

Yang Jiechi 杨洁篪

Born 1950

Current Positions

- State Councilor of the State Council (2013–present)
- Director of the Office of the Central Leading Group for Foreign Affairs (2013–present)
- Full member of the Central Committee of the CCP (2007–present)



Personal and Professional Background

Yang Jiechi was born in May 1950 in Shanghai. He joined the CCP in 1971. He began his career as a factory worker at Pujiang Ammeter Factory in Shanghai (1968–72). He was selected to participate in a training program for Overseas Studies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) (1972–73). He received an undergraduate education in international relations from the University of Bath in Bath, United Kingdom, and graduated with a master’s degree in economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in London, United Kingdom (1973–75). He pursued graduate studies in history at Nanjing University in Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province (via part-time studies, 2001–06), and received a doctoral degree in 2006. He also attended short-term executive program for ministerial and provincial level leaders at the Central Party School (CPS) in Beijing in 1996.

He worked as a staff member and 2nd Secretary at the MOFA (1975–83). He served as 2nd secretary, 1st secretary and counselor in the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. (1983–87). He served as counselor and division head of the Translation and Interpretation Department in the MOFA (1987–90) at the same time he was serving as an interpreter for Deng Xiaoping. He served as a counselor, division head and deputy director of the North American and Oceania Affairs Department of MOFA (1990–93). He was appointed deputy chief-of-mission at the Chinese Embassy in Washington D.C. (1993–95). He served as assistant minister (1995–98) and vice minister (1998–2000) of the MOFA. He served as ambassador to the United States (2000–04). He served concurrently as vice minister and deputy party secretary of the MOFA (2005–07), and concurrently as minister and deputy party secretary of the MOFA (2007–13). He was first elected to the Central Committee as an alternate member at the 16th Party Congress in 2002.

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