

# 中国历史与文化

## **IREE 2010 – History and Culture of China**

**Activity: Report to the Party Congress**

**Estimated Time: 20-30 minutes in groups, 20-30 minutes debrief**

**Task Configuration: Groups of 2-3**

The National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is held about once every five years. In principle it is the highest and most important level of the CPC, although many decisions are made before the meeting. Also note that this body is distinct from the National People's Congress, which meets yearly and is the main legislative body for the People's Republic of China (PRC).

In recent decades the National Congress has become an important symbolic event where leadership changes occur. In fact, the National Congress is a time when many party personnel are shuffled, although changes in top leadership often follow ten-year intervals. The 17<sup>th</sup> Party Congress, held in Beijing in October, 2007, was a time of many such changes.

Yet in terms of top leadership, the 17<sup>th</sup> Party Congress was a time of continuity. Hu Jintao was confirmed for another term as General Secretary, a position he has held since 2002. As a result, he was re-elected as President at the National People's Congress in March-April 2008. Wen Jiabao also retained his seat on the "Politburo Standing Committee" (PSC), as well as his position as Premier of the State Council of the PRC (held since 2003). In summary, President Hu and Premier Wen continue to hold the top two positions in China.

One highlight of the Congress is a keynote address that is prepared by the Premier and delivered by the President. Hu's address at the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress lasted more than two hours and was broadcast across China and beyond. The address provides an important opportunity for China's leaders to report on their progress to date and describe their visions for the future.

The 2007 report was organized in twelve major sections. For this activity, each group of students will be assigned one section of the report. The group is responsible for reading the assigned section and then developing and presenting a brief summary of that section.

You may wish to start with the following questions:

- What major themes or topics were addressed? What vision was presented?
- What images of China and/or the Chinese people were developed in the report?
- What surprised you, or did not surprise you, about the President's message?

The report can be found here: <http://hyconference.edu.cn/english/congress/229611.htm>

\* Developed for International Research and Education in Engineering (IREE) 2010 China  
<http://www.globalhub.org/iree>