

↓ EX-OFFICIAL ATTENDS INT'L CONFERENCE IN VATICAN



Huang Jiefu, former Vice Minister of Health and current head of the National Human Organ Donation and Transplant Committee, was invited by the Vatican to attend the 2017 Pontifical Academy Summit on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism at the Vatican City on February 7-8. The summit focused on anti-organ trafficking.

As the Vatican has no diplomatic ties with China, the invitation was interpreted as an olive branch extended by the state to improve ties.

Huang told the *Global Times* that he was visiting the Vatican solely in the capacity of an expert in the field, in response to assumptions that the visit amounts to diplomatic communication. Huang, 71, is an expert in hepatobiliary surgery, which focuses on the liver and gallbladder. He has devoted himself to promoting the establishment of a sustainable organ donation system in China.

Huang served as vice minister of health from November 2001 to January 2013.

