

# *The 2010-2011 China-Vietnam Inter-party Relations*

Wei Wang

School of International Studies of Jinan University  
Guangzhou, Guangdong, China  
victorywangwei@126.com

**Abstract**—The inter-party diplomacy is an important part of China-Vietnam relationship. In the period 2010-2011, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) engaged constantly, the forms and contents of the relationship had shown more plentiful than before. Specific performance of in the following four aspects: 1) the achievements of political dialogue between the two parties were significant; 2) the issues of the party principle politics experience became broader; 3) the economic interaction was going deeper; 4) the communication activities on the third-party platform were more frequent. China-Vietnam relationship can be consolidated and developed in the future through deepening the ties of the two parties, as well as cooperating with other diplomatic forms.

**Keywords**—the inter-party relations; Chinese Communist Party; Communist Party of Vietnam Introduction

## I. INTRODUCTION

2010 and 2011 was important years for the Communist Party of China and the Communist Party of Vietnam. 2010 was the 80th anniversary of the founding of the CPV and the 60th anniversary of China-Vietnam relationship, as well as the “China- Vietnam Friendship” year; 2011 was 90th anniversary of the founding of CPC and the 20th anniversary of the “Normalization of Sino-Vietnam relations”. These two years was special to the parties of China and Vietnam, this article is aimed to explore the inter-party relations between the two parties.

## II. THE INTER-PARTY DIPLOMACY

Inter-party diplomacy is a tool that one state party adopted to promote foreign relations. For China, inter-party diplomacy refers to CPC in the name of political party rather than the government interacts with the parties from other countries.[1] Inter-party diplomacy can introduce the idea of state governing to the international community of CPC, and build a good image of our party and country.

The principle of inter-party diplomacy of CPC and CPV experienced a process of creating and developing. Communist Party Congress in 1997 formed the “Four Principles” of the relationship which named “independence, complete equality, mutual respect and noninterference in each other’s internal affairs”. In 2001, the president of China Jiang Zemin made a speech for celebrating the 80th anniversary of the CPC, he said that CPC would create and develop the relations with other parties based on the Four Principles.[2] Since the Sixteenth Congress, CPC paid more attention on the flexibility and interactive features of the diplomacy in accordance with

the concept of building a harmonious world and the Four Principles.[3]

For the CPV, “the CPV Eighth Congress” in 1996 adjusted their diplomatic strategy, which was characterized by “an independent, comprehensive and diverse” diplomatic pattern. Apart from the government-to-government relations, they attached importance to the relationship between the parties and the people.[4] At the Ninth Congress, the CPV established the “party building” mission, which required CPV to strengthen the communication with other ruling parties of the socialist countries. From then on, the CPV has established the friendly relationship with 222 political parties (including 93 Communist Party) from 115 countries.[5] The CPV has always concerned about exchanging information and ideas with the above-mentioned parties on the national construction and the major international issues.

China and Vietnam are socialist countries, they built the a “16-character guidelines” which could described as “long-term stability, future orientation, good-neighborly friendship and comprehensive cooperation” in 1999, and then the two countries upgraded bilateral relations to the “strategic partnership”. From the beginning of the new century, the CPC and CPV maintained a good party-to-party relations. Especially in 2010 and 2011, the relationship between the two parties has developed further.

## III. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CPC-CPV RELATIONS

### A. Increasing political dialogue

On February 2010, the Central Committee of CPC called the CPV to congratulate the 80th anniversary of the establishment, and expressed the willingness to enrich and develop the “China-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” on the basis of their traditional friendship. In the same year, the vice-president of China Xi Jinping met with Vietnamese Vice President Nguyen Thi Doan, and the latter said that CPV was encouraged by CPC on account of the leading role in getting over the international financial crisis in 2008 successfully.

At January 19, 2011, the 11th congress of CPV closed. A month later, The Huang Pingjun who was the special envoy of the CPV Central Committee General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong visited to China, he reported the contents of the congress and stressed that new central collective leadership would adhere the “16-character guidelines” and “four-good spirit”, as well as consolidate and develop the traditional friendship between the two parties and the peoples in the two

countries. On June 30, the CPV sent a message to CPC for congratulating to its 90th anniversary, expressing that “they were sure that under the leadership of the CPC, China would complete the goals and tasks of the 12th Five Year Plan successful and construct the well-off society and harmonious society.” [6] In the mid-October, the newly elected CPV central Committee General secretary Nguyen Phu Trong first visited to China and talked with the leader of CPC Hu Jintao. During the talk, Hu said that the two parties should firstly enhance strategic mutual trust by means of maintaining the high-level exchanges and regular contacts, secondly continue to hold the theory seminars, expand the scale of officials exchanges, and provide the theoretical guidance, intellectual support and personnel security for the development of the two parties. After the talk, China and Vietnam issued a joint statement, opened the hotline between the leaders of both sides, and signed the “CPC and CPV Collaboration Plan (2011-2015)” and the “Agreement on the Basic Principles Guiding the Resolution of Maritime Issues between China and Vietnam” and so on. Nguyen Phu Trong’s visit put the cooperation of the two parties toward a climax.

It is worth mentioning that the “Agreement on the Basic Principles Guiding the Resolution of Maritime Issues between China and Vietnam” would serve as an important guidance for the two countries to deal with maritime issues. Since the U. S. returned to South East Asia in 2010, the contradictions have grown in breadth and depth between China and the countries in South East Asia, Vietnam included. The nationalist sentiment in China and Vietnam has provoked by the South China Sea dispute over and over again, and it was bad to the long-term development of the bilateral relations. Therefore, the sign of the agreement had a significance to solving the problem of the sovereignty of South China sea.

In the end of 2011, Xi Jinping paid an official visit to Vietnam, aimed to promote the consensus in “Sino-Vietnam Joint Statement”. On the relationship between the two parties, Xi argued that we must devote to implementing the five-year cooperation program and expanding cadre training; deepening the exchange of experiences and strengthening the research cooperation on major theoretical and practical problems; promoting bipartisan counterparts cooperation and creating a good atmosphere for the development of bilateral relations.”[7] During the visit, Xi and some CPV officials also met with some youth representatives from the two countries, Xi also made a lot of recommendations about that how to inspire the young people to play a role in the relationship between the two parties and two countries.

#### *B. Frequent Exchanges of the party governance experience*

In the period 2010-2011, the anti-corruption and democracy was the main content of the communication. The leaders of the two parties repeatedly stressed the importance of anti-corruption and democracy. The CPC Central Committee argued that anti-corruption was vital to the survival of our party, the CPV’s General Secretary Nong Duc Manh also said that corruption was the “national calamity”, anti-corruption was on the top priority of party building. [8] In April 2010, Yong He, who was the Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and the deputy secretary of the Central Discipline

met with the cadres training group, both sides agreed to strengthen pragmatic cooperation and share the anti-corruption practices and experiences deeply.

Prompted by President Hu Jintao's drive for “scientific development”, Chinese government has been on a drive to reduce corruption. The Vietnamese party and government officials have visited to China for many times to learn about the theoretical innovation of CPC. The CPV believed that the concept of scientific development came from the strategic vision and the governing experience of China’s leaders, it was not only suitable to Chinese realities, but also had a great significance for the construction and social management of Vietnam’s party.

Strengthening the training of carders was an important part of the communication of the party governing experience. In April 2010, the central committee of the CPV Phung Quoc Hien visited China, when he met with the central committee of the CPC Gang Wang, he pointed that we communicated each other in the forms of carders training was beneficial to construct and develop of socialism, and it also embodied the mutual trust and support between the two countries.

In October, the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China invited Vietnam diplomats to attend a briefing on a special topic, and introduced the spirit of the fifth plenary session of the 17th CPC Central Committee to them. Before the leaking meeting, Chinese officials reported the China’s political party system, the ruling mode of the CPC, the democracy within the party and the poverty alleviation development project to the diplomats. The officials from Vietnam pointed that this type of project briefing could help Vietnam have a deeper understanding of the CPC’s policy.

Some scholars believe that the democratic reform within the CPV started later than China, but the pace is bigger than CPC’s, in some areas has been walking in the front of China. The main achievements in this field of CPV included the following aspects: firstly, strengthening the supervision of the Central Committee to the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the Central Committee; Secondly, implementing the system of making inquiries in the Central Plenary Session; Thirdly, releasing the draft report ahead of the national party congress; fourthly, putting the competitive election and information openness into effect; Last but not the least, building a mechanism to reducing the average age of cadres. [9]

CPV positive approach in the construction of democracy within the party provided the useful experience and enlightenment to CPC. CPC also regarded democracy as “the party's life”, during 2010 and 2011, the Vietnamese party and government officials visited to China many times, scholars from both sides demonstrated that the Communist Party should develop democracy in the fickle international and domestic situation.

#### *C. Focusing on economic interaction*

Economic cooperation is a important content in the China-Vietnam party relationship, almost every leader of CPC has mentioned that diplomacy of political party was served to

economic construction. Economical development is not only concerning the national economy and people's livelihood, but also vital to the peace and security of the world. Especially after the global financial crisis in 2008, how to promote the long-term development of the emerging economies is a big problem in front of the two parties.

In March 2010, the provincial party secretary of Shanxi Leji Zhao led a delegation to visit to the Export Processing Zones and New Urban Area in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam appreciated the active participation of Shanxi province in China-Vietnam economic cooperation and welcomed the investment of Shanxi government and enterprises. The delegation from party committee of central enterprises of Vietnam visited China to study the management mechanism and reform experience of Chinese state-owned enterprises in September 2011.

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong visited to China in the same year, he went to Guangdong province to learn its positive experience in economic transformation and industrial upgrading. Besides, he argued that he would devote himself to strengthen the cooperation of trade and investment, science and technology, education and culture between Vietnam and Guangdong. This showed that a new diplomatic form called "governments set up the stage, various departments cooperate and enterprise put in the show" has appeared, and it enriched the contents of inter-party diplomacy.

#### *D. The Strengthened parties exchanges on third-party platforms*

- International Conference of Asian Political Parties(ICAPP)

In July 2010, ICAPP held a special meeting of Asian Political Parties Poverty in Kunming, Yunnan. The two parties as well as other 57 parties from 30 Asian countries discussed the issues which focus on three themes: "Helping the poor: the shared responsibility of Asian political parties", "Exploring the road for poverty alleviation of Asia" and "The Role of poverty alleviation of Asia in achieving the UN Millennium development goals".[10] The two parties believed that the most important thing in poverty reduction was keeping the international cooperation and sharing the experiences. China's poor people had dropped from 250 million in 1978 to 36 million in 2009, this was a great achievement of the Chinese economy and society. The experience of solve the "Three Rural Issues" for CPV was worth learning. The two parties attended the International Conference of Asian Political Parties in Cambodia in December 2010, at the meeting, they argued that they would cooperate with each other closely and jointly promote the Conference becoming a multilateral party forums that each party could communicate equally and frankly, and build mutual trust.

- International Meeting of the Communist and Workers Parties(IMCWP)

The Twelfth IMCWP was held in Tshwane, South Africa on 3-5 December 2010, the theme of this meeting was "the Communists' mission to protect the sovereignty, strengthen Social Union and Anti-Imperialist Front in the struggle for peace, progress and socialism. In this meeting, the CPC, CPV and parties from other Asia countries discussed the issues as follows: the global financial crisis, the major changes in the international balance of power, America's containment strategy in China, as well as the international communist movement under the crisis. The two parties considered that they should united the international non-governmental organization (NGO) to carry out the international communist movement based on their national conditions.

#### IV. SUMMARY

This paper reviews the context of inter-party diplomacy between China and Vietnam in the period of 2010-2011. First of all, in the hierarchy of inter-party diplomacy, the political dialogue became diverse that reflected in two aspects: 1) high-level inter-party communication. The leaders from both parties shared views on bilateral relations and major international issues. In the way of dialogue, the two parties could have a good understanding of the respective development strategies and ideas, policy-making process, policy objectives and the solution of problems; 2) middle and grassroots inter-party exchanges. Local level exchanges were beneficial to building the grass-roots organizations.

Secondly, the party communication mechanism was combined the irregular situation investigation with regular exchanges and actions. The combination was beneficial to grasp the successful and inadequate experience timely, understand each other's culture, stage of development, achievements and difficulties. Thirdly, the two parties strengthened the communication in the international political arena on the basis of bilateral relations. There is a common saying that "don't forget old friends, make new friends", which showed that the cooperation of CPC and CPV need to go to a larger stage. The two parties should make a progress together to protect the rights and create a favorable international environment for domestic development.

The inter-party diplomacy partly alleviated the South China Sea dispute between China and Vietnam, and promoted the development of other areas. However, the inter-party diplomacy would work well with official diplomacy and people-to-people diplomacy, therefore, how to coordinate the relationship between the three described above and form a multi-channel, multi-level and diversified interaction pattern is a major task in the future.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Yu Li, Turn and Innovation of the Inter-Party Communication Theory, Jiangnan Tribune,2007,pp.17-21. (in Chinese)
- [2] Zemin Jiang, Selected Works of Jiang Zemin (Volume 3), Beijing: People Press, 2006. (in Chinese)

- [3] Shangjin Chai, Promoting inter-party exchanges and innovation in the concept of building a harmonious world, *The Contemporary World*,2007, pp:17-19. (in Chinese)
- [4] Zhen Huang, Le Thi Thu Hong, The Foreign Strategy after Vietnam's Renewal Policy and China- Vietnam Relation, *Around Souneast Asia*,2010,pp:34-37. (in Chinese)
- [5] Hongwei Yin, A long-term look at the future of Vietnam and China - Interview with Vietnamese ambassador Nguyen Van poetry in China, *South Reviews*,2010,pp:83-84. (in Chinese)
- [6] The International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, <http://www.idcpc.org.cn/duiwai/niandugaikuang/2011/110630-1.htm>, accessed to 17 May 2016. (in Chinese)
- [7] The International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, <http://www.idcpc.org.cn/duiwai/niandugaikuang/2011/111221-1.htm>, accessed to 16 May 2016. (in Chinese)
- [8] Xuhui Li, Fanghui Zheng, Inspiration of the Communist Party of Cuba and Vietnam's Party Construction to the Construction of the Advanced Quality of the CPC, *Economic and Social Development*,2008,pp:42-46. (in Chinese)
- [9] Dali Ren, Vietnam's Reference and Surpassing of the Chinese Reform, *the Learning Monthly*, Vol.3, 2007, pp.50-51. (in Chinese)
- [10] The International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the CPC,<http://www.idcpc.org.cn/duiwai/niandugaikuang/2010/100717.htm>, accessed to 20 May 2016. (in Chinese)