Managing Tensions in the South China Sea: Comparing the China-Vietnam and China-Philippines Approaches

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    - Philippine Arbitration Case against China: unilateral
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    - Scarborough Shoal
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  ➢ spat over resources development
Dispute Management Approaches: comparison and assessment(1)

• China-Vietnam approach
  ➢ A highly structured and systematic mechanism of talks
  ➢ Taken shape through years of tension and interactions
  ➢ New initiatives since 2011
Dispute Management Approaches: comparison and assessment (2)

China-Philippine approach
Practical measures for dispute management since 1995

- Increased tension and *ad hoc* control
- Divergent approaches
Conclusions

- China and Vietnam have developed extensive mechanisms for managing differences in the SCS.
- China and the Philippines have not developed such mechanisms for managing their differences in the SCS.
- This basic difference can help explain the way in which tension has been addressed in recent years.
- Despite progress, continued efforts are needed between China and Vietnam.
- China and the Philippines need to establish better mechanisms to address their differences.
- All three parties can positively contribute to regional efforts and to the ASEAN-China dialogue on the SCS.