

Vietnam: Right to Information Law weak

Vietnam recently adopted a Law on Access to Information, which gives citizens the right to request and receive information from public bodies (known internationally as right to information or RTI laws). This follows a long period of discussion and debate about adopting such a law. According to the **RTI Rating, a globally recognised methodology** for assessing the strength of such laws, the Law earns **68 points out of a possible total of 150**, putting it in **86th place globally from among 112 countries**, well into the bottom one-third.

"We are happy to welcome Vietnam into the group of countries with right to information laws", said Toby Mendel, Executive Director of Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD). "This is a good start and hopefully local people will start using the Law, which can then grow and be developed."

Although the Law is weak, some **improvements were made over the August, 2015 version**, which was assessed at the time by the CLD. The August version of the draft Law only earned **59 points** on the RTI Rating. Experience in other countries suggests that what is important at this point is for people to start using the Law and testing its boundaries. It can then grow in strength over time.

CLD urges local organisations and individuals, to make requests under the Law when it comes into effect (July, 2018), and to see what information they can obtain. In due course, we call on the Vietnamese authorities to review the Law with a view to introducing amendments to strengthen it.

- **Read full analysis of Vietnam's Law on Access to Information provided by CLD.**

- **Learn more about the RTI Rating.**
- **Read full analysis of Vietnam's Draft Law on Access to Information (August, 2015) provided by CLD.**
- **Study the Law on Access to Information of Vietnam** (unofficial translation provided by Towards Transparency – the National Contact of Transparency International in Vietnam).

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Scoring of Vietnam's Law on access to information: RTI rating

Section	Max Points	Score for Draft of Law on Access to information (8/2015)	Final Score for official Law on Access to information (4/2016)
1. Right of Access	6	2	3
2. Scope	30	16	16
3. Requesting Procedures	30	12	16
4. Exceptions and Refusals	30	10	14
5. Appeals	30	8	9
6. Sanctions and Protections	8	2	2
7. Promotional measures	16	9	8
Total	150	59	68

