Qiao Shi

Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China

Born in Zhejiang Province in 1924, Qiao Shi joined the Chinese Communist Party at 16, serving in the Shanghai communist underground from 1945 to 1949.

From 1954 to 1962, he worked in heavy industry, both as a manager and as the head of the Communist party youth committees in the factories.

In 1963, he began working full-time for the Communist Party, beginning with the Central Committee's International Liaison Committee. In 1982, he became the Director of the Communist Party's International Liaison Department and a year later was appointed Director of the Communist Party's General Affairs Bureau.

In 1985, Qiao Shi became a member of the Politburo and the Secretariat of the Chinese Communist Party, before being promoted to Vice-Premier in charge of co-ordinating the ministries of Public and State Security, a position he relinquished in 1988 following his appointment as director of the Central Commission of Discipline Inspection.

In 1989, Qiao Shi became chief of the Party's Central School and member of the Politburo Central Committee before being elected chair of the National People's Congress Standing Committee in 1993.

Qiao Shi is married to Yu Wen and has two children.