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contents

research

The Autonomy of Chinese NGOs: A New Perspective

In the same environment, some NGOs in China — both officially-organised and popular NGOs — have fared much better than others in terms of maintaining their autonomy, mobilising public support or achieving organisational sustainability and development. Officially-organised NGOs can enjoy much de facto autonomy while popular NGOs can face many constraints. The skills of NGOs in “negotiating the state” often make a crucial difference in the degree of autonomy they enjoy.

by LU Yiyi..... 173

County Leadership in China: A Baseline Survey

In early 2006, the Chinese Government outlined specific personnel reform recommendations for Government and Party organisations at the county-level. It appears that the Government is failing to meet a number of the targets set in terms of the average age of local county-level leaders, length of service, education attainment, work experience in other geographical areas, training opportunities, etc.

by Ian SECKINGTON 204

The Impact of Ownership on the Propensity to Innovate in China's Large- and Medium-sized Industrial Enterprises

With the presence of foreign-funded enterprises, it is found that domestic enterprises' performance/productivity, in terms of sales revenue per employee and ratio of gross output value to sector share, are higher. This can be largely attributed to the role of FDI. Foreign ownership in joint ventures continues to contribute to higher productivity and innovation because higher ownership allows MNCs to protect their proprietary assets and encourages them to transfer more advanced knowledge despite the spillover risk.

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Of Interest and Distrust: Understanding China's Policy Towards Japan

National dignity is an especially sensitive issue to the Chinese when it comes to relations with Japan. It is psychologically difficult for the Chinese to see Japan, a historically junior state, not facing up to the past. Though the bilateral relationship improved considerably with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's reciprocal “ice-melting visit” to Japan in April 2007, the distrust is still deep and the emotions are still raw.

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Privatisation and Private Sector Growth in China and Russia: A Comparison from the Institutional Perspective

The major institutional features which play an important role in the privatisation process and private sector growth relate to property rights and business-related law, industrial regulatory measures, the growth of capital markets and social safety net schemes. While most of the miseries that Russia suffered originated from the absence of these institutions, China with its gradualist approach had time to learn lessons from some of the Eastern European countries, especially the political backlashes.

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comments and notes

Teaching Quality and Student Outcomes: Academic Achievement and Educational Engagement in Rural Northwest China

In Gansu, as in other developing areas, poverty is generally viewed as the greatest barrier to educational opportunity. The Chinese Government is trying to eliminate cost barriers, and engagement has become recognised as an important goal of education policy. A survey suggests that if teachers can create classroom environments where students feel they are treated fairly, cared for and able to participate in various interactions with their teachers and classmates, higher levels of engagement may be attained.

by Xuehui AN, Emily HANNUM and Tanja SARGENT 309

Resolving Legitimacy Problems: A Case Study of the Shooting in Taiwan's 2004 Presidential Election

Due to the election-eve shooting of President Chen Shui-bian and Vice President Annette Lu, Taiwan's 2004 presidential election results continue to be hotly debated. However, instead of endlessly re-examining what happened that day, perhaps all attention now should be devoted to instituting measures which will prevent all possible doubts surrounding the legitimacy of future elections.

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To promote both academic and policy-oriented research on East Asian development, particularly the political, economic and social development of contemporary China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), and its growing economic integration with the world and the political and security implications for the region.