Budgetary Disclosure in China: From the Perspective of State-Society Relations

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by

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Budgetary disclosure, referring to the process of making the government budget open to the public, is a top-down initiative in China. This working paper, however, takes the volunteer team of Wu Junliang (吳君亮) as a case to explore how civil society has played a major role in promoting budgetary disclosure in recent years. It adopts a “state-in-society” perspective to examine the dynamics of the state-society relations underlying the efforts of this volunteer team. It argues that the relationship between the top leadership and civil society tends to be complementary while the relationship between implementers and civil society is competitive. Furthermore, by adopting an interactive approach, this paper discusses why the volunteer team’s effort is new and evaluates its implications for both the rise of civil society and administrative reform in China. This paper broadens our understanding of the role of the Chinese civil society and contributes to the literature on state-society relations.

KEYWORDS State-society interaction; budgetary disclosure; civil society; China

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All are welcome!