



Meeting Summary of Justice Wan Exiang Event

On September 24, 2007, Justice Wan Exiang, Vice President of the Supreme People's Court of China delivered a speech on judiciary reform in China at CSIS. Dr. John J. Hamre, President and CEO of CSIS provided introductory remarks. Dr. James V. Feinerman, James M. Morita Professor of Asia Legal Studies at Georgetown University Legal Center, served as commentator for this event.

Justice Wan began his speech by giving a brief overview of the international legislations that China has signed on to, and the growing demand for legal rights in China as the Chinese economy continues to grow. He described problems faced by the Chinese judiciary before reform commenced in 2000, including doubt about the fairness and justice of the system, negligence in due process, undereducated and unqualified judiciary professionals, among others. Consequently, it was clear that there is a strong need for judiciary reform.

Several factors were listed as drivers for judiciary reform in China. Firstly, it is one of the natural outcomes of economic growth in China as people have begun to demand their rights. Also, judiciary reform has also been supported by the highest level of the Chinese leadership, including Premier Wen Jiabao.

Justice Wan concluded by setting out twelve challenges facing China's judiciary reform in the years to come, among which are balancing judiciary efficiency with due process, consistency in law implementation, professional management of the judiciary, etc.