

Obtaining Financial Records in China

By DAVID BARBOZA October 29, 2012

China's political system is not very transparent, but corporate and financial information is often readily available to the public.

Thirty years of economic reform — and government policies aimed at attracting foreign investment — have created a set of government agencies that keep records on private corporations and their major shareholders, including copies of resumes and government-issued identity cards.

It is this system that allows news organizations, including The New York Times, to request and review corporate records. Although ordinary citizens are not allowed access to the records, they can hire a lawyer or consulting firm to request documents for a fee of \$100 to \$200 per company. The Times used this process in obtaining thousands of pages of corporate documents to review the business networks controlled by the relatives of Prime Minister Wen Jiabao.

In many cities, the local branch of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, or the S.A.I.C., as it is known, provides records for companies that are locally incorporated.

Corporate files often include details of when and where the company was incorporated, the name of the company's legal

《纽约时报》如何调查中国公司？

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中国政治体系不甚透明，但公众可以轻易获得公司及财务信息。

三十年的经济改革，以及旨在吸引外国投资的政策，催生了一系列记录私企及其主要持股者信息的政府机构。这些信息包括相关简历及官方发放的身份证复印件。

正是借助于这一体系，包括《纽约时报》在内的媒体机构能够申请查阅公司记录。尽管普通公民不被允许接触这些记录，他们可以雇佣律师事务所或咨询公司代为申请查看，查看一个公司的材料的费用从100美元到200美元不等（约合人民币600到1200元）。通过这一程序，《纽约时报》获取了数千页公司材料，以研究温家宝总理的亲属所控制的商业网络。

在许多城市，国家工商行政管理局（简称工商局）的地方分支机构可以提供在当地注册的公司信息。

公司材料通常包括了公司的成立地点及日期、法人代表姓名及主要股东名单等相关细节。材料常常还包括了财务信息，例如

representative and a list of major shareholders. There is often financial information, including a company's registered capital.

China recently tightened access to corporate information, possibly because of a growing number of corporate fraud scandals, but also media investigations into the fortunes held by the relatives of political leaders, including the former Chongqing party boss Bo Xilai.

In Beijing, for much of this year, it has been difficult to obtain corporate records from the local bureau of the S.A.I.C.

Still, most records remain publicly available, and beginning late last year The Times reviewed documents obtained in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenzhen and other cities.

The records allowed The Times to trace a network of friends and relatives of the prime minister as they built a multibillion-dollar business empire over the last decade, often with the aid of wealthy entrepreneurs.

公司的注册资金。

最近，中国加强了对人们接触公司信息的管制，可能是由于公司诈骗丑闻愈演愈烈，也可能是因为媒体对政治领导人亲属所持财富的调查，其对象包括了原中国重庆市委书记薄熙来的亲属。

在今年的大部分时间里，人们一直都很难以从北京的工商局获取公司信息。

然而，多数信息仍然可为公众获得。从去年年底开始，《纽约时报》研究了从北京、上海、天津、深圳及其他城市获取的公司信息。

根据这些信息，《纽约时报》追踪了温家宝总理亲友的关系网。在过去的十年里，常常在富商的帮助下，他们构建了一个拥有数十亿美元资产的商业帝国。

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