of the supreme audit institution?

58

57a. In law, citizens can access reports of the audit agency.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 2 of The Decree on Government Information Openness

YES: A YES score is earned if all supreme auditor reports are available to the general public.

NO: A NO score is earned if any auditor reports are not publicly available. This may include reports made exclusively to the legislature or the executive, which those bodies may choose not to distribute.

57b. In practice, citizens can access audit reports within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Why Is It So Difficult to Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily, June 12, 2006

2): "Violating the Right to Information by the Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: Reports are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Reports are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information.

75:

50: Reports take around two weeks to obtain. Some delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Reports take more than a month to acquire. In some cases, most reports may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

57c. In practice, citizens can access the audit reports at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Why Is It So Difficult to Access Government Information",
Procuratorial Daily, June 12, 2006

2): "Violating the Right to Information by the Excuse of Sensitivity"
Xinhua Daily, Nov. 16, 2006

100: Reports are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Reports can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Reports impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving reports may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving reports imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Report costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

58. In law, is there a national tax collection agency?

100

58. In law, is there a national tax collection agency?

YES | NO

References:

State Administration of Taxation, established by the State Council of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a national agency formally mandated to collect taxes.

NO: A NO score is earned if that function is spread over several agencies, or does not exist. A NO score is earned if national government ministries can collect taxes independently.

59. Is the tax collection agency effective?

75

59a. In practice, the tax collection agency has a professional, full-time staff.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

A 50 score is given because on the one hand, the tax collection agencies in most places are overstaffed; on the other hand, the professional tax collectors are only very few.

References:

1): Three Challenges the Tax Collection Agency Is Facing after the Post-Agricultural Tax"
Xinhua News, March 13, 2006

2): Human Resources Division
"Enhancing the Capacity of Tax Collection Agency"
Fengtai Local Tax Bureau, 2005
http://fengtai.tax861.gov.cn/ssdcyyj/display.asp?more_id=724974

100: The agency has staff sufficient to fulfill its basic mandate.

75:

50: The agency has limited staff that hinders its ability to fulfill its basic mandate.

25:

0: The agency has no staff, or a limited staff that is clearly unqualified to fulfill its mandate.

59b. In practice, the tax agency receives regular funding.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Tax agencies will keep certain percentage of taxes collected for their own use, thus funding is not a problem.

References:

1): "The Exemplary Tax Agency Employee"
People's Daily Internet Version, July 30, 2007
<http://nx.people.com.cn/GB/channel65/134/135/200707/30/80549.html>

2): "Several Government Agencies Are Audited and There Is Misuse of Funds"
Renmin Wang, Nov. 13, 2004
<http://www.people.com.cn/GB/jingji/1037/2961228.html>

100: The agency has a predictable source of funding that is fairly consistent from year to year. Political considerations are not a major factor in determining agency funding.

75:

50: The agency has a regular source of funding, but may be pressured by cuts, or threats of cuts to the agency budget. Political considerations have an effect on agency funding.

25:

0: Funding source is unreliable. Funding may be removed arbitrarily or as retaliation for agency actions.

60. In practice, are tax laws enforced uniformly and without discrimination?

25

60. In practice, are tax laws enforced uniformly and without discrimination?

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

It is a serious problem, for example, that the tax rate for foreign investments is 15 percent, while the rate for domestic investments is 25 percent. At the same time, firms with close relationships with the government generally have tax reductions or other preferential treatments. Thus a 25 score is given.

References:

1): "To End The Different Tax Rate for Domestic and Foreign Firms"
Xinhua News, Dec. 24, 2006
http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2006-12/24/content_5526405.htm

2): Xu Chixian
"An Analysis on the Problems of Tax Collections"
Xianning National Tax Bureau, December 2006
<http://portal.gd-n-tax.gov.cn/web/vfs/qy/ContentTemplate.jsp?CategoryId=3902&ContentId=77930&siteName=qy&styleName=qyblue>

100: Tax laws (which may be economically unfair as written) are enforced consistently for all citizens. No general group of citizens is more or less likely to evade tax law than another.

75:

50: Tax laws are generally enforced consistently, but some exceptions exist. For example, some groups may occasionally evade tax law. Some arbitrary and discriminatory tax rules exist.

25:

0: Tax law is unequally applied. Some groups of citizens are consistently more or less likely to evade tax law than others. Tax regulations are, as a rule, written to be discriminatory and/or arbitrary.

61. In law, is there a national customs and excise agency?

100

61. In law, is there a national customs and excise agency?

YES | NO

References:

The General Administration of Customs set by the State Council of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is an agency formally mandated to collect excises and inspect customs.

NO: A NO score is earned if that function is spread over several agencies, or does not exist.

62. Is the customs and excise agency effective?

63

62a. In practice, the customs and excise agency has a professional, full-time staff.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "The Announcement of Mixing Customs, Shanghai"
June 17, 2005
http://smudc.com/news/bulletin_pop.asp?id=805

2): "A story on the 30-Minute Proposal"
Renmin Zhengxie Bao, March 4, 2006
<http://news.sohu.com/20060304/n242128109.shtml>

100: The agency has staff sufficient to fulfill its basic mandate.

75:

50: The agency has limited staff that hinders its ability to fulfill its basic mandate.

25:

0: The agency has no staff, or a limited staff that is clearly unqualified to fulfill its mandate.

62b. In practice, the customs and excise agency receives regular funding.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Several Government Agencies Are Audited And There Is Misuse of Funds"
Renmin Wang, Nov. 13, 2004
<http://www.people.com.cn/GB/jingji/1037/2961228.html>

100: The agency has a predictable source of funding that is fairly consistent from year to year. Political considerations are not a major factor in determining agency funding.

75:

50: The agency has a regular source of funding, but may be pressured by cuts, or threats of cuts to the agency budget. Political considerations have an effect on agency funding.

25:

0: Funding source is unreliable. Funding may be removed arbitrarily or as retaliation for agency actions.

63. In practice, are customs and excise laws enforced uniformly and without discrimination?

50

63. In practice, are customs and excise laws enforced uniformly and without discrimination?

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Anti-Corruption Measures Are Effective in Customs"

China Customs official website Jan.26, 2007

<http://www1.customs.gov.cn/Default.aspx?TabID=419&InfoID=56667&SettingModuleID=1187>

2): Xu Junze

"China Customs Executive Corruption Analysis"

Northeastern University Graduate Thesis, 2004

<http://www.wfxy.neu.edu.cn/system/shownews.asp?newsid=5175>

100: Customs and excise laws (which may be economically unfair as written) are enforced consistently for all citizens. No general group of citizens is more or less likely to evade customs than another.

75:

50: Customs and excise laws are generally enforced consistently, but some exceptions exist. For example, some groups may occasionally evade customs requirements.

25:

0: Customs and excise laws are unequally applied. Some groups of citizens are consistently more or less likely to evade customs and excise laws than others.

V-4. State-Owned Enterprises

64. In law, is there an agency or equivalent mechanism overseeing state-owned companies?

100

64. In law, is there an agency or equivalent mechanism overseeing state-owned companies?

YES | NO

References:

State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, established by the State Council

YES: A YES score is earned if there is an agency or equivalent mechanism tasked with overseeing the conduct and performance of state-owned companies on behalf of the public. State-owned companies are defined as companies owned in whole or in part by the government.

NO: A NO score is earned if this function does not exist.

65. Is the agency or equivalent mechanism overseeing state-owned companies effective?

55

65a. In law, the agency or equivalent mechanism overseeing state-owned companies is protected from political interference.

YES | **NO**

References:

State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, established by the State Council

YES: A YES score is earned only if the agency or equivalent mechanism has some formal operational independence from the government. A YES score is earned even if the entity is legally separate but in practice staffed by partisans.

NO: A NO score is earned if the agency or equivalent mechanism is a subordinate part of any government ministry or agency, such as the Department of Interior or the Justice Department.

65b. In practice, the agency or equivalent mechanism overseeing state-owned companies has a professional, full-time staff.

100 | 75 | **50** | 25 | 0

References:

1) "One New Rule of Asset Evaluation"

China Business, Nov. 7, 2006

<http://www.pm123.net/pmnews/view.asp?artid=25413>

2) "A Survey Report on Tsingtao State-Owned Assets Supervision Work"

Tsingtao State-owned assets supervision commission official website, April 12, 2007

<http://gzw.qingdao.gov.cn/newsDetail.asp?AutoID=1264>

100: The agency or equivalent mechanism has staff sufficient to fulfill its basic mandate.

75:

50: The agency or equivalent mechanism has limited staff that hinders its ability to fulfill its basic mandate.

25:

0: The agency or equivalent mechanism has no staff, or a limited staff that is clearly unqualified to fulfill its mandate.

65c. In practice, the agency or equivalent mechanism overseeing state-owned companies receives regular funding.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1) "One New Rule of Asset Evaluation"
China Business, Nov. 7, 2006
<http://www.pm123.net/pmnews/view.asp?artid=25413>

2): "A Survey Report on Tsingtao State-Owned Assets Supervision Work"
Tsingtao State-owned assets supervision commission official website, April 12, 2007
<http://gzw.qingdao.gov.cn/newsDetail.asp?AutoID=1264>

100: The the agency or equivalent mechanism has a predictable source of funding that is fairly consistent from year to year. Political considerations are not a major factor in determining agency funding.

75:

50: The the agency or equivalent mechanism has a regular source of funding, but may be pressured by cuts, or threats of cuts to the agency budget. Political considerations have an effect on agency funding.

25:

0: Funding source is unreliable. Funding may be removed arbitrarily or as retaliation for agency functions.

65d. In practice, when necessary, the agency or equivalent mechanism overseeing state-owned companies independently initiates investigations.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "State-owned Assets Supervision Commission Starts Investigation on The Income of State-Owned Enterprises"
China News, May 14
<http://news.qq.com/a/20070514/001721.htm>

2): "Several Government Agencies Investigate State-Owned Assets in Other Countries"
People's Daily, July 25, 2007
http://news.stockstar.com/info/darticle.aspx?id=SS_20070725_31985009&columnid=1223

100: When irregularities are discovered, the agency or equivalent mechanism is aggressive in investigating and/or in cooperating with other investigative bodies.

75:

50: The agency or equivalent mechanism starts investigations, but is limited in its effectiveness or in its cooperation with other investigative agencies. The agency may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically powerful offenders, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The agency or equivalent mechanism does not effectively investigate financial irregularities or cooperate with other investigative agencies. The agency may start investigations but not complete them, or may fail to detect offenders. The agency may be partisan in its application of power.

65e. In practice, when necessary, the agency or equivalent mechanism overseeing state-owned companies imposes penalties on offenders.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Zhou Jianchu
Can The Decree of State-Owned Assets Supervision Commission Discipline the Behavior of State-Owned Enterprises”
Financial Times, Aug. 3, 2007
http://news.xinhuanet.com/newscenter/2007-08/03/content_6468486.htm

2): “State-Owned Assets Supervision Punishes Two State-Owned Enterprises”
The Beijing News, Aug. 3
http://news.xinhuanet.com/newscenter/2007-08/03/content_6467507.htm

100: When rules violations are discovered, the agency or equivalent mechanism is aggressive in penalizing offenders and/or in cooperating with other agencies that impose penalties.

75:

50: The agency or equivalent mechanism enforces rules, but is limited in its effectiveness or reluctant to cooperate with other agencies. The agency may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically powerful offenders, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The agency or equivalent mechanism does not effectively penalize offenders or refuses to cooperate with other agencies that enforce penalties. The agency may make judgments but not enforce them, or may fail to make reasonable judgments against offenders. The agency may be partisan in its application of power.

66. Can citizens access the financial records of state-owned companies?

25

66a. In law, citizens can access the financial records of state-owned companies.

YES | **NO**

Comments:

But the financial records of publicly listed state-owned companies, according to the law, must be accessible.

References:

There are no such laws.

YES: A YES score is earned if the financial information of all state-owned companies is required by law to be public. State-owned companies are defined as companies owned in whole or in part by the government.

NO: A NO score is earned if any category of state-owned company is exempt from this rule, or no such rules exist.

66b. In practice, the financial records of state-owned companies are regularly updated.

100 | 75 | **50** | 25 | 0

References:

1):Wang Bihong
Discussion about Auditing and Supervision of State-owned Enterprises in System Reform”
The Theory and Practice of Finance and Economics No 3, 2005
<http://scholar.ilib.cn/Abstract.aspx?A=tqjj200507106>

100: State-owned companies always disclose financial data, which is generally accurate and up to date.

75:

50: State-owned companies disclose financial data, but it is flawed. Some companies may misstate financial data, or file the information behind schedule.

25:

0: Financial data is not available, or is consistently superficial or otherwise of no value.

66c. In practice, the financial records of state-owned companies are audited according to international accounting standards.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Wang Mingyan
"Why the Auditing Work of State-Owned Enterprises Cannot avoid Self-Supervision"
The First Financial and Economic Times, July 12, 2007
<http://www.china-audit.com/neibu/2007-07-12/1184203373844337.htm>

2): Tian Xiaoxia, Shi Zheng and Zhang Yanfeng
"Some Discussions on CPA Auditing State-Owned Enterprises"
China Economist No 4, 2006
<http://scholar.iilib.cn/Abstract.aspx?A=jjjs200604144>

100: Financial records of all state-owned companies are regularly audited by a trained third party auditor using accepted international standards.

75:

50: Financial records of state-owned companies are regularly audited, but exceptions may exist. Some companies may use flawed or deceptive accounting procedures, or some companies may be exempted from this requirement.

25:

0: State-owned companies are not audited, or the audits have no functional value. The auditors may collude with the companies in providing misleading or false information to the public.

66d. In practice, citizens can access the financial records of state-owned companies within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

The financial records of state-owned enterprises are only reported to very few government agencies. The public has no access, except for the basic requirements for publicly listed firms.

References:

1): Wang Mingyan
"Why the Auditing Work of State-Owned Enterprises Cannot avoid Self-Supervision"
The First Financial and Economic Times, July 12, 2007
<http://www.china-audit.com/neibu/2007-07-12/1184203373844337.htm>

2): Tian Xiaoxia, Shi Zheng and Zhang Yanfeng
"Some Discussions on CPA Auditing State-Owned Enterprises"
China Economist No 4, 2006
<http://scholar.iilib.cn/Abstract.aspx?A=jjjs200604144>

100: Records are available on-line, or records can be obtained within two days. Records are uniformly available; there are no delays for politically sensitive information.

75:

50: Records take around two weeks to obtain. Some delays may be experienced.

25:

0: Records take more than a month to acquire. In some cases, most records may be available sooner, but there may be persistent delays in obtaining politically sensitive records.

66e. In practice, citizens can access the financial records of state-owned companies at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Wang Mingyan
"Why the Auditing Work of State-Owned Enterprises Cannot avoid Self-Supervision"
The First Financial and Economic Times, July 12, 2007
<http://www.china-audit.com/neibu/2007-07-12/1184203373844337.htm>

2): Tian Xiaoxia, Shi Zheng and Zhang Yanfeng
"Some Discussions on CPA Auditing State-Owned Enterprises"
China Economist No 4, 2006
<http://scholar.iilib.cn/Abstract.aspx?A=jjs200604144>

100: Records are free to all citizens, or available for the cost of photocopying. Records can be obtained at little cost, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Records impose a financial burden on citizens, journalists or CSOs. Retrieving records may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Retrieving records imposes a major financial burden on citizens. Records costs are prohibitive to most citizens, journalists, or CSOs trying to access this information.

60
V-5. Business Licensing and Regulation

67. Are business licenses available to all citizens?

69

67a. In law, anyone may apply for a business license.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 1 of Company Law of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if no particular group or category of citizens is excluded from applying for a business license, when required. A YES score is also earned if basic business licenses are not required.

NO: A NO score is earned if any group of citizens are categorically excluded from applying for a business license, when required

67b. In law, a complaint mechanism exists if a business license request is denied.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 1 of Company Law of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal process for appealing a rejected license.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such mechanism exists.

67c. In practice, citizens can obtain any necessary business license (i.e. for a small import business) within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

According to the research of source one, in mainland China it will take 111 days on average to register a business.

References:

1): "What Hinders Us to Establish A Business?"
<http://www.youthren.com/2004/11-23/103348.html>

2): "Monopoly Squeezes Private Investment"
Small businesses and private economy
<http://www.smehen.gov.cn/web/zxmy/Show.aspx?id=200>

100: Licenses are not required, or licenses can be obtained within roughly one week.

75:

50: Licensing is required and takes around one month. Some groups may be delayed up to a three months

25:

0: Licensing takes more than three months for most groups. Some groups may wait six months to one year to get necessary licenses.

67d. In practice, citizens can obtain any necessary business license (i.e. for a small import business) at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "What Hinders Us to Establish A Business?"
<http://www.youthren.com/2004/11-23/103348.html>

2): "Monopoly Squeezes Private Investment"
Small businesses and private economy
<http://www.smehen.gov.cn/web/zxmy/Show.aspx?id=200>

100: Licenses are not required, or licenses are free. Licenses can be obtained at little cost to the organization, such as by mail, or on-line.

75:

50: Licenses are required, and impose a financial burden on the organization. Licenses may require a visit to a specific office, such as a regional or national capital.

25:

0: Licenses are required, and impose a major financial burden on the organization. Licensing costs are prohibitive to the organization.

68. Are there transparent business regulatory requirements for basic health, environmental, and safety standards?

100

68a. In law, basic business regulatory requirements for meeting public health standards are transparent and publicly available.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 1 of Product Quality Law of The People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if basic regulatory requirements for meeting public health standards are publicly accessible and transparent.

NO: A NO score is earned if such requirements are not made public or are otherwise not transparent.

68b. In law, basic business regulatory requirements for meeting public environmental standards are transparent and publicly available.

YES | NO

References:

Product Quality Law of The People's Republic of China
Environmental Protection Law of The People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if basic regulatory requirements for meeting public environmental standards are publicly accessible and transparent.

NO: A NO score is earned if such requirements are not made public or are otherwise not transparent.

68c. In law, basic business regulatory requirements for meeting public safety standards are transparent and publicly available.

YES | NO

References:

Product Quality Law of The People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if basic regulatory requirements for meeting public safety standards are publicly accessible and transparent.

NO: A NO score is earned if such requirements are not made public or are otherwise not transparent.

69. Does government effectively enforce basic health, environmental, and safety standards on businesses?

25

69a. In practice, business inspections by government officials to ensure public health standards are being met are carried out in a uniform and even-handed manner.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Officials of State Food and Drug Administration Indicted"
China Economic Times, Feb. 8, 2006
<http://yx.120china.net/newsdetail.asp?unid=478>

100: Business inspections by the government to ensure that public health standards are being met are designed and carried out in such a way as to ensure comprehensive compliance by all businesses with transparent regulatory requirements.

75:

50: Business inspections by the government to ensure public health standards are met are generally carried out in an even-handed way though exceptions exist. Bribes are occasionally paid to extract favorable treatment or expedited processing.

25:

0: Business inspections to ensure that public health standards are met are routinely carried out by government officials in an ad hoc, arbitrary fashion designed to extract extra payments from businesses in exchange for favorable treatment.

69b. In practice, business inspections by government officials to ensure public environmental standards are being met are carried out in a uniform and even-handed manner.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Huang Jianliang and Ai Zhixiong
"Let Corruption Be Away from Environmental Protection"
Procuratorial Daily, July 6, 2007
<http://www.jcrb.com/n1/jcrb499/ca267239.htm>

2): Zhu Lijia
"From Environmental Corruption to Examine Executive Capabilities"
People's Political Scene, July 4, 2007
<http://www.cnjccn.com/html/200774142916210.html>

100: Business inspections by the government to ensure that public environmental standards are being met are designed and carried out in such a way as to ensure comprehensive compliance by all businesses with transparent regulatory requirements.

75:

50: Business inspections by the government to ensure public environmental standards are met are generally carried out in an even-handed way though exceptions exist. Bribes are occasionally paid to extract favorable treatment or expedited processing.

25:

0: Business inspections to ensure that public environmental standards are met are routinely carried out by government officials in an ad hoc, arbitrary fashion designed to extract extra payments from businesses in exchange for favorable treatment.

69c. In practice, business inspections by government officials to ensure public safety standards are being met are carried out in a uniform and even-handed manner.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Li Tieying
"There Is Corruption behind accidents"
Chutian Jinbao, Aug. 29, 2005
<http://www.safetyinfo.com.cn/dongtai/safetyinfo.asp?ArticleID=53675>

2) Li Yizhong
"Five Corruption Cases behind Accidents"
China Economics News, 2006
<http://ido.3mt.com.cn/pc/200602/20060211359722.shtml>

100: Business inspections by the government to ensure that public safety standards are being met are designed and carried out in such a way as to ensure comprehensive compliance by all businesses with transparent regulatory requirements.

75:

50: Business inspections by the government to ensure public safety standards are met are generally carried out in an even-handed way though exceptions exist. Bribes are occasionally paid to extract favorable treatment or expedited processing.

25:

0: Business inspections to ensure that public safety standards are met are routinely carried out by government officials in an ad hoc, arbitrary fashion designed to extract extra payments from businesses in exchange for favorable treatment.

Category VI. Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law

VI-1. ⁶¹Anti-Corruption Law

70. Is there legislation criminalizing corruption?

78

70a. In law, attempted corruption is illegal.

YES | NO

Comments:

According to Chinese criminal law, only the corrupted behavior with evidence and impact is illegal. There are no clear specification on attempted corruption.

References:

There are no such laws.

YES: A YES score is earned if corruption laws include attempted acts.

NO: A NO score is earned if this is not illegal.

70b. In law, extortion is illegal.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 8 of Criminal Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if corruption laws include extortion. Extortion is defined as demanding favorable treatment (such as a bribe) to withhold a punishment.

NO: A NO score is earned if this is not illegal.

70c. In law, offering a bribe (i.e. active corruption) is illegal.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 8 of The Criminal Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if offering a bribe is illegal.

NO: A NO score is earned if this is not illegal.

70d. In law, receiving a bribe (i.e. passive corruption) is illegal.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 8 of the Criminal Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if receiving a bribe is illegal.

NO: A NO score is earned if this is not illegal.

70e. In law, bribing a foreign official is illegal.

YES | NO

Comments:

The Criminal Law of People's Republic of China doesn't criminalize bribing foreign officials' behavior.

See

Lin Junhui

The Comparison of Corruption in China's Criminal Law and United Nations Convention against Corruption
Fujian Law Review, No 1, 2005

References:

There are no such regulations.

YES: A YES score is earned if bribing a foreign official is illegal.

NO: A NO score is earned if this is not illegal.

70f. In law, using public resources for private gain is illegal.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 8 of the Criminal Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if using public resources for private gain is illegal.

NO: A NO score is earned if this is not illegal.

70g. In law, using confidential state information for private gain is illegal.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 8 of the Criminal Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if using confidential state information for private gain is illegal.

NO: A NO score is earned if this is not illegal.

70h. In law, money laundering is illegal.

YES | NO

References:

The 6th Amendment to the Criminal Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if money laundering is illegal. Money laundering is defined as concealing the origin of funds to hide wrongdoing or avoid confiscation.

NO: A NO score is earned if this is not illegal.

70i. In law, conspiracy to commit a crime (i.e. organized crime) is illegal.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 2 of the Criminal Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if organized crime is illegal.

NO: A NO score is earned if this is not illegal.

VI-2. Anti-Corruption Agency

71. In law, is there an agency (or group of agencies) with a legal mandate to address corruption?

100

71. In law, is there an agency (or group of agencies) with a legal mandate to address corruption?

YES | NO

References:

- 1): The Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Bureau, established by The Supreme Peoples Procuratorate of the Peoples Republic of China
- 2): Central Disciplinary Committee
- 3): Ministry of Supervision

YES: A YES score is earned if an agency is specifically mandated to address corruption. A YES score is earned if there are several agencies or entities with specific roles in fighting corruption, including special prosecutorial entities.

NO: A NO score is earned if no agency (or group of agencies/entities) is specifically mandated to prevent or prosecute corruption.

72. Is the anti-corruption agency effective?

39

72a. In law, the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) is protected from political interference.

YES | NO

References:

The anti-corruption agencies in China are either part of the central committee of China's Communist Party, or an organ under The Supreme Peoples Procuratorate of the Peoples Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned only if the agency (or agencies) has some formal organizational or operational independence from the government. A YES score is earned even if the agency/agencies is legally separate but in practice staffed by partisans.

NO: A NO score is earned if the agency (or agencies) is a subordinate part of any government ministry or agency, such as the Department of Interior or the Justice Department, in such a way that limits its operational independence.

72b. In practice, the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) is protected from political interference.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Ding Huan-xiang, Wang Hai-liang and Chen Li-feng
Thinking on the Operation of Juridic Institution of the Anti-Corruption Bureau Through the Analysis of ICIC and Its Features of Operation",
Journal of Political Science and Law, No. 1, 2007

2): "The New State Anti-Corruption Bureau of China Can Buy Experience from ICAC of Hong Kong", Chendu Daily, March 21, 2007

100: This agency (or agencies) operates independently of the political process, without incentive or pressure to render favorable judgments in politically sensitive cases. Investigations can operate without hindrance from the government, including access to politically sensitive information. .

75:

50: This agency (or agencies) is typically independent, yet is sometimes influenced in its work by negative or positive political incentives. This may include favorable or unfavorable public criticism by the government, political appointments, or other forms of influence. The agency (or agencies) may not be provided with some information needed to carry out its investigations.

25:

0: This agency (or agencies) is commonly influenced by political or personal incentives. These may include conflicting family relationships, professional partnerships, or other personal loyalties. Negative incentives may include threats, harassment or other abuses of power. The agency (or agencies) cannot compel the government to reveal sensitive information.

72c. In practice, the head of the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) is protected from removal without relevant justification.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

The anti-corruption agency is controlled by the central government.

References:

1): The Head of the Anti-Corruption Agency Should Be Shifted"
21st Century Economic Report, Nov. 6, 2004
<http://news.sohu.com/20041106/n222864132.shtml>

2): Yang Danna
"New Anti-Corruption Measures"

100: The director(s) cannot be removed without a significant justification through a formal process, such as impeachment for abuse of power.

75:

50: The director(s) can in some cases be removed through a combination of official or unofficial pressure.

25:

0: The director(s) can be removed at the will of political leadership.

72d. In practice, appointments to the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) are based on professional criteria.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Chongqing Pengshui Poet Case", Southern City News, Oct. 19, 2006

2): Pan Wei
"Party Controls Officials: A Model Needs Reforming", Phenix Weekly, No 157, 2004

3): Lian Yanhui
"Analysis on Party Controlling Officials", Officials' Forum, No 7, 2005

4): Interview with Prof. Yu Dazhang, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, July 19, 2007, at the office

100: Appointments to the agency (or agencies) are made based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed are free of conflicts of interest arising from personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed usually do not have clear political party affiliations.

75:

50: Appointments are usually based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed may have clear party loyalties, however.

25:

0: Appointments are often based on political considerations. Individuals appointed often have conflicts of interest arising from personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed often have clear party loyalties.

72e. In practice, the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) has a professional, full-time staff.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): China Has 36,000 Anti-Corruption Officials" Procuratorial Daily, Oct. 24, 2006
http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2006-10/24/content_5242351.htm

2): Wu Haili
"Some Views on Preventing Corruption"
Jiangxi Yufangwang, 2005
<http://www.gd.yfw.com.cn/shownews.asp?id=47273>

100: The agency (or agencies) has staff sufficient to fulfill its basic mandate.

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) has limited staff, or staff without necessary qualifications to fulfill its basic mandate.

25:

0: The agency (or agencies) has no staff, or a limited staff, that is clearly unqualified to fulfill its mandate.

72f. In practice, the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) receives regular funding.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

In China, the anti-corruption agencies are funded by the local governments. The funding is subject to cuts.

References:

1): China's Anti-Corruption Agency: Still in Progress"
Youth Information, March 2, 2004
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2004-03-02/14032985447.shtml>

2): Sun Xuejiang
"On the Reorganization of Anti-Corruption Agencies and Prevention Agencies"
July 20, 2007
<http://www.hl.jcy.gov.cn/detail.cfm?id=2A8F&newsid=228E41962FFB>

100: The agency (or agencies) has a predictable source of funding that is fairly consistent from year to year. Political considerations are not a major factor in determining agency funding.

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) has a regular source of funding, but may be pressured by cuts, or threats of cuts to the agency budget. Political considerations have an effect on agency funding.

25:

0: The agency's funding sources are unreliable. Funding may be removed arbitrarily or as retaliation for agency actions.

72g. In practice, the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) makes regular public reports.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

Each year, the anti-corruption agency (an affiliation of the prosecutor's office) must report to the National People's Congress. Its reports are available, although these reports may not be so clear and detailed. However, like in the listed source above, the NPC begins to use voting machines. The possibility that the reports are rejected is pretty high.

References:

1): Taizhou Court and Prosecutor's Report Were Almost Rejected"
Southern Net, April 5, 2007
http://news.phoenixtv.com/mainland/200704/0405_17_98252.shtml

100: The agency (or agencies) makes regular, publicly available, substantial reports to the legislature and/or to the public directly outlining the full scope of its work.

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) makes publicly available reports to the legislature that are sometimes delayed or incomplete.

25:

0: The agency (or agencies) makes no reports of its activities, or makes reports that are consistently out of date, unavailable to the public, or insubstantial.

72h. In practice, the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) has sufficient powers to carry out its mandate.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Ding Huan-xiang, Wang Hai-liang and Chen Li-feng
Thinking on the Operation of Juridic Institution of the Anti- corruption Bureau Through the Analysis of ICIC and Its Features of Operation",
Journal of Political Science and Law, No. 1, 2007

2): "The New State Anti-Corruption Bureau of China Can Buy Experience from ICAC of Hong Kong", Chendu Daily, March 21, 2007

100: The agency (or agencies) has powers to gather information, including politically sensitive information. The agency (or agencies) can question suspects, order arrests and bring suspects to trial (or rely on related agencies or law enforcement authorities to perform such functions).

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) has most of the powers needed to carry out its mandate with some exceptions.

25:

0: The agency (or agencies) lacks significant powers which limit its effectiveness.

72i. In practice, when necessary, the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) independently initiates investigations.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Ding Huan-xiang, Wang Hai-liang and Chen Li-feng
Thinking on the Operation of Juridic Institution of the Anti- corruption Bureau Through the Analysis of ICIC and Its Features of Operation",
Journal of Political Science and Law, No. 1, 2007

2): "The New State Anti-Corruption Bureau of China Can Buy Experience from ICAC of Hong Kong", Chendu Daily, March 21, 2007

100: When irregularities are discovered, the agency (or agencies) is aggressive in investigating the government or in cooperating with other investigative agencies.

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) starts investigations, but is limited in its effectiveness or is reluctant to cooperate with other investigative agencies. The agency (or agencies) may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically powerful offenders, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The agency (or agencies) does not effectively investigate or does not cooperate with other investigative agencies. The agency (or agencies) may start investigations but not complete them, or may fail to detect offenders. The agency (or agencies) may be partisan in its application of power.

73. Can citizens access the anti-corruption agency?

73a. In practice, the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) acts on complaints within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "Complaints Go Nowhere"
The Beijing News, June 21, 2007
http://news.xinhuanet.com/local/2007-06/21/content_6270292.htm

2): Wang Peirong
"Corrupt Officials Are Not Afraid of Whistleblowers"
Fan Fubai, Feb 27, 2006
<http://www.fanfubai.com/Html/yuanchang/2006-2/17/0621711450223199.html>

100: The agency (or agencies) acts on complaints quickly. While some backlog is expected and inevitable, complaints are acknowledged promptly and investigations into serious abuses move steadily towards resolution. Citizens with simple issues can expect a resolution within a month.

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) acts on complaints quickly, with some exceptions. Some complaints may not be acknowledged, and simple issues may take more than two months to resolve.

25:

0: The agency (or agencies) cannot resolve complaints quickly. Complaints may be unacknowledged for more than a month, and simple issues may take more than three months to resolve. Serious abuses are not investigated with any urgency.

73b. In practice, citizens can complain to the anti-corruption agency (or agencies) without fear of recrimination.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "One Woman Was Physically Harmed Due To Whistleblowing Corrupt Officials"
Legal Weekly, May 7, 2007
<http://news.sohu.com/20070507/n249878727.shtml>

2): Wen Nuanxin
"Do You Fear Whistleblowing?"
Renmin Wang, 2006
http://news.xinhuanet.com/comments/2005-06/10/content_3066758.htm

100: Whistleblowers can report abuses of power without fear of negative consequences. This may be due to robust mechanisms to protect the identity of whistleblowers, or may be due to a culture that encourages disclosure and accountability.

75:

50: Whistleblowers are sometimes able to come forward without negative consequences, but in other cases, whistleblowers are punished for disclosing, either through official or unofficial means.

25:

0: Whistleblowers often face substantial negative consequences, such as losing a job, relocating to a less prominent position, or some form of harassment.

VI-3. Rule of Law

74. Is there an appeals mechanism for challenging criminal judgments?

50

74a. In law, there is a general right of appeal.

YES | NO

References:

Criminal Procedure Law

<http://www.dffy.com/faguixiazai/sf/200311/20031109202059.htm>

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal process of appeal for challenging criminal judgments.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no such process.

74b. In practice, appeals are resolved within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Chen Junying

Some Problems Civil and Administrative Law Have"

Zhengyi Wang, April 2006

<http://www.jsxinbei.jcy.gov.cn/Article/Print.asp?ArticleID=750>

2): "Insisting Appeal Finally Redressed"

Shenghuo News, April 27, 2007

<http://www.chinalawedu.com/news/21606/14900/151/2007/4/lii203011281972470026993-0.htm>

100: Appeals are acted upon quickly. While some backlog is expected and inevitable, appeals are acknowledged promptly and cases move steadily towards resolution.

75:

50: Appeals are generally acted upon quickly but with some exceptions. Some appeals may not be acknowledged, and simple cases may take years to resolve.

25:

0: Most appeals are not resolved in a timely fashion. Appeals may go unacknowledged for months or years and simple cases may never be resolved.

74c. In practice, citizens can use the appeals mechanism at a reasonable cost.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Chen Junying
Some Problems Civil and Administrative Law Have”
Zhengyi Wang, April 2006
<http://www.jsxinbei.jcy.gov.cn/Article/Print.asp?ArticleID=750>

2): “Insisting Appeal Finally Redressed”
Shenghuo News, April 27, 2007
<http://www.chinalawedu.com/news/21606/14900/151/2007/4/li203011281972470026993-0.htm>

100: In most cases, the appeals mechanism is an affordable option to middle class citizens seeking to challenge criminal judgments.

75:

50: In some cases, the appeals mechanism is not an affordable option to middle class citizens seeking to challenge criminal judgments.

25:

0: The prohibitive cost of utilizing the appeals mechanism prevents middle class citizens from challenging criminal judgments.

75. In practice, do judgments in the criminal system follow written law?

50

75. In practice, do judgments in the criminal system follow written law?

100 | 75 | **50** | 25 | 0

References:

1):Jim Yardley
A Judge Tests China’s Courts, Making History”
Nov. 28, 2005 <http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F10C17FC3F550C7B8EDDA80994DD404482>

2): He Weifang
“The Independence of Judges Should Be Protected”
The Beijing News, April 18, 2005
http://www.carnegieendowment.org/pdf/2005-04-18/he_interview.pdf

100: Judgments in the criminal system are made according to established legal code and conduct. There are no exceptional cases in which individuals are treated by a separate process. Political interference, bribery, cronyism or other flaws are rarely factors in judicial outcomes.

75:

50: Judgments in the criminal system usually follow the protocols of written law. There are sometimes exceptions when political concerns, corruption or other flaws in the system decide outcomes.

25:

0: Judgments in the criminal system are often decided by factors other than written law. Bribery and corruption in the criminal judicial process are common elements affecting decisions.

76. In practice, are judicial decisions enforced by the state?

50

76. In practice, are judicial decisions enforced by the state?

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): He Weifang
"The Independence of Judges Should Be Protected"
The Beijing News, April 18, 2005

2): Editorial "Independent Judicial System Should Be Established to Solve Enforcement Difficulties" Southern City News, March 28, 2007

http://www.chinapeace.org.cn/palt/2007-03/28/content_14387.htm

100: Judicial decisions are enforced quickly regardless of what is being decided or who is appearing before the court. Failure to comply brings penalties enforced by the state.

75:

50: Judicial decisions are generally enforced by the state, with some exceptions. Certain areas of law may be ignored, or certain parties appearing before the courts may evade or delay enforcement.

25:

0: Judicial decisions are often ignored. The state lacks the will or capacity to consistently enforce these decisions.

77. Is the judiciary able to act independently?

63

77a. In law, the independence of the judiciary is guaranteed.

YES | NO

References:

There is no such guarantee.

YES: A YES score is earned if there are formal rules establishing that the judiciary is independent from political interference by the executive and legislative branches. Independence include financial issues (drafting, allocation, and managing the budget of the courts).

NO: A NO score is earned if there are no formal rules establishing an independent judiciary.

77b. In practice, national-level judges are protected from political interference.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): He Weifang
"The Independence of Judges Should Be Protected"
The Beijing News April 18, 2005 http://www.carnegieendowment.org/pdf/2005-04-18/he_interview.pdf

2): He Weifang
"The Independence of Judges And the Supervision of People's Congress"
Faxue Pinglun Wang, May 19, 2006
http://www.fatianxia.com/paper_list.asp?id=3560

100: National level judges operate independently of the political process, without incentive or pressure to render favorable judgments in politically sensitive cases. Judges never comment on political debates. Individual judgments are rarely praised or criticized by political figures.

75:

50: National level judges are typically independent, yet are sometimes influenced in their judgments by negative or positive political incentives. This may include favorable or unfavorable treatment by the government or public criticism. Some judges may be demoted or relocated in retaliation for unfavorable decisions.

25:

0: National level judges are commonly influenced by politics and personal biases or incentives. This may include conflicting family relationships, professional partnerships, or other personal loyalties. Negative incentives may include demotion, pay cuts, relocation, threats or harassment.

77c. In law, there is a transparent and objective system for distributing cases to national-level judges.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 2 of the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there is an objective system that is transparent to the public that equitably or randomly assigns cases to individual judges. The executive branch does not control this process.

NO: A NO score is earned if the case assignment system is non-transparent or subjective where judges themselves have influence over which cases they adjudicate. A NO score is also earned if the executive branch controls this process.

77d. In law, national-level judges are protected from removal without relevant justification.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 3 of the Judges Law of the People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if there are specific, formal rules for removal of a justice. Removal must be related to abuse of power or other offenses related to job performance.

NO: A NO score is earned if justices can be removed without justification, or for purely political reasons. A NO score is earned if the removal process is not transparent, or not based on written rules.

78. Are judges safe when adjudicating corruption cases?

100

78a. In practice, in the last year, no judges have been physically harmed because of adjudicating corruption cases.

YES | NO

Comments:

It is very rare that officials/judges are physically harmed or killed due to investigations into corruptions, but it is possible that officials/judges are killed by the defendants who regard judges to be corrupt.

References:

1): On the Death of One Judge in Shanxi Province"

Radio Free Asia, 2007

http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/xinwen/2007/07/26/china_government_official/?simple=1

YES: A YES score is earned if there were no documented cases of judges being assaulted because of their involvement in a corruption case during the specific study period. YES is a positive score.

NO: A NO score is earned if there were any documented cases of assault to a judge related to his/her participation in a corruption trial. Corruption is defined broadly to include any abuses of power, not just the passing of bribes.

78b. In practice, in the last year, no judges have been killed because of adjudicating corruption cases.

YES | NO

References:

1): On the Death of One Judge in Shanxi Province"

Radio Free Asia, 2007

http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/xinwen/2007/07/26/china_government_official/?simple=1

YES: A YES score is earned if there were no documented cases of judges being killed related to their involvement in a corruption case during the study period. YES is a positive score.

NO: A NO score is earned if there were any documented cases where a judge was killed because of his/her participation in a corruption trial. The relationship between a mysterious death and a judge's involvement in a case may not be clear, however the burden of proof here is low. If it is a reasonable assumption that a judge was killed in relation to his or her work on corruption issues, then the indicator is scored as a NO. Corruption is defined broadly to include any abuses of power, not just the passing of bribes.

79. Do citizens have equal access to the justice system?

61

79a. In practice, judicial decisions are not affected by racial or ethnic bias.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

In the case of the Chinese judiciary, judicial integrity is vulnerable to corruption and political intervention but not as much to racial bias.

References:

1): Wang Zhuqing

Researches on the Retirement Issue of Female Professionals"

Gender and Law in China, May, 2007

http://www.genderandlaw.org.cn/show_news.asp?id=1214&lei=18

2): Wang Geya

"The Protection of Women's Rights"

Gender and Law in China, December 2005

http://www.genderandlaw.org.cn/show_news.asp?id=380&lei=15

100: Judicial decisions are not affected by racial or ethnic bias.

75:

50: Judicial decisions are generally not affected by racial or ethnic bias, with some exceptions. Some groups may be occasionally discriminated against, or some groups may occasionally receive favorable treatment.

25:

0: Judicial decisions are regularly distorted by racial or ethnic bias. Some groups consistently receive favorable or unfavorable treatment by the courts.

79b. In practice, women have full access to the judicial system.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): State Council
Gender Equality and the Development of Women's Status in China"
August 2005
http://www.gov.cn/zwjgk/2005-08/24/content_25813.htm

2): "A Case of Protecting Women's Rights"
Yanzhao City News, Sept. 12, 2005
<http://www.womenwatch-china.org/article.asp?id=834>

100: Women enjoy full and equal status in the eyes of the courts. There are no exceptions or practices in which women are treated differently by the judicial system. For this indicator, discrimination against women should reflect specific biases that confront women in the justice system as opposed to difficulties resulting from broader socio-economic disadvantages or discrimination against women.

75:

50: Women generally have use of the judicial system, with some exceptions. In some cases, women may be limited in their access to courts, or gender biases may affect court outcomes. For this indicator, discrimination against women should reflect specific biases that confront women in the justice system as opposed to difficulties resulting from broader socio-economic disadvantages or discrimination against women.

25:

0: Women generally have less access to the courts than men. Court decisions are commonly distorted by gender bias. Women may have to go through intermediaries to interact with the court, or are unable to present evidence. For this indicator, discrimination against women should reflect specific biases that confront women in the justice system as opposed to difficulties resulting from broader socio-economic disadvantages or discrimination against women.

79c. In law, the state provides legal counsel for defendants in criminal cases who cannot afford it.

YES | NO

References:

Chapter 1 of Regulations of Legal Aid

YES: A YES score is earned if the government is required by law to provide impoverished defendants with legal counsel to defend themselves against criminal charges.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no legal requirement for the government to provide impoverished defendants with legal counsel to defend themselves against criminal charges.

79d. In practice, the state provides adequate legal counsel for defendants in criminal cases who cannot afford it.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Chen Jian
"Policy Suggestions about Legal Aid to Criminal Cases"
China Court, July 18, 2007
<http://www.chinacourt.org/html/article/200707/18/257121.shtml>

2): Lu Yi
"China's Legal Aid System"
Human Rights Journal, 2003
<http://www.humanrights-china.org/china/magezine/2003.5/p31-p33.htm>

100: State-provided legal aid is basic, but well-trained and effective in representing the rights of impoverished defendants.

75:

50: State-provided legal aid is available, but flawed. Legal aid may be unavailable to some impoverished defendants. Legal aid/public defenders may be sometimes unable or unwilling to competently represent all defendants.

25:

0: State-provided legal aid is unavailable to most impoverished defendants. State legal aid/public defenders may be consistently incompetent or unwilling to fairly represent all defendants.

79e. In practice, citizens earning the median yearly income can afford to bring a legal suit.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Du Hansheng
"The Expenditure of Going to Court Will Be Reduced"
People's Court News, Dec. 30, 2006
http://duyonghao.blog.bokee.net/bloggermodule/blog_viewblog.do?id=474137

2): "Why the Expenditures of Going to Court Are Still High"
China Reform, June 17, 2005
http://www.315ok.com/ty_view_mod.php?id=54

100: In most cases, the legal system is an affordable option to middle class citizens seeking to redress a grievance.

75:

50: In some cases, the legal system is an affordable option to middle class citizens seeking to redress a grievance. In other cases, the cost is prohibitive.

25:

0: The cost of engaging the legal system prevents middle class citizens from filing suits.

79f. In practice, a typical small retail business can afford to bring a legal suit.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Du Hansheng
"The Expenditure of Going to Court Will Be Reduced"
People's Court News, Dec. 30, 2006
http://duyonghao.blog.bokee.net/bloggermodule/blog_viewblog.do?id=474137

2): "Why the Expenditures of Going to Court Are Still High"
China Reform, June 17, 2005
http://www.315ok.com/ty_view_mod.php?id=54

100: In most cases, the legal system is an affordable option to a small retail business seeking to redress a grievance.

75:

50: In some cases, the legal system is an affordable option to a small retail business seeking to redress a grievance. In other cases, the cost is prohibitive.

25:

0: The cost of engaging the legal system prevents small businesses from filing suits.

79g. In practice, all citizens have access to a court of law, regardless of geographic location.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

Comments:

In each county, there must be a court. In some places, a court is even established in towns.

References:

1): Chen Ruihua
"The Judicial Trial Should Be Open"
Caijing Magazine, June 19, 2007
<http://www.caijing.com.cn/newcn/home/shts/2007-06-19/22638.shtml>

100: Courtrooms are always accessible to citizens at low cost, either through rural courthouses or through a system of traveling magistrates.

75:

50: Courts are available to most citizens. Some citizens may be unable to reach a courtroom at low cost due to location.

25:

0: Courts are unavailable to some regions without significant travel on the part of citizens.

VI-4. Law Enforcement

80. Is the law enforcement agency (i.e. the police) effective?

42

80a. In practice, appointments to the law enforcement agency (or agencies) are made according to professional criteria.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Judicial Examination Is Needed for Entering the Law Profession,
Shanxi Evening News, Aug. 19, 2005
<http://edu.qq.com/a/20050819/000170.htm>

2): Zhang Yue
"The Independence of Judges Needs Addressing",
Liao Wang Dong Fang, July 6, 2005

3): Lin Tianfa
"On Weakening the Politization and Returning of Nature of Judicial Power",
The Journal of Fujian Institute of Political Science and Law, Vol.7 No.1 P:15-19, 2006

100: Appointments to the agency (or agencies) are made based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed are free of conflicts of interest due to personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed usually do not have clear political party affiliations.

75:

50: Appointments are usually based on professional qualifications. Individuals appointed may have clear party loyalties, however.

25:

0: Appointments are often based on political considerations. Individuals appointed often have conflicts of interest due to personal loyalties, family connections or other biases. Individuals appointed often have clear party loyalties.

80b. In practice, the law enforcement agency (or agencies) has a budget sufficient to carry out its mandate.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Wang Limin
"The Courts Budget Should Be Covered by the Central Government",
Law Daily, March 8, 2007
http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2007-03/08/content_5818020.htm

2): Zhu Guangyu, Ji Qing, 2006
WTO and Independence of Administrative Judicial System in China No. 1

100: The agency (or agencies) has a budget sufficient to fulfill its basic mandate.

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) has limited budget, generally considered somewhat insufficient to fulfill its basic mandate.

25:

0: The agency (or agencies) has no budget or an obviously insufficient budget that hinders the agency's ability to fulfill its mandate.

80c. In practice, the law enforcement agency is protected from political interference.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Yu Songlin
"Discussion on Judicial Independence And Its Targets",
Journal of Ankang Normal University, No. 1, 2004

2): Jonathan Watts
"Mao Casts Long Shadow over China",
The Guardian, May 16, 2006

100: The agency (or agencies) operates independently of the political process and has operational independence from the government. All laws can be enforced regardless of the status of suspects or the sensitivity of the investigation.

75:

50: The agency (or agencies) is typically independent, yet is sometimes influenced in its investigations or enforcement actions by negative or positive political incentives. This may include favorable or unfavorable public criticism by the government or other forms of influence. The agency (or agencies) may not be provided with some information needed to carry out its investigations.

25:

0: The investigative and enforcement work of the agency (or agencies) is commonly influenced by political actors or the government. These may include conflicting family relationships, professional partnerships, or other personal loyalties. Negative incentives may include threats, harassment or other abuses of power by the government.

81. Can law enforcement officials be held accountable for their actions?

54

81a. In law, there is an independent mechanism for citizens to complain about police action.

YES | **NO**

Comments:

Citizens can complain by dialing 110, and the complaints will be forwarded to various levels of the Police Inspectorate. The biggest problem is that this agency is not independent, but affiliated with the Public Security Bureau.

References:

There is no such independent mechanism

YES: A YES score is earned if there is a formal process or mechanism by which citizens can complain about police actions. A YES score is earned if a broader mechanism such as the national ombudsman, human rights commission, or anti-corruption agency has jurisdiction over the police.

NO: A NO score is earned if there is no such mechanism

81b. In practice, the independent law enforcement complaint reporting mechanism responds to citizen's complaints within a reasonable time period.

100 | 75 | 50 | **25** | 0

References:

1): Wang Keqing, Liu Sikun
1,359 Complaints in the Past Six Years from Yongquan Village, Daqing"
China Rural Areas Research Network Working Paper, 2007
<http://www.shwd.net/shownews.asp?newsid=664>

2): A comment made by Prof. Sun Liping on complaints
<http://www.shwd.net/shownews.asp?newsid=50>

100: The agency/entity responds to complaints quickly. While some backlog is expected and inevitable, complaints are acknowledged promptly and investigations into serious abuses move steadily towards resolution. Citizens with simple issues can expect a resolution within a month.

75:

50: The agency/entity responds to complaints quickly, with some exceptions. Some complaints may not be acknowledged, and simple issues may take more than two months to resolve.

25:

0: The agency/entity cannot resolve complaints quickly. Complaints may be unacknowledged for more than a month, and simple issues may take three to six months to resolve. Serious abuses are not investigated with any urgency.

81c. In law, there is an agency/entity to investigate and prosecute corruption committed by law enforcement officials.

YES | NO

References:

Supreme People's Prosecutor's Office of the People's Republic of China, established by Constitution

YES: A YES score is earned if there is an agency/entity specifically mandated to investigate corruption-related activity within law enforcement. This agency/entity may be internal to the police department (provided it has a degree of independence, such as an internal affairs unit) or part of a broader national mechanism such as the national ombudsman, human rights commission, or anti-corruption agency.

NO: A NO score is earned if no such agency/entity exists.

81d. In practice, when necessary, the agency/entity independently initiates investigations into allegations of corruption by law enforcement officials.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): Baoshan District Prosecutor Initiates Investigations into One State-Owned Coal Field"
Long Jianwang, June 10, 2006 <http://www.hl.jcy.gov.cn/detail.cfm?id=228B43&newsid=2A8D47922E>

2): "Prosecutor Investigates Ministry-Level Officials"
The Beijing News, March 21, 2006
<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2006-03-12/01488419594s.shtml>

100: When irregularities are discovered, the agency/entity is aggressive in investigating government law enforcement officials or in cooperating with other investigative agencies.

75:

50: The agency/entity starts investigations, but is limited in its effectiveness or is reluctant to cooperate with other investigative agencies. The agency/entity may be slow to act, unwilling to take on politically powerful offenders, or occasionally unable to enforce its judgments.

25:

0: The agency/entity does not effectively investigate or does not cooperate with other investigative agencies. The agency may start investigations but not complete them, or may fail to detect offenders. The agency may be partisan in its application of power.

81e. In law, law enforcement officials are not immune from criminal proceedings.

YES | NO

References:

Chapters 8 and 9 of the Criminal Law of People's Republic of China

YES: A YES score is earned if law enforcement officers are fully accountable for their actions under the law and can be investigated and prosecuted for their actions.

NO: A NO score is earned if law enforcement enjoys any special protection from criminal investigation or prosecution.

81f. In practice, law enforcement officials are not immune from criminal proceedings.

100 | 75 | 50 | 25 | 0

References:

1): "From Protector to Criminal"
The Beijing News, June 30, 2006
<http://www.southcn.com/opinion/legal/200607310514.htm>

2): "The Deputy Head of Fuyang Court Was Indicted"
Xinhua News Agency, July 17, 2006
http://news.xinhuanet.com/newscenter/2006-07/17/content_4845167.htm

100: Law enforcement officers are subject to criminal investigation for official misconduct. No crimes are exempt from prosecution.

75:

50: Law enforcement is generally subject to criminal investigation but exceptions may exist where criminal actions are overlooked by the police or prosecutors. Some crimes may be exempt from prosecution, such as actions taken in the line of duty.

25:

0: Law enforcement enjoys a general protection from most criminal investigation. This may be due to a formal immunity or an informal understanding that the law enforcement community protects itself.