

WEEKLY PERSONNEL UPDATE

6 December 2019

- **Massive transfers across regions**

The week of 2 December has witnessed a series of provincial transfers, including:

Old position	Official	New position	Predecessor	Predecessor's new position	Date
Jilin CCPSC member CCP Secretary-General	Zhang Anshun (张安顺)	Heilongjiang CCPSC member	Gan Rongkun (甘荣坤)	Transferred to Henan CCPSC in Sep 2019	7 Dec 2019
Guangxi CCPSC member United Front Works Dept Head	Xu Shaochuan (徐绍川)	Guangxi CPPCC Vice Chairman-to-be	N/A	N/A	6 Dec 2019
Guangdong CCPSC member Guangdong PLAC Chairman	He Zhongyou (何忠友)	Hainan CCPSC member Haikou Party Secretary	Zhang Qi (张琦)	Ousted in Sep 2019	6 Dec 2019
Shanghai Vice Party Secretary	Yin Hong (尹弘)	Henan Governor	Chen Run'er (陈润儿)	Promoted to be Ningxia Party Secretary in Oct 2019	6 Dec 2019
Shanxi Vice Party Secretary	Lin Wu (林武)	Shanxi Governor	Lou Yangsheng (楼阳生)	Promoted to be Shanxi Party Secretary in Oct 2019	5 Dec 2019
Deyang Party Secretary	Zhao Shiyong (赵世勇)	Jiangsu Vice Governor	Guo Yuanqiang (郭元强)	Promoted to be Jiangsu CCPSC member in Nov 2019	5 Dec 2019
Beijing CCPSC member Beijing Executive Vice Mayor	Lin Keqing (林克庆)	Guangdong CCPSC member Guangdong Executive Vice Governor	Lin Shaochun (林少春)	Promoted to be Inner Mongolia Vice Party Secretary in Mar 2019	4 Dec 2019
Zhejiang Department of Finance Director-General	Xu Yuning (徐宇宁)	Ningbo CPPCC Chairman-to-be	Yang Xubiao (杨戌标)	To retire on January 2020	4 Dec 2019

Of all the appointments above, **Lin Keqing's** appointment is to be highlighted. The latest transfer to Guangdong, although on the same level and in the same job, has made Lin the youngest CCPSC member of Guangdong. More importantly, Lin was a Beijing official throughout his career before the latest appointment—his movement from the capital of China to the most economically-advanced province indicates favor of top leadership as this is a clear attempt to nurture Lin for higher offices.

At the same time, **He Zhongyou** has become the second Guangdong provincial leader transferred to Hainan in recent years. Former Guangdong Vice Governor **Lan Fo'an** (蓝佛安) was promoted to Hainan in March 2017 as CCPSC member and Commission for Discipline Inspection Chairman. With He's latest transfer to Hainan, the two large cities of the island-province, Haikou and Sanya, are now both led by reformists from economically better-off regions. Incumbent Sanya Party Secretary is **Tong Daochi** (童道驰), a banker-turned official with a doctoral degree from Pardee RAND Graduate School and over six years of experience in the World Bank following his graduation. These transfers, alongside the prior transfer of hundreds of officials to Hainan, indicate again that Beijing wants to expedite the reform of Hainan that could turn the island-province into an international tourism hub.

At the same time, the political jockeying surrounding the top provincial jobs had also begun (some of the appointments below were already covered in the earlier briefings).

Position	Outgoing official (reason of leaving)	Incoming official (appointment type)	Incoming official's old position	Date
Minister of Civil Affairs	Huang Shuxian (retirement)	Li Jiheng (transfer)	Inner Mongolia Party Secretary	25 Oct 2019
Inner Mongolia Party Secretary	Li Jiheng (transfer)	Shi Taifeng (transfer)	Ningxia Party Secretary	25 Oct 2019
Ningxia Party Secretary	Shi Taifeng (transfer)	Chen Run'er (promotion)	Henan Governor	25 Oct 2019
All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives Chair	Liu Shiyu (ouster)	Yu Hongqiu (promotion)	Henan Vice Party Secretary	29 Nov 2019
Shanxi Party Secretary	Luo Huining (retirement)	Lou Yangsheng (promotion)	Shanxi Governor	30 Nov 2019
Henan Governor	Chen Run'er (promotion)	Yin Hong (promotion)	Shanghai Vice Party Secretary	3 Dec 2019
Shanxi Governor	Lou Yangsheng (promotion)	Lin Wu (promotion)	Shanxi Vice Party Secretary	5 Dec 2019

The latest movement marks the beginning of the political jockeying toward the 20th Party Congress, which is due to convene in 2022. This round of reshuffles occurred roughly three years ahead of the next party congress, consistent to the pattern of appointment prior to 19th Party Congress. The provincial jockeying in preparation for 19th Party Congress began in August 2014, also roughly three years ahead of the party congress that convened in October 2017.

A big distinction between the 2014-2015 and 2019 reshuffles, however, is the reason behind the reshuffles. All provincial appointments made in 2014-2015 were direct response to the ousters made by Xi's signature anti-corruption campaign, which was at its height at the moment.

In 2014-2015, then-Shanxi party secretary **Yuan Chunqing** was removed for his incompetence in containing the prevalent corruption in Shanxi, which eventually brought down nine provincial leaders and dozens of prefectural leaders. Then-Tianjin party secretary **Sun Chunlan** was transferred to replace ousted CCP United Front Works Department head **Ling Jihua**. Similarly, **Li Xi** and **Zhao Kezhi** were promoted and transferred to replace the ousted Liaoning party secretary Wang Min and Hebei party secretary Zhou Benshun, respectively.

In contrast, the latest 2019 provincial appointments were mostly the results of on-time retirement. Minister of Civil Affairs **Huang Shuxian** and Shanxi Party Secretary **Luo Huining** had both reached 65, the age limit set for provincial leaders, and their retirement has triggered a chain of appointments for their replacements and the replacements of their replacements.

An exhibit is the consistent pattern demonstrated in the latest reshuffles. In all promotions (excluding same-ranking transfers), party secretaries (no.1 of the provinces) were replaced by governors (no.2 of the provinces), while governors were replaced by vice party secretaries (no.3 of the provinces). At the same time, all same-ranking transfers were results of on-time retirement. This means that Beijing already planned the succession for governors and vice party secretaries when they were installed to their positions—in other words, when the officials were appointed provincial vice party secretaries, they were already vetted and nurtured to become governors and eventually provincial party secretaries.

Moving forward, “vice party secretary—governor—party secretary” will be the new norm of promotion. This means that provincial vice party secretary has become a vital step for any official seeking provincial jobs, as well as an important bellwether to identify emerging, future leaders.

Why is this important? Currently, there are only two incumbent provincial party secretaries, Heilongjiang's **Zhang Qingwei** (b.1961) and Shaanxi's **Hu Heping** (b.1962), that will be eligible to work through the 20th Party Congress from 2022 to 2027 and still eligible to enter into state positions on the 21st Party Congress in 2027 without breaking the age limit. Otherwise, there are only 11 governors, including the lately appointed **Lin Wu** (b.1962) and **Yin Hong** (b.1963), that will be eligible to work through the 20th Party Congress and still eligible to enter into state positions on the 21st Party Congress. In short, there are only 13 incumbent provincial leaders eligible for state positions on 21st Party Congress.

However, there are over 70 state positions to be filled in each administration, of which around 50 are to be filled by Party cadres (the rest to be filled by minority party leaders). For these positions, the Party needs many more junior cadres with local experience, and provincial vice party secretaries are just next in line. More importantly, the Party needs to nurture officials born in late 1960s and early 1970s for state leadership positions after the 21st Party Congress—provincial vice party secretary is an inevitable step for these junior officials.

The latest appointments have created a number of vacancies for provincial vice party secretaries across regions. Currently, Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Henan, Shanxi, Guizhou, and Qinghai are missing their vice party secretaries. Those filling the vacancies stand a much higher chance for future promotions.

- **Anhui receives the third financial vice mayor in two weeks**

On 4 December 2019, Bengbu city of Anhui province appointed **Zhou Weixin** (周伟新), former Bank of China Anhui Branch vice president, as vice mayor.

Zhou is the third financial vice mayor appointed in Anhui in the past two weeks. On 28 November 2019, Huangshan city of Anhui province appointed **He Yi** (何毅), former PICC Operation Department deputy general manager, as vice mayor. One day before on 27 November 2019, Ma'anshan city of Anhui province appointed **Zheng Xiuxu** (郑琇煦), former ICBC Private Banking Department deputy general manager, as vice mayor.

As we emphasized, transferring lower-ranking bankers to prefectural cities as vice mayors is a new trend. Having senior bankers as vice governors is feasible primarily because vice governors do not regularly touch on the messiest businesses of local government but play the “decision-maker” role. In contrast, prefectural vice mayors are involved in the much messier day-to-day running of the governments. This is why there has been no such appointment before.

The role of these financial vice mayors will likely focus on driving financial development in Anhui, a financially-backward inland province that now needs to catch up with Shanghai, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang—China's most financially-advanced provinces—because of Anhui's inclusion into the Yangtze River Delta integration initiative.

- **Leadership movement in Guangdong this week**

Leaders	Movement
G Ma Xingrui (马兴瑞)	6/12: Giving a speech on the 4 th Plenum to provincially-managed cadres 6/12: Attending China Quality (Shenzhen) Summit 6/12: Attending a meeting on the work over 2019 Guangdong CPPCC major bills 4/12: Meeting with CEO of ExxonMobil 2/12: Attending the 9 th meeting of Guangdong Free Trade Zone

- Leadership movement in Chongqing this week

Leaders	Movement
M Tang Liangzhi (唐良智)	7/12: Chairing the 73 rd government executive meeting 7/12: Attending and supervising Chongqing Jiaotong University's democratic life meeting 6/12: Attending the 6 th meeting of Chongqing Financial and Economic Affairs Commission 6/12: Chairing the 4 th meeting of Chongqing Planning Commission 5/12: Accompanying a Tianjin delegation and attending a Chongqing-Tianjin work exchange meeting 5/12: Meeting with a Vietnam Communist Party delegation 5/12: Meeting with Supreme People's Procuratorate Chief Procurator Zhang Jun 4/12: Meeting with a delegation of African ambassadors to China 4/12: Accompanying a Tianjin delegation to visit Wanzhou District
VM Wu Cunrong (吴存荣)	7/12: Attending the 73 rd government executive meeting 6/12: Attending the 6 th meeting of Chongqing Financial and Economic Affairs Commission 6/12: Chairing the 4 th meeting of Chongqing Planning Commission 5/12: Business trip to Beijing 4/12: Attending and supervising Jiangjin District CCP Committee's democratic life meeting 4/12: Giving a speech on the 4 th Plenum to Chongqing Development and Reform Commission 3/12: Chairing a meeting of public security video surveillance network application work leading small group
VM Lu Kehua (陆克华)	7/12: Attending the 73 rd government executive meeting 6/12: Attending the 6 th meeting of Chongqing Financial and Economic Affairs Commission 6/12: Chairing the 4 th meeting of Chongqing Planning Commission 5/12: Accompanying a Tianjin delegation and attending a Chongqing-Tianjin work exchange meeting 4/12: Attending and supervising Changjiang Normal College CCP Committee's democratic life meeting 3/12: Studying major projects on urban development
VM Qu Qian (屈谦)	7/12: Business trip to Beijing 6/12: Attending the 6 th meeting of Chongqing Financial and Economic Affairs Commission 6/12: Chairing the 4 th meeting of Chongqing Planning Commission 5/12: Attending a meeting of Chongqing CCP Committee Education Work Leading Small Group 5/12: Attending a meeting of Chongqing Comprehensively Deepening Reform Commission 4/12: Studying healthcare work 3/12: Studying education work
VM Li Mingqing (李明清)	7/12: Attending the 73 rd government executive meeting 7/12: Chairing Chongqing's poverty alleviation work video conference 6/12: Attending the 6 th meeting of Chongqing Financial and Economic Affairs Commission 6/12: Attending and supervising Pengshui county CCP Committee's democratic life meeting 5/12: Studying poverty alleviation work 5/12: Attending a Chongqing-Tianjin work exchange meeting 4/12: Studying Three Gorges Dam work 4/12: Accompanying a Tianjin delegation to visit Wanzhou District 3/12: Studying poverty alleviation work
VM Xiong Xue (熊雪)	7/12: Attending the 73 rd government executive meeting 7/12: Attending and supervising Changshou district CCP Committee's democratic life meeting 6/12: Chairing the 4 th meeting of Chongqing Planning Commission 5/12: Inspecting Chongqing Hi-tech district 5/12: Attending and supervising Hi-tech district Shibao township CCP Committee's democratic life meeting 4/12: Inspecting Chongqing Xiyong Micro-electronics Industrial Park
VM Li Bo (李波)	7/12: Visiting Singapore 6/12: Visiting Singapore 5/12: Visiting Singapore 4/12: Attending Chongqing Free Trade Zone high-quality development evaluation meeting 4/12: Chairing a meeting on supporting real economy through bank financing 3/12: Attending the 2 nd Asia-Europe Cooperation Dialogue 3/12: Attending 2019 China (Chongqing)-Indonesia Trade, Tourism and Investment Forum

- Leadership movement in Jiangsu this week

Leaders	Movement
G Wu Zhenglong (吴政隆)	5/12: Attending the 10 th meeting of Jiangsu Comprehensively Deepening Reform Commission 4/12: Chairing a meeting on improving and reforming the people's letter and visit work
VG Fan Jinlong (樊金龙)	5/12: Attending the 10 th meeting of Jiangsu Comprehensively Deepening Reform Commission

- Leadership movement in Zhejiang this week

Leaders	Movement
G Yuan Jiajun (袁家军)	5/12: Chairing a special government meeting on provincial SOEs' plan and goal in 2020 4/12: Visiting the newly-elected Zhejiang-based members of Chinese Academy of Science 4/12: Inspecting Jinhua city 4/12: Issuing directives on Haining city's sewage tank collapse accident
VG Zhu Congjiu (朱从玖)	5/12: Attending a special government meeting on provincial SOEs' plan and goal in 2020

- Leadership movement in Sichuan this week

Leaders	Movement
G Yin Li (尹力)	7/12: Supervising Ziyang city CCPSC's democratic life meeting 7/12: Attending the 6 th Plenum of the 11 th Sichuan CCP Committee 5/12: Meeting with Asia-America Group Chairman Neil Bush (son of George H. W. Bush) 5/12: Attending a signing ceremony of Sichuan IT application and innovation industry projects 3/12: Attending a Sichuan CCP Committee theoretical study session 2/12: Attending Sichuan CCPSC meeting 2/12: Chairing the 37 th government executive meeting
VG Wang Ning (王宁)	6/12: Inspecting Luzhou 3/12: Attending a Sichuan CCP Committee theoretical study session 2/12: Attending Sichuan CCPSC meeting 2/12: Attending the 37 th government executive meeting
VG Yang Xingping (杨兴平)	6/12: Attending 2019 China (Chongqing)-Indonesia Trade, Tourism and Investment Forum 4/12: Giving a speech on the 4 th Plenum in Neijiang 2/12: Attending the 37 th government executive meeting
VG Yang Hongbo (杨洪波)	6/12: Attending the opening ceremony of Yibin's new airport 3/12: Attending a Sichuan CCP Committee theoretical study session 2/12: Attending Sichuan CCPSC meeting 2/12: Attending the 37 th government executive meeting
VG Yao Sidan (尧斯丹)	5/12: Attending Ya'an city CCPSC's democratic life meeting 4/12: Inspecting Ya'an city 3/12: Attending a Sichuan CCP Committee theoretical study session 2/12: Attending the 37 th government executive meeting
Wang Yihong (王一宏)	3/12: Attending a Sichuan CCP Committee theoretical study session 2/12: Attending the 37 th government executive meeting 1/12: Attending an AIDS day event
Wang Fengchao (王凤朝)	5/12: Attending a signing ceremony of Sichuan IT application and innovation industry projects 3/12: Attending a Sichuan CCP Committee theoretical study session 2/12: Chairing the 37 th government executive meeting