

What's Next for Film Bureau amid State Council Reform?

A number of reform policies have been promulgated to take effect at the First Session of the Thirteenth National People's Congress on the State Council Institutional Reform Proposal. The State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SAPPRFT) will be abolished and replaced by the newly-formed State Administration of Radio and Television (SART). Many question that under which department the film industry will fall.

The Chinese Film Bureau had long been responsible to the central government for all film operations nationwide. The Film Bureau had been instituted under the Ministry of Culture until after the Cultural Revolution when it became part of the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television in 1986. It was later reorganized as the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) in 1998.

The General Administration of Press and Publication; and the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television created a mega-ministry, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SAPPRFT) in 2013.

Speculations on the possible supervising bodies of film administration and news publication are still lingering. Some sources have reported that they would be absorbed into the Ministry of Culture to create a "sizable Ministry of Culture", comprising also the former SAPPRFT and General Administration of Sports. Based on the resolutions passed at the First Session of the Thirteenth National People's Congress, however, only the Tourism Bureau and the Ministry of Culture will merge to become the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. There was no integration of the department of film, press and publication, nor the General Administration of Sports.

What is next for the Film Bureau? The congress meeting was kept strictly out of the radar of the press. No details on the future of the Film Bureau have been disclosed.