

## **Inter-Regional Targeted Assistance Program in China and its Relevant Legal Issues**

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The Inter-Regional Targeted Assistance Program (ITAP) was established since the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) by the central government in order to connect the economically and culturally advanced provinces and regions with selected less developed provinces and regions, and to provide financial assistance and other support to prompt their economic growth. The ITAP has played an enormous role in diminishing the economic gap between the rich and the poor regions, in timely completion of large infrastructure construction projects, and in assisting with the recovery and reconstruction after major natural disasters. However, the ITAP must be legitimized by laws and regulations, especially when the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has established the 'comprehensive promotion of the rule of law' as the overall goal and major task in China. This paper suggests steps for the Chinese government to plan, examine, and supervise the government's administrative behavior in the ITAP.

**Keywords:** *rule of law, inter-regional assistance, Three Gorges Dam Project, Wenchuan earthquake, socialist system, program legalization.*