City University of Hong Kong

Department of Public & Social Administration

Research Student Seminar

Experimenting with social stability risk governance in China:
Insights from the Ping An (Safety) Association in Xintai city, Shandong Province

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by

Miss HAN Lin

PhD Student

Department of Public and Social Administration
City University of Hong Kong

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Since the mid-1980s, there has been an upsurge of academic and professional interest in the subject of risk and its governance. In China various categories of social risk have risen to the fore as dual and rapid economic and political transition intensifies. Increasingly aggravated social stability risk has provided new challenges for the Chinese government at different levels. Therefore, central and local governments regard ‘reducing social stability risk’ or ‘maintaining social stability’ as an administrative priority. In order to realize this objective, it may not be sufficient to rely on the government’s sole capacity but rather to adopt a social stability risk governance system which requires the involvement of multiple social actors including enterprises, non-government organizations, community, individuals and the family. This paper makes use of a pro-typical case study - Ping An (Safety) Association in Xintai city, Shandong province - to detail how an innovative and successful social stability risk governance mechanism created by local government was conducted. Through this case, we can see how multiple stakeholders work together to maintain social stability and their relationships.

Enquiries: Miss Cris TSAI
Tel. No.: 3442 8802 Email: lytsai@cityu.edu.hk
(Free admission)

All are welcome!