

Transnational Network and Participation in Regional Cooperation – Asia

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Abstract

This paper reviews states' participation in regional environmental institutions, in order to understand the participatory methods in Asian countries. It seeks to answer how economic and political dimensions motivate Asian countries in transnational networks of regional environmental institutions. A few studies have tried to explain the causes of difficulties in cooperation in the region, however literature shows contradicting understandings about the role of economic and political dimensions in environmental cooperation (Hamilton, 2003; Choi, 2003; Kim, Kim, Ahn & Lee, 1998). Lambin addressed three conditions of the human-environment system: Information, Motivation, and Capacity - this paper concentrates on Motivation, especially in the economic and political dimensions.

This paper will mainly analyze the participation of North-East Asian countries, especially in intergovernmental Asian regional environmental institutions. The economic dimension will be examined by cost benefit analysis of domestic views, while diplomatic factors will be considered as political dimension in this paper. There are some data and cases used as tool to analyze. Economic indicators and Social Discount Rate, as well as background information of 15 existing regional intergovernmental institutions in Asia are data that will show the general structure of the institutions, while the North-West Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) are used as case studies.

The results of this analysis show that security issues and political leadership, in addition to the diplomatic merit of participating in Asian transnational networks is high. I argue that by working on increasing economical, cultural, historical and institutional motivations, Asian countries can be further motivated and become committed to regional environmental cooperation.

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