

Religious Policy of Vietnam

—From an administrative organization after Doi Moi—

2nd year student

Vietnam Field School

Research Area : The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

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Key words: Caodai, Community, State,

Background and objectives of my research

My research theme is to consider a relationship of the religious community - society through Vietnamese new religion Caodaism. For The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, settles of variety religious and ethnic group is not negligible problem so as to govern throughout its domain. Express about religious matters, in late years the Vietnamese religious circumstances tend to be pointed to a variety of the religion and activation of the activity. However, remain unclear about organization constitution of the religious community and relationship with the Nation.

Caodaism is a minority but connection between believers is strong, because they live in mass and help each other. In Vietnam where regulation for the religion is severe, I expose a focus how such a religious group is going to maintain own organization. Concretely, I aim to clarify the position of the religious community in the Vietnamese society by grasping both relations Religious community - Society <outside> and Religious community - Believers <inside>. My research has Universality theme such as Society-Religion relation, therefore this does not end up with mere an area study only in Vietnam, but also deserve to comparison another area studies.



Fig 1: Caodai temple in the suburbs of Ho Chi Minh City
Festival



Fig 2: In the same temple as Fig 1
It can be confirmed that a Buddhist monk is invited

Until now, I clarified the system of religious management by the nation. In this system, government of Vietnam tend to govern the religion by legalize many religious communities in sequence. By this deal, government of Vietnam can control underground religious organizations and can fixes own regime. However, this viewpoint from the government left out the religious community aspect, I will consider from this respect.



Fig 3: Another temple

A pharmacy is established next to the temple