

# Appendix

## Chronology of Major Events (2001–2013)

### 2001

August 23, 2001. To further strengthen leadership over the promotion of informatization and maintenance of the work of national information security in China, the CPC Central Committee resolves to re-establish the Leading Group for National Informatization. The Leading Group is responsible for deliberating and approving the national informatization development strategy, macro planning, related regulations and laws, drafts, and major policies, as well as comprehensive coordination of the work of informatization and information security. At the same time, the State Council Informatization Work Office, the administrative body of the Leading Group, is formally established, responsible for the daily work of the Leading Group.

December 27, 2001. Director of the Leading Group for National Informatization, Zhu Rongji, convenes and hosts the group's first meeting, at which the working rules of the group are ratified, and group members listen to a report on initial considerations and focus work in 2002 in national informatization work during the "Tenth Five-Year Plan" period. The meeting resolves to establish a National Informatization Expert Consulting Committee composed of experts from all areas, primarily responsible for providing decision-making advice to the Leading Group for National Informatization in such major issues as policies, planning, promulgation, application, and network and information security.

### 2002

January 8, 2002. The State Council Informatization Work Office and the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) establish the Overall Group for E-governance Standardization in Beijing, fully launching the work of E-governance standardization.

March 6, 2002. The State Council Informatization Work Office convenes and hosts a symposium on the work of E-governance construction in Beijing to study how to standardize and promote the construction of E-governance in China. Officials propose basic principles and primary tasks to be persisted in within the work of E-governance construction in China.

July 3, 2002. The second meeting of the Leading Group on National Informatization is convened. The meeting ratifies the “Dedicated Plan for Informatization of the National Economy and Society” and the “Guiding Opinions on E-governance Construction in China,” and attendees discuss the issue of invigorating China’s software industry.

July 3, 2002. Tsinghua University’s E-governance laboratory is officially established, becoming one of the first organizations in China dedicated to research, education, and consulting in the field of E-governance.

July 26, 2002. The nationwide informatization work video telephone conference is convened. The theme of the convention is: thoroughly implementing the spirit of the two meetings of the leading group, uniting consensus, summarizing experience, deploying work, and actively, stably promoting further informatization work in China.

August 5, 2002. The CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office jointly issue the “Notice on the CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office Reissuance of the ‘Leading Group For National Informatization’s Guiding Opinions on E-governance Construction in China,’<sup>1</sup> “calling for “the focus of establishment of E-governance construction in China at present and for a time to come to be on informatization work, in which the government will lead the way, and lead the development of informatization of the national economy and society,” clarifying the guiding ideology and principles of E-governance construction and proposing primary goals and tasks of E-governance construction.

August 29, 2002. The State Development Planning Commission and State Council Informatization Work Office jointly convene the “E-governance Construction Department Working Conference” to discuss the implementation of focus tasks in the first stage of the E-governance program.

October 18, 2002. The “Tenth Five-Year Plan for Development of the National Economy and Society Focus Dedicated Informatization Plan” is approved and issued by the Leading Group for National Informatization. This is one of the 10 focus dedicated project plans for development of China’s national economy and society during the “Tenth Five-Year Plan” period and is the first national informatization plan drafted in China.

October 28, 2002. The *Reader for Cadre Information on E-governance in China*, part of the *Information Technology and E-governance Series*, the first complete set of textbooks on E-governance targeting all of society, but particularly

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<sup>1</sup>CPC Central Committee General Office Issuance No. 17, (2002).

party leaders and party members, is released for the first time in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

November 8, 2002. The 16th CPC National Congress is convened, further clarifying the guiding policy of “informatization driving industrialization, and industrialization promoting informatization,” as well as “promoting E-governance.”

December 11, 2002. The conference on E-governance technology and applications in China is convened in Beijing, jointly hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the China Council for Promotion of International Trade, and the China Association for Science and Technology.

## 2003

July 22, 2003. The Leading Group for National Informatization holds its third meeting in Beijing, where the “Guiding Opinions on Strengthening the Work of Information Safeguarding” are approved.

July 26, 2003. The nationwide informatization work video telephone conference is convened, fully implementing the spirit of the Leading Group on National Informatization’s meeting, and making deployments for the implementation of focus plans and the guiding opinions on E-governance construction.

September 7, 2003. The CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office jointly issue the “CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office Notice on the Retransmission of the ‘Leading Group for National Informatization Guiding Opinions on Strengthening the Work of Information Safeguarding,’”<sup>2</sup> making deployments in the work of information security safeguarding, clearly proposing tasks of graded protections of information security, and noting that information systems on which state secrets are stored must be protected in accordance with party and state confidentiality regulations.

November 20, 2003. Under the guidance of the State Council Informatization Work Office, the first annual China E-governance application conference is held in Beijing. The theme of the conference is: increase coordinated governing capacity, protect urban public security, give free rein to market mechanisms, and strengthen E-governance effectiveness.

December 1, 2003. The Social Sciences Academic Press formally publishes the *Blue Book on E-governance: E-governance Development in China Report No. 1*. This is the first annual report on E-governance in China. The book comprehensively summarizes E-governance construction development and performance in China, year by year.

## 2004

March 24, 2004. State Council Premier Wen Jiabao convenes and hosts a meeting of the State Council Standing Committee, where the principles of the “People’s Republic of China Electronic Signature Law (Draft)” are discussed, and the draft is approved.

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<sup>2</sup>CPC Central Committee General Office Issuance No. 27, (2003).

April 8, 2004. The State Council Informatization Work Office convenes a symposium on an investigation into the development status of government web portals made in 2003. The investigation indicated was initiated in November 2011 and concluded in March 2004, and the four months of observations written into the “2003 Investigation into the Development Status of Government Web Portals in China Report.” The report indicates that on the whole, government web portals in China remain in an elementary stage of development.

April 26, 2004. The China Information Industry Association, State Information Center, Shanghai Municipal Informatization Committee, and Shanghai Municipal Information Association jointly convene the “2004 E-governance Public Services Symposium” in Shanghai.

July 30, 2004. The “Hunan Provincial Regulations on Informatization” are approved by the 10th meeting of 10th Hunan Provincial People’s Congress Standing Committee, going into effect on October 1, 2004. This is the first comprehensive law on informatization in China.

August 28, 2004. The “People’s Republic of China Electronic Signature Law” is approved by the 11th meeting of the 10th People’s Republic of China People’s National Congress Standing Committee, going into effect on April 1, 2005. This law for the first time gives electronic signatures equal legal force as written signatures and also establishes market entry protocols for electronic verification services, to ensure the security of electronic trading.

September 30, 2004. The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) formally approves project creation for stage one of the national E-governance extranet program. On November 2, the NDRC formally approves the feasibility report for the program, and the program is initiated.

October 27, 2004. The Leading Group for National Informatization holds its fourth meeting in Beijing, where the group discusses the “Several Opinions on Strengthening the Work of Development and Utilization of Information Resources” and “Several Opinions on Accelerating the Development of E-governance in China.”

December 13, 2004. The CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office jointly issue the “CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office Several Opinions on Strengthening the Work of Development and Utilization of Information Resources,”<sup>3</sup> which raises several guiding opinions regarding the work of developing and utilizing government information resources.

## 2005

April 25, 2005. The CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office jointly issue the “CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office Opinions on Further Promoting Government Openness,”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>CPC Central Committee General Office Issuance No. 34, (2004).

<sup>4</sup>CPC Central Committee General Office Issuance No. 12, (2005).

which clarify the guiding ideology, basic principles, and work objectives of the promotion of government openness, proposing further promotion of the primary tasks and focus contents and forms of government openness, call for the establishment and perfection of laws and institutions for government openness, and feasibly strengthen organization and guidance of the work of government openness.

June 2, 2005. The State Council General Office issues the “State Council General Office Opinions on Properly Performing the Work of Safeguarding Content on Central Government Web Portals.”<sup>5</sup>

July 27, 2005. The State Council Informatization Work Office publishes the “2005 China Informatization Development Report,” the first government report on national informatization development published by a government organ.

October 1, 2005. Trial operations begin on the People’s Republic of China central government web portal (gov.cn).

November 3, 2005. The fifth meeting of the Leading Group on National Informatization is held in Beijing, where the “National Informatization Development Strategy (2006–2010)” is discussed and approved.

## 2006

January 1, 2006. Gov.cn is formally launched. It is a comprehensive platform for the provision of online services and publishing of government information on the World Wide Web of the State Council, all State Council subordinate departments, and the governments of all provinces, autonomous districts, and direct-controlled cities.

March 14, 2006. The fourth meeting of the 10th National People’s Congress approves the “Eleventh Five-Year Planning Compendium for the Development of the National Economy and Society of the People’s Republic of China,” which contains the following: “Promotion of E-governance. Integrate network resources; construct a unified E-governance network; build an information network platform, data exchange center, and digital verification center for E-governance; and promote information sharing and task coordination between departments.

March 19, 2006. The Leading Group for National Informatization Publishes the “Overall Framework for National E-governance,” clarifying the overall demands and objectives of the national E-governance framework and the creation of an overall framework.

March 19, 2006. The CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office jointly issue the “2006–2020 National Informatization Development Strategy,” again clearly noting that “the vigorous promotion of informatization is a strategic measure that encompasses the entire situation of modernization in China” and that “promotion of E-governance” is one of nine strategic focuses.

May 8, 2006. The Chinese Academy of Governance and State Information Center jointly host the “2006 China E-governance Forum” at the Chinese Academy of Governance. This is the first annual session of the forum, which is convened in

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<sup>5</sup>State Council General Office Issuance No. 31, (2005).

accordance with the principles of “scholarliness, for public benefit, openness, and pragmatism.”

May 20, 2006. The CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office jointly issue the “CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office Notice on the Retransmission of the ‘Leading Group for National Informatization Opinions on National E-governance Network Construction,’”<sup>6</sup> clarifying the principles, objectives, administrative management system, work deployments, and safeguard measures for E-governance network construction.

June 12, 2006. The nationwide E-governance work symposium is held in Beijing.

September 6, 2006. The government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’s “one-stop website” (<http://www.gov.hk>) is launched, providing comprehensive online government information and services.

September 7, 2006. The State Council General Office issues the “State Council General Office Opinions on Better Performing the Work of Safeguarding Central Government Web Portal Content,”<sup>7</sup> calling for further increasing the intensity of government information publication, feasibly strengthening website service functions, stably promoting interconnectivity, and establishing and perfecting highly effective mechanisms for the work of safeguarding content.

December 29, 2006. The State Council General Office issues the “State Council General Office Opinions on Strengthening the Work of Government Website Construction and Management,”<sup>8</sup> which provide 10 guiding opinions on strengthening the work of government website construction and management.

## 2007

February 8, 2007. The Leading Group for National Informatization issues the “Notice on Launching the Work of E-governance Inspections,”<sup>9</sup> noting the group’s decision to launch a comprehensive inspection of the implementation of the group’s guiding policies in all areas of the country in the first half of 2007.

April 5, 2007. Premier Wen Jiabao signs State Council Order No. 492 and formally issues the “People’s Republic of China Regulations on Open Government Information.” The regulations go into effect on May 1, 2008, and are comprised of five components: general principles of openness, the scope of information to be disclosed, methods and procedures for information disclosure, oversight and safeguards for the work of disclosure, and supplementary articles.

September 1, 2007. The “Provisional Measures for Management of National E-governance Program Construction Projects” (People’s Republic of China and NDRC Directive No. 55) formally go into force. This is the first systematic standard for the management of E-governance projects in China.

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<sup>6</sup>CPC Central Committee General Office Issuance No. 18, (2006).

<sup>7</sup>State Council General Office Issuance No. 61, (2006).

<sup>8</sup>State Council General Office Issuance No. 104, (2006).

<sup>9</sup>State Informatization Office No. 1, (2007).

September 30, 2007. The national E-governance network's central-level transmission backbone network is formally launched, symbolizing the basic formation of a unified national E-governance network framework.

October 24, 2007. In the report of the 17th CPC National Congress, Hu Jintao raises a demand to "accelerate reforms to the administrative management system, build a service-oriented government... promote E-governance, and strengthen public administration and public services."

## 2008

March 15, 2008. The 11th National People's Congress approves a resolution to reform State Council organs. The resolution calls for the creation of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), consolidating under the newly formed ministry the NDRC's responsibility for management of industry, responsibilities of the Commission for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense excluding nuclear energy management, and the responsibilities of the Ministry of Information Industry and the State Council Informatization Work Office. Those last three bodies cease to exist.

April 24, 2008. The "National Golden Card Program Nationwide IC Card Application Development Plan (2008–2013)" is issued.

July 10, 2008. The State Council General Office issues the "State Council General Office Rules on Primary Functional Internal Government Organs and Staffing Protocols." The rules make the State Council General Office's internal office of E-governance responsible for the government informatization plans, construction, technology, and security safeguarding of the offices and organs of leading comrades of the State Council, as well as for conferencing and multimedia technology services for the northern district of Zhongnanhai. The office is also responsible for organizing and launching the work of constructing, operating, and managing central government web portals and safeguarding content thereupon, and for the work of constructing and managing computing networks to connect the State Council General Office with people's governments in all provinces, autonomous regions, and direct-controlled cities, as well as with all departments of the State Council.

July 11, 2008. The State Council General Office issues the "Ministry of Industry and Information Technology Rules on Primary Functional Internal Government Organs and Staffing Protocols." The newly established MIIT is endowed with 24 internal organs, of which the Informatization Promotion Bureau is responsible for promoting informatization work, the coordination of major issues in informatization construction, guidance of coordinated development of E-governance and e-commerce, and so on, as well as assuming the concrete work of the former Leading Group on National Informatization.

December 12, 2008. The MIIT convenes a symposium on deepening local E-governance information sharing and task coordination work in Hangzhou.

## 2009

February 28, 2008. State Council Premier Wen Jiabao is interviewed on gov.cn and xinhua.com, communicating with internet users domestic and foreign, answering their questions live. The interview receives 360,000 comments and 49,000 cell-phone messages. During the two-hour interview, Premier Wen answers 30 questions asked by internet users, and the interview page receives 237 million visits.

April 14, 2008. The NDRC and Ministry of Finance jointly issue the “Notice on Accelerating the Work of Promoting National E-governance Extranet Construction,”<sup>10</sup> further clarifying the objectives and tasks of national government extranet construction and raising demands for the promotion of E-governance extranet program construction, tasks and applications, security safeguarding, and operations and maintenance services.

April 28, 2008. To further guide and drive the healthy development of government websites and deepen the application of E-governance, the MIIT issues the “Government Website Development Assessment Core Indicators System (Trial).” The system is built around three core areas, including government information openness, the handling of affairs online, and interaction between the government and the people, establishing nine major indicator categories, for local governments in all areas to use as references in addition to actual working conditions.

August 12, 2008. The MIIT formally approves establishing Huangshi City, Hubei Province, as the country’s first TD E-governance pilot city. The plan was completed in three years, achieving complete coverage of the city’s urban and rural areas with a TD-SCDMA network.

November 21, 2008. The news office of the people’s government of Yunnan Province registers the nation’s first government microblog, “Microblog Yunnan,” which delivers up-to-the-minute information on topics the public is concerned about and policies. Deputy director of the Yunnan Provincial Party Committee’s publicity department Wu Hao registers a microblog called “Yunnan Wu Hao” on the same day, making him the first official in China to open a microblog.

## 2010

January 6, 2008. China’s first wireless city web portal, “Guidance by the Government, Holding Hands with Operators,” is officially launched. Citizens in Guangzhou need only sign onto a government WLAN to access all content on the web portal for free.

October 8, 2008. The State Information Center officially establishes under its umbrella the “National E-governance Extranet Management Center,” per the Central Institutional Organization Commission’s “Official Reply Regarding the State Information Center’s Establishment of an E-governance Extranet Management Center.”<sup>11</sup> Under this center are established an extranet management office and an electronic verification office, which assume the work of managing

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<sup>10</sup>NDRC High-Tech No. 988 (2009).

<sup>11</sup>Central Institutional Organization Committee “FuZi” No. 288, (2010).



national E-governance extranet planning, construction, implementation, operations, and maintenance.

## 2011

March 17, 2011. The “Twelfth Five-Year Planning Compendium for the Development of the National Economy and Society of the People’s Republic of China” is issued. In the area of E-governance, the plan calls for “vigorously promoting national E-governance construction; promoting interconnectivity, information sharing, and task coordination between important government information networks; and constructing and perfecting systems for network administrative approvals, information disclosure, online letters and visits, electronic surveillance, and accounting.”

April 21, 2011. The State Council General Office issues the “State Council General Office Notice on Further Strengthening the Work of Government Website Management,”<sup>12</sup> raising demands to further strengthen the work of managing websites.

August 2, 2011. The “CPC Central Committee General Office and State Council General Office Opinions on Deepening Government Openness and Strengthening Government Services”<sup>13</sup> are issued, reiterating the importance of deepening government openness, clarifying the overall demand for openness, and clearly raising important contents of open government information at all levels.

## 2012

February 21, 2012. The MIIT issues the “National E-governance Program for the ‘Twelfth Five-Year Plan.’”

March 12, 2012. The State Information Center’s Network Government Research Center is established. The center is the largest state-level research organization dedicated to government website research.

May 5, 2012. The NDRC issues the “National Government Informatization Program Construction Plan for the ‘Twelfth Five-Year Plan.’”

July 19, 2012. The “State Council Several Opinions on Vigorously Promoting Informatization Development and Feasibly Safeguarding Information Security” are issued.

November 30, 2012. The ninth national informatization expert forum is held in Beijing. This year’s theme is “informatization driving balanced regional development in China.” Forum attendees discuss how to study and thoroughly implement the spirit of the 18<sup>th</sup> National CPC Congress and use informatization to drive balanced regional development.

December 3, 2012. People.cn’s Public Sentiment Monitoring Office issues its 2012 Sina government microblog report, which notes that as of the end of October

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<sup>12</sup>State Council General Office Letter No. 40, (2011).

<sup>13</sup>CPC Central Committee General Office Issuance No. 22, (2011).

2012, a total of 60,064 verified government microblogs from governments around the nation are hosted on Sina. Statistics indicate that the over 60,000 government microblogs have issued 31,894,816 posts, for an average of 531 posts per microblog.

### **2013**

May 3, 2013. The NDRC promotes E-governance program construction management. The NRDC issues the “Opinions on Strengthening and Perfecting National E-governance Program Construction Management” and the “Guiding Opinions on Further Strengthening Government Department Information Sharing Construction Management,” both of which are aimed at promoting the common construction of informatization projects in E-governance and establishing and perfecting government information sharing mechanisms. The government’s promotion of the government informatization program will provide opportunities for the information network equipment industry and software and hardware industries.

May 7, 2013. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs launches its “Waijiao Xiaolingtong” (foreign affairs information) microblog, the first central ministerial-level microblog account.

May 19, 2013. The “Beautiful China—2013 China Government Information Unobstructed Public Benefit Operation” is formally launched. The operation’s theme is “building a beautiful information China, sharing a harmonious information civilization.”

July 1, 2013. The State Bureau for Letters and Calls opens its website for online complaints. The bureau will take a series of actions to ensure that complaints received online are converted into action.

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