China

As described in “Revisiting China’s Youth Policy” (2011), the Communist Youth League (CYL), the sole national organisation managing youth affairs in China, focuses its efforts on young people between 14 and 28 years.

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

Marriageable Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without Parental Consent</td>
<td>Male 22</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Parental Consent</td>
<td>Female 20</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Candidacy Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Upper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Unanimous Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

Majority Age

18

Source: US Library of Congress

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Net Enrolment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Secondary School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both Sex</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literacy Rates

99.40%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Both Sex (15-24) 51</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>99.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>99.31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year: 2010

Source: UNESCO

Youth Development

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Year: No data

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

Tobacco Use

5.5%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>13-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>13-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year: 2010

Source: WHO

Prevalence of HIV

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Year: No data

Source: World Bank

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

39

80th out of 176 countries

PRESS FREEDOM

73.07

173rd out of 179 countries

Population by Age and Sex 2010

Youth Unemployment (share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment)

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 6091.01

HDI

0.699

GINI

42.06

Year: 2010, Source: World Bank

Year: 2010, Source: UNDP

Year: 2009, Source: World Bank

Year: 2012, Source: Transparency International

Year: 2013, Source: Reporters Without Borders

YOUTH POLICY & LEGISLATION

While no unified national youth policy exists, “Revisiting China’s Youth Policy” (2011) finds that there are more than 200 policies and regulations that address the welfare of young people. These focus on six general areas, which the article suggests could inform a future national youth policy:

- Promotion of communist ideology and “socialism with Chinese characteristics”
- Role of the Communist Youth League (CYL) in assisting the government with managing youth affairs
- The growing importance of Self-Organised Youth Organisations (SYOs)
- Protection of youth rights and welfare through the development of laws and legal policies
- Youth unemployment in the wake of market-oriented economic reforms
- Youth development in the areas such as education, physical and mental health, and community participation

Is there a national youth policy?

No

China does not have a national youth policy. A 2011 article describes the current situation.
YOUTH & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

According to the China Internet Information Center, a government-authorized web portal, the Communist Youth League of China (CYL) was established in May 1922 “to adhere to the implementation of the CPC’s basic lines and policies of the primary stage of socialism”. It is described as a “quasi-official youth work organisation under the CPC and supported by the government to lead and coordinate youth affairs” by “Revisiting China’s Youth Policy” (2011), however may lack “legitimate authority to propose or monitor youth related policies” in the interest of youth.

YOUTH & REPRESENTATION

All-China Youth Federation (ACYF), established in 1949, describes itself as a “federative body of Chinese youth organisations and excellent youth nationwide.” It has 52 member organisations, including the Communist Youth League of China (CYL), covering 89 million members. Its activities include education, voluntary service and development of the “new countryside”. ACYF “aims to represent the legitimate rights and interest of young people” however it is unclear how it does this or to what extent it is able to advocate youth interests among decision-makers.

YOUTH BUDGET & SPENDING

According to a 2009 audit, the budget expenditure of the Communist Youth League of China (CYL) Central Committee was CNY 362 million (USD 59.6 million). It is unclear if this amount includes all youth-related programming. While reports on budgets are published on the Chinese government website, the 2009 audit is the most recent information published on the budget of the CYL.

The World Bank lists no data on public spending on education in China for the last ten years.

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

CNY 362 million
USD 59.6 million

Visit our library for further reading:
http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/china

Footnotes

1) A Human Development Index (HDI) value of zero means low human development, and a value of 1 means very high human development. HDI is a composite index measuring three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. (UNDP)

2) An Income Gini coefficient of zero means absolute equality, and a coefficient of 100 means absolute inequity. Note: figures multiplied by 100 for OECD data. (World Bank/OECD)

3) A Corruption Perception Index (CPI) value of zero means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt, and a value of 100 means it is perceived as very clean. (Transparency International)

4) A Press Freedom Index (PFI) value of zero means the highest degree of freedom that journalists, news organisations and netizens enjoy, and a value of 100 means the lowest. (Reporters Without Borders)

5) A Youth Development Index (YDI) value of zero means little or absolutely no youth development, and a value of 1 means the highest possible level of youth development attainable. YDI is a composite index measuring five domains: education, health, employment, political, and civic participation. (Commonwealth Youth Programme)