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Title

Changing Frameworks for Working with Overseas NGOs and Foundations in China and Vietnam

Abstract

In recent years, China and Vietnam have both sought to amend their frameworks for regulation of foreign nonprofit organizations and foundations operating or funding in those countries.

In China, these moves have included adopting a new Law on the Management of the Domestic Activities of Foreign Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in China, enacted in April 2016 and effective in January 2017. In Vietnam, these policy discussions have included proposed changes to the key regulations that have governed the registration and operations of foreign NGOs and foundations in Vietnam since the mid-1990s.

This paper analyzes the history of China’s and Vietnam's regulation of foreign nonprofits and foundations; the effect of external and domestic events on both countries' shifting policy climate; the emergence of new thinking in each country on the role of overseas NGOs and foundations; the new policy framework and the new Overseas NGO Law enacted in 2016 in China; the initial implementation of this new framework in China; and how the changing Chinese policy framework, and other developments, may affect policy decisions that are now being taken in Vietnam.

Keyword

China; Vietnam; Nongovernmental organizations; NGOs; Foundations; Law; Regulation