



FOLKETINGETS
OMBUDSMAND



The Parliamentary Ombudsman signs memorandum of understanding and collaboration with the Peoples' Republic of China

The Parliamentary Ombudsman has recently signed a memorandum of understanding and collaboration with two Chinese government ministries on the development of administrative culture.

“It is very exciting, and we hope that through collaboration with our Chinese counterparts we may contribute to the development of their administration, also with regard to fighting corruption”, says Parliamentary Ombudsman Mr Jørgen Steen Sørensen. He has recently returned from a three day visit to the Peoples' Republic of China with two of his associates. He brings back signed memorandums of understanding and collaboration with the Ministry of Supervision and the State Bureau for Letters and Calls which are responsible, respectively, for the supervision of public authorities and for receiving citizens' complaints and suggestions.

“I would like to stress that we will not be exporting the Danish ombudsman model to China. The Chinese model is very different from the Danish model, so that is not possible. But we have agreed on a collaboration in the form of joint seminars and workshops and to develop standards for Chinese civil servants”, says Jørgen Steen Sørensen.

Broad collaboration agreement

The agreement is the result of continuous contact through a period of about 10 years. A Chinese delegation visited Denmark again in the autumn of 2012. This led to the recent visit to China during which the Danish Ombudsman held a number of meetings with both high-ranking civil servants and politicians.

“The Chinese make no bones about their wish to fight corruption in China. And they are curious to learn how we here in Denmark maintain the high standard of ethics among civil servants, which is to a great extent the reason why corruption is largely unknown in Denmark. We cannot tell them what to do. But we can enter into a dialogue and explain what we have done ourselves”, says Jørgen Steen Sørensen.

During his visit to China the Ombudsman also visited two large academies for civil servants. At one of them, the China Academy of Discipline, Inspection and Supervision, he gave a lecture on the Scandinavian ombudsman model and on the tasks and working methods of the Danish ombudsman institution in particular.

The collaboration agreement is broadly worded, and in the time to come the institutions will begin to plan the future collaboration, including the identification of the detailed themes of the collaboration, and a time table.

“I am hoping for a close and constructive collaboration in the coming years to the benefit of all parties”, says Jørgen Steen Sørensen.

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FACTS

Since the inception of the Danish Parliamentary Ombudsman office in 1955, the Danish ombudsmen and their staff have been very active in spreading the knowledge of the ombudsman concept, its purpose and philosophy.

Every year the Ombudsman office receives many visitors from abroad, and the Ombudsman and his staff take part in several different forms of international cooperation.

Since 2000 the Ombudsman office has had a continuing collaboration agreement with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the aim of providing assistance and counselling for the establishment and strengthening of democratic institutions in the world's poorest countries.