



## Election and Functions of the HKSAR Deputies to the NPC

According to Article 21 of the Basic Law, Chinese citizens who are residents of the HKSAR shall be entitled to participate in the management of state affairs according to the law. In accordance with the assigned number of seats and the selection method specified by the NPC, the Chinese citizens among the residents of the HKSAR shall locally elect Deputies of the HKSAR to the NPC to participate in the work of the highest institution of state power.

For the first time, 36 Deputies were elected by the HKSAR to the Ninth NPC in March 1998 and the term of office for those Deputies was five years. In 2003, the HKSAR elected Deputies to the 10th NPC. In 2008, the HKSAR elected Deputies to the 11th NPC. The HKSAR Deputies to the NPC must abide by and protect the Constitution and laws (including the Basic Law).

Deputies attend the session of the NPC held in Beijing every March. During every session, Deputies examine and approve (or disapprove) by voting a series of reports, including the CPG Report, the SCNPC Report, the Plan for National Economic and Social Development and the Report on its implementation, the State Budget and the Report on its implementation, the Supreme People's Court Report and the Supreme People's Procuratorate Report. Also, Deputies examine and enact national laws. During every session, officials from the CPG participate in the deliberations of the HKSAR delegation, collecting advice from the Deputies and sharing views with them.

*National leaders took a group photo with the HKSAR Deputies to the 11th NPC. (Photograph by Ma Zengke.)*

During the adjournment of the NPC, Deputies can still submit advice and comments to the CPG and take turns to attend the meetings of the SCNPC held



in February, April, June, August, October and December. Also, Deputies can examine the implementation of laws, listen to and deliberate on thereports of the latest state affairs by officials from the CPG, and conduct research on the legislative bills.

Article 159 of the Basic Law prescribes that the power of amendment of the Basic Law shall be vested in the NPC. The power to propose bills for amendments to the Law shall be vested in the SCNPC, the State Council and the HKSAR. Amendment bills from the HKSAR shall be submitted to the NPC by the delegation of the HKSAR to the NPC after obtaining the consent of two-thirds of the Deputies of the HKSAR to the NPC, two-thirds of all the members of the Legislative Council of the HKSAR, and the Chief Executive of the HKSAR. No amendment to the Law shall contravene the established basic policies of the PRC regarding Hong Kong.

## Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference

The CPPCC is an organisation to uphold and improve the system of multi-party co-operation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC. Currently, there are over 170 members of the National Committee of the CPPCC, being selected from the elites in various occupations such as finance, industry and business, trade, real estate and construction, law, accounting, education, labour and social services, and political organisations. These members are divided into four groups of political affairs, economy, agriculture and Mainland-Taiwan relations, submitting advice and comments to the CPG.

These members attend the session of the NPC held in Beijing every year, submitting advice and comments on a series of reports and legislative bills.

*Picture shows some HKSAR Members of the National Committee of the 11th CPPCC.*

