

**05.04.18**

---

**gLAWcal**  
**Comment #210**

**CHINESE NGOS IN CLIMATE  
CHANGE DEBATE**

---

*Based on*

**Zhixiong Huang “The Development of  
NGOs in China: A Case Study on Their  
Involvement with Climate Change”**



## A gLAWcal comment on Zhixiong Huang "The Development of NGOs in China: A Case Study on Their Involvement with Climate Change" in Paolo Davide Farah and Elena Cima (Eds.) China's Influence on Non-Trade Concerns in International Economic Law

---

Zhixiong Huang in his chapter "The Development of NGOs in China: A Case Study on their Involvement with Climate Change" in the book "China's Influence on Non-Trade Concerns in International Economic Law" reveals that there is a thriving collaboration and coordination between the State and civil society working in the field of environmental protection and climate change. The Chinese government has recognized that NGOs might be also perceived as one of the useful channels to solve environmental problems. The concept of civil society in China needs to be seen in the country's specific political context. For instance, the term NGOs is not used in China to describe civil society organizations. The term "social organizations" is widely used in China, emphasizing their role as one of the important societal actors in the complex web of the Chinese society. The fields of environmental protection and climate change count increasingly as non-controversial, as the Government has also official declared its commitment to combat climate change and to improve environmental protection. Hence, the Government in order to realize its own objectives rely on the support of Chinese NGOs. Thus, social organizations might for instance submit proposals and amendments to the existing legislation, which are essentially taken over and adopted by the Government. The task of civil society organizations is to repeatedly confirm and defend relevance of their existence and activities before the Chinese government. An important step, in this regard, represent the more and more frequent par-

ticipation in international fora, such as the Copenhagen Summit or the Conference of Parties in Bali. These occasions provide social organizations with an opportunity to present their work and get international exposure. Such activities might also help organizations to enhance their expertise, which might strengthen their position in relation to the Government.



Cite as: gLAWcal Comment #210 "Chinese NGOs in climate change debate " (2018) based on Zhixiong Huang "The Development of NGOs in China: A Case Study on Their Involvement with Climate Change", in Paolo Davide Farah & Elena Cima (Editors), China's Influence on Non-Trade Concerns in International Economic Law, gLAWcal Book Series, Routledge Publishing (New-York/London), 2016

The gLAWcal comments are insight and short analytical pieces written by the gLAWcal team. The gLAWcal comments are based on, and inspired by, the books and chapters published within one of the [gLAWcal book series](#) published by Routledge Publishing (New York/London).

gLAWcal is an independent non-profit research organization (think tank) that aims at providing a new focus on issues related to economic law, globalization and development, namely the relationship between international economy and trade, with special attention to a number of non-trade-related values and concerns. Through research and policy analysis, gLAWcal sheds a new light on issues such as good governance, human rights, right to water, rights to food, social, economic and cultural rights, labour rights, access to knowledge, public health, social welfare, consumer interests and animal welfare, climate change, energy, environmental protection and sustainable development, product safety, food safety and security.

## OUR MISSION

To collaborate with Government, Civil society and business community to balance the excess of globalization with Non Trade Concerns.

## OUR GOALS

To influence policymakers, to raise awareness over Non Trade Concerns, to encourage stakeholder participation, and to disseminate gLAWcal's publication results.



**gLAWcal**  
Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development

**Email:** [research@glawcal.org.uk](mailto:research@glawcal.org.uk)

**Website:** [glawcal.org.uk](http://glawcal.org.uk)

**Facebook:** gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development

**Twitter:** @gLAWcal

**LinkedIn:** gLAWcal