

Liu He 刘鹤

Born 1952

Current Positions

- Director of the General Office of the Central Leading Group for Financial and Economic Work of the CCP Central Committee (2013–present)
- Vice-Minister and Deputy Party Secretary of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) (2013–present)
- Full member of the Central Committee of the CCP (2012–present)



Personal and Professional Background

Liu He was born on January 25, 1952, in Beijing. His ancestral home is Changli County, Hebei Province. It is unclear when Liu joined the CCP. He received a bachelor's degree in economics (1978–82) and a master's degree in management (1983–86), both from the Department of Industrial Economics at Renmin University of China in Beijing. He received an MBA from the School of Business Administration at Seton Hall University (1992–93) and an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (1994–95), where he was a Mason Research Fellow. Liu was a founder and convener of the Chinese Economists 50 Forum.ⁱ He serves as a professor of economics at Renmin University of China, Peking University, Tsinghua University, and the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Liu began his career as a “sent-down youth” at an agricultural commune in Jilin Province (1969–70).ⁱⁱ He also served as a soldier in the 38th Group Army of the PLA (1970–73). After demobilization from the military, he worked as a manual laborer and then as an official in the Beijing Radio Factory (1974–78). He later taught at Renmin University of China as an instructor (1986–87). After that, he worked as a researcher at the Development Research Center of the State Council (1987–88). He then served as deputy director of the Research Office and then deputy director of the Industrial Policy and Long-term Planning Department in the State Planning Commission (1988–98). He was subsequently promoted to director of the State Information Center (1998–2001). He then served as deputy director of the State Council Information Office, where he was in charge of e-commerce and international cooperation (2001–03).

Liu served as deputy director of the Central Leading Group for Financial and Economic Work, where he was responsible for overseeing macro-economic policy planning and drafting speeches for CCP General Secretary Hu Jintao to deliver at the annual CCP national conference on economic affairs (2003–11). He then served as party secretary and deputy director of the Development Research Center of the State Council (2011–13). 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

Notes:

ⁱ The Forum consists of the country's most influential economists and financial technocrats, including the current governor of the People's Bank, Zhou Xiaochuan; executive vice-governor Yi Gang; and former minister of finance, Lou Jiwei. The mission of the Forum is to provide policy recommendations to the government on major economic issues. For more information, see <http://www.50forum.org.cn/home/article/jianjie.html>.

ⁱⁱ “Sent-down youth” (插队知青) refers to young, educated urbanites who left their home cities to serve as manual laborers in the countryside during the Cultural Revolution.