

Li Zhaoxing

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Li Zhaoxing was born in Shandong province in October 1940. He graduated from Beijing University in 1964 with a degree in British literature and linguistics. He continued his studies until 1967, attending the Beijing Institute of Foreign Languages.

Mr. Li joined China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1970 and served for seven years with the Chinese embassy in Kenya. He was deputy division chief for the ministry's Information Department before taking a posting as first secretary with the Chinese embassy in Lesotho. He later became director general of the Information Department and spokesman for the foreign ministry.

Mr. Li was named ambassador to the United Nations in 1993 after having worked as an assistant minister. He returned to China in 1995 to hold the post of vice-minister of Foreign Affairs for three years. In 1998, Mr. Li became China's ambassador to the United States, returning to the post of vice-minister of Foreign Affairs in 2001.

Mr. Li was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in March 2003.

Mr. Li is married and has one child.