

North Korean Administrators Return to Switzerland for More Training

North Korean higher-ups will return to Switzerland at the end of next month for training in a variety of fields ranging from diplomacy to market-economy. According to the Geneva-based Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN), a group of current North Korean government administrators will begin one month of training in Switzerland on August 21st.

CASIN, operating under the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has invited high-level North Korean administrators to attend short-term training sessions each year since 1997. The SDC appropriated 5,000,000 Swiss Francs to DPRK support programs last year.

The exact scope of this year's training has yet to be announced, but it was reported that the SDC requested North Korea provide a list of participants for this year as soon as possible.

In 2004, fourteen administrators from a range of bureaus including foreign affairs, light industry, flood prevention, and trade attended six weeks of training in Switzerland. In addition, this group also visited Brussels, meeting with European Union officials and European Parliament representatives. Last year's participants visited the World Trade Organization (WTO) headquarters in Geneva.

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