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Research Support for China's Public Policy

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December 9, 2009



Outline

- I. Introduction: the Context of China's public policy
- II. China's Public Policy System
- III. Policy research for public policy
- IV. Health System Research: A case

I - Introduction: the context

□ Public Policy

- The combination of basic decisions, commitments, and actions made by those who hold or affect government positions of authority.

□ Public Policy Process

- Agenda, Alternatives and deliberation, Decision, Implementation

□ Process models

- Muddling through; Garbage can; Institutional analysis; Punctuated-equilibrium framework...

Specific Examples of Policies in the Chinese Context:

- National--Strategic directions
 - Openness and reform; health system reform;
- National legislations, administrative ordinance, and national plans;
 - E.g. Law on emergency management;
 - E.g. Median and long-range S&T plan;
- Ministerial administrative decisions:
 - E.g. Policies to encourage indigenous innovation, MOST
- Provincial and local administrative ordinances:
 - E.g. Local government budget;
- Provincial and local government decisions:
 - E.g. to set up a development zones.

II. China's Public Policy system

- Players inside the political establishment
 - The party system—Strategic directions (SD)
 - People's Congress—SD and legislations
 - Political Consultative Conference--SD
 - State Council—administrative ordinance and national plans

- Players outside the political establishment
 - public organizations--SD
 - Think tanks;
 - NGOs; Media; Interest groups; and etc.
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Characteristics of policy issues

- First dimension—level of authority
 - National, provincial/ministerial, municipal, and local;
- Second dimension—level of expertise
 - Economic policy, foreign policy, social policy, industrial policy...
- Third dimension—level of discretion
 - Legislation, ordinances, administrative decisions;

Policy process

- The discussion/debate and negotiation /bargaining process among the players in and outside the formal policy system.
- The overall objective is to find consensus in the policy system, which are dependent on:
 - The distribution of authority;
 - The distribution of knowledge;
 - The distribution of discretionary power.

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- Advocacy coalition between players in and outside the formal policy system is increasingly more important:
 - Policy entrepreneur
 - Informal network and coalitions on policy issues
 - The new-triangle coalition:
 - Intellectual elite-media-NGOs

Research support for public policy

- Policy research offices inside the government
- Policy research organizations affiliated with the government:
 - State Council Research Office, DRC;
 - Ministerial Research Organizations, etc.
- Academic Institutions
 - Chinese academy of Social Sciences
 - Universities
- Think tanks and other organizations

IV. Health system reform-a case

- ❑ In 2005, State Council DRC published a report claiming that China's medical system reform has been a failure;
- ❑ The report was enthusiastically received by the public and relevant government agency was under great pressure;
- ❑ In 2006, medical system reform was brought to the policy agenda. A national leading group was formed by a coalition of 14 government agencies in September;

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- Internal policy studies by policy research organizations affiliated with Ministry of Health were arranged to focus on four major issues;
 - Six independent outside policy studies were commissioned by the leading group:
 - Three domestic policy research organizations—DRC, CCER of Peking University, and Fudan University;
 - Three international organizations—World Bank, WHO, and Mckinsey;

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- ❑ A major policy conference was convened in 2007 to discuss the 6 proposals;
 - ❑ Three more unsolicited proposals were submitted to the leading group;
 - ❑ A draft of the health system reform plan was published for public critique in 2008;
 - ❑ Major revisions were done based on feedback and inputs from various groups including the public through the internet.
 - ❑ April 6, 2009, the final reform plan was published.

Thanks!

