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Vietnam: New Regulations Improve the Law on Access to Information

A review of the legal framework for the right to information in Vietnam, based on the adoption in January 2018 of new regulations, has increased Vietnam's score from 69 to 76 points out of a possible total of 150 points on the <u>RTI Rating</u>, which puts it in 78th place out of the 123 countries around the world whose laws are currently assessed on the Rating. The Centre for Law and Democracy worked with a local organisation, Towards Transparency, the national contact of Transparency International in Vietnam, to review the Rating. In 2017, the two organisations collaborated in providing inputs into the regulations.

"It is encouraging to see Vietnam improve its legal framework for RTI," said Toby Mendel, Executive Director, CLD. "Hopefully now some effort can be put into implementing the law and then it could perhaps be reviewed in a few years to fill in some gaps and address some weaknesses."

Some of the gains on Vietnam's RTI Rating score were based on gaps that were addressed through the regulations, while others were based on different laws that had not been taken into account in the original rating, which Towards Transparency brought to CLD's attention.

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