

**Notice of the National Development and Reform Commission and the
Ministry of Finance on the Standards for Fees Collected by
Administrative Organs for Providing Open Government Information
upon Request and Other Relevant Issues**

Document *Fagaijiage* [2008] No. 1828
July 16, 2008

To All Ministries and Commissions of and Organs Directly Under the State Council, the Development and Reform Commissions, Price Bureaus and Financial Departments (Bureaus) of All Provinces, Autonomous Regions and Directly Administered Municipalities, and the Development and Reform Commission and Financial Bureau of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps:

In order to promote administration in accordance with the law and increase the transparency of government work, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Open Government Information (Order No. 492 of the State Council) and the Notice of the Ministry of Finance and the National Development and Reform Commission on Fees Collected for Providing Open Government Information and Other Relevant Issues (Document *Caizong* [2008] No. 44), we hereby notify you concerning the standards for fees collected when administrative organs provide open government information and other relevant issues as follows:

1. Administrative organs may not collect any fees for disclosing government information on their own initiative by such means as government gazettes, government websites and press conferences, as well as through newspapers and other publications, radio and television.

When providing open government information, other than information within the scope of disclosure on an organ's own initiative, upon request from a citizen, legal person or other organization, administrative organs may collect retrieval, duplicating and postage fees from the requester. The concrete standards shall be formulated in accordance with the principle of compensating costs by the departments in charge of pricing in consultation with the finance departments of the province, autonomous regions or municipality directly under the central government where the administrative organ is located, and shall be publicly announced to society. When ministries and commissions of and organs directly under the State Council collect fees for providing open government information upon request, they shall apply the fee standards formulated by the departments in charge of pricing together with the finance departments of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the central government where they are located.

2. A requester enjoying the rural minimum five-guarantee livelihood support,¹ the urban-rural resident minimum livelihood security, or the state bereavement subsidy for families of martyrs and military service personnel may be exempted from the relevant fees, on the strength of a valid certificate issued by the local township or town people's government or sub-district street office of the people's government, upon application of the affected person and after verification by the office for open government information work of an administrative organ.

3. A fee-collecting entity should handle procedures in accordance with provisions to obtain a fee collection license at the designated price department in charge, and use the financial receipts uniformly printed by the Ministry of Finance or the finance department of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the central government respectively in accordance with its financial subordination relationship.

4. A fee-collecting entity shall strictly abide by the above provisions on collecting fees, shall not increase the fee items or enlarge the scope or raise the standards of fees collected without authorization, and may not provide government information as a compensated service through any organizations or individuals, and shall voluntarily accept supervision and inspection by the finance, price and audit departments.

5. The provisions of this Notice shall apply by reference to the management of fees collected for the open government information by organizations that are authorized by law and regulations to exercise the functions of managing public.

The above provisions shall be implemented as of the date of issuance of this Notice.

National Development and Reform Commission
Ministry of Finance

July 16, 2008

¹The traditional government program to provide social relief to the poorest rural residents, normally the elderly, disabled and young orphans, guaranteed funding for the basics of food, fuel, clothing, education and burial.