

## Xiuye Tony Zhao

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Xiuye Tony Zhao is a highly-motivated professional with over eight years experience in diplomacy, research and government relations.

Zhao currently serves as the Director for Asia Operations at the State Legislative Leaders Foundation, a national nonprofit organization representing legislative leaders in all fifty states. Zhao spearheaded the creation of SLLF's China program since he joined in 2014. The program, "US-China Subnational Legislatures Exchange Mechanism", aims to build and strengthen ties on the state and local level between US and China and received presidential endorsement in 2015 during President Xi Jinping's state visit to the US.

For the past six years, Zhao has organized and led numerous US state delegations to visit China, and has hosted Chinese provincial and business leaders visiting the states. His work has promoted exchange between states and provinces by connecting political and business leaders with business and investment opportunities on both sides.

Prior to joining SLLF, Zhao worked as a research assistant at the Brookings Institution John L. Thornton China Center, conducting research on US-China relations and Chinese elite politics. Zhao also worked in government relations industry in Washington DC representing clients on Capitol Hill after he graduated from the Elliott School of International affairs at George Washington University with a Master's degree in International Affairs.