Actors in cooperation: Case study of low-carbon energy governance in Hong Kong

Tracy Ting Ting Cheung

Joint-PhD researcher

Institute of Geography, University of Hamburg (Germany) and

Geography and Planning, Macquarie University (Australia)

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Dr. Sara Fuller and Prof. Dr. Juergen Ossenbruegge

tracy.cheung@hdr.mq.edu.au

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Hong Kong

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Photo: Wikipedia (Hong Kong)

Cities: from “the source of problem” to “solution to the problem”

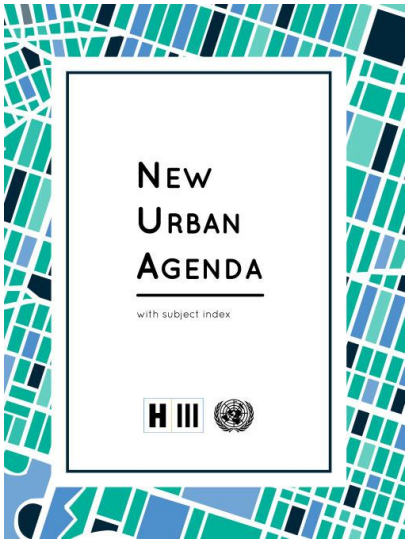

Photo: UN-Habitat & IPCC

Cities: from “the source of problem” to “solution to the problem”

- What conditions and factors that facilitate the translation of common ecological goals into collaborative actions?
- How to ensure a balance of actors’ interests and enable a convergence of priorities?

Definition of cooperative governance

- A process of “coordination, management and ‘steering’” towards a low-carbon energy development (p331, Gregory et al., 2009)
- Involving a range of state and non-state actors with various interests in some aspects of provision and consumption of energy (Rutherford &Jaglin, 2015, Rutherford &Coutard 2014)
- Actors are linked in relations of deliberate and/or indirect cooperation, in seeking compromise and consensus to promote collective interests (Ansell & Gash, 2008)

Research questions

Through a case study of Hong Kong, we address the following two questions:

- What are the features of cooperative interactions between state and non-state stakeholders, highlighting the consensual dynamics of actors?
- What are the implications to low-carbon energy governance?

Methods

I. Policy review

Statistics and policy and grey literature (for recent 10-15 years)

II. Field research in 2015 and 2018

Semi-structured interviews with informants from local authority, power companies, business associations, NGOs and universities

Findings: Three key policies in Hong Kong

1. Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2030+, issued in 2017

- Local carbon intensity reduction targets (Not mandatory): 50-60% by 2020
- Transition from coal-fired electricity to gas: by 2020, fuel mix— 50% natural gas, 25% of coal and 25% of non-fossil fuels

2. Scheme of Control Agreements (SCAs), after *Public Consultation on Future Fuel Mix for Electricity Generation* in 2015

- Allow continuous, 15-year terms for two power companies : 2018-2033 for CLP and 2019-2033 for HEC

3. Feed-in Tariff Scheme, set in 2018

- CLP and HEC to provide financial incentives for less than 1MW solar PV and wind system installation until 2033*

Thank you very much ☺
Any feedback and questions are appreciated!

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