

Chen Xi 陈希

Born 1953

Current Positions

- Executive Deputy Director of the Central Organization Department (2013–present)
- Full member of the Central Committee of the CCP (2012–present)



Personal and Professional Background

Chen Xi was born in September 1953 in Putian City, Fujian Province. He joined the CCP in 1978. Chen received an undergraduate education in chemical engineering from Tsinghua University in Beijing (1975–79). After graduating, Chen worked as an instructor for five months in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Fuzhou University, Fuzhou City, Fujian Province (1979). Chen then obtained a master's degree in chemical engineering from Tsinghua University (1979–82). He went on to conduct chemical engineering research as a visiting scholar at Stanford University (1990–92).

Chen started his career as a factory worker in a machinery plant affiliated with Fuzhou University (1970–75). After his graduate studies, Chen remained at Tsinghua and served in several positions in the Chinese Communist Youth League (CCYL) Committee of Tsinghua University, including as head of the Sports Department, deputy secretary (1982–84), and secretary (1984–90). He concurrently served as deputy head (1985–87) and head (1987–90) of the Department of Student Affairs of the CCP Committee of Tsinghua. He later served as deputy party secretary of the Chemical Engineering Department at Tsinghua (1992–93). His step-by-step advancement at Tsinghua continued with his appointment as deputy party secretary (1993–95), executive deputy party secretary (1995–2002), and then party secretary of Tsinghua University and chairman of the University Council (2002–08).

He then served as vice-minister and deputy party secretary of the Ministry of Education (2008–10), after which he was transferred to Liaoning Province to serve as deputy party secretary (2010–11). Chen then became party secretary of the China Association for Science and Technology (2011) and concurrently served as the association's first-secretary of the Secretariat and executive vice-chairman (2011–13). Chen was a member of both the 16th and 17th Central Discipline Inspection Commissions (2002–12). He was first elected to the Central Committee as a full member at the 18th Party Congress in 2012.

Compiled by Cheng Li and the staff of the John L. Thornton China Center at Brookings