P09 / Comparative Policy and Governance for Sustainable Development in Asia

Topic : COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY

Chair : Congmian Jiao (Kyoto Sangyo University)

Second Chair : Masao Kikuchi (Meiji University)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

One of the major objectives of this panel is to bring together scholars and practitioners from diverse public policy fields and countries to explore various policy and management issues in Asian countries from a comparative perspective. Given Asia's global share in terms of population, GDP, energy consumption, and CO2 emissions, it is clear that resolving Asia's policy challenges is crucial for building a sustainable future. Asian countries face a wide range of complex policy and management challenges, many of which require innovative solutions tailored to their specific contexts.

Furthermore, each country in Asia faces unique challenges. For example, more than 29.3% of Japan's population is aged 65 years and above, the highest proportion in the world. This places a heavy policy and financial burden on the Japanese government to cover rising costs related to healthcare, pensions, and long-term care, while its financial and administrative capacity is shrinking due to a declining working-age population.

China also confronts significant issues. Its economic growth has been heavily reliant on exports and investment, but a shrinking labor force, declining birthrate, and aging population pose major challenges to its industrial structure, consumer market, and social security systems. Environmental and resource concerns also loom large: rapid economic development has led to environmental degradation, inefficient resource use, and severe air and soil pollution, all of which threaten China's sustainable development.

Many experts and practitioners have studied Asian policy issues from a comparative perspective. Sharing these comparative policy studies is valuable not only for the academic community but also for the development of the Asian region and the world at large. In particular, focusing on sustainable development policy across different Asian contexts is critical for advancing solutions to global challenges. In addition, we aim to contribute to developing future research issues by deepening the discussion on the specificity or universality of sustainability concept, governance theory, and democracy that arise from the historical and socio-cultural background of the region.

The panel aims to offer a valuable opportunity to discuss various policy and management issues in Asian countries from a comparative perspective. We welcome conceptual, methodological, and empirical contributions that address policy and management issues in Asian countries at the managerial, organizational, institutional, and specific policy levels, with a special focus on comparative research into sustainable development policies. Case studies that adopt a comparative approach are also encouraged. This panel is hosted and organized by the Public Policy Studies Association Japan (PPSAJ).

CALL FOR PAPERS

The purpose of this panel is to explore various policy and management challenges related to sustainable development in Asian countries from a comparative perspective. The panel invites both theoretical and empirical papers that examine these challenges in diverse Asian contexts. The objective is to extract valuable academic insights and practical implications from Asia's experiences with sustainability-related policy and management issues, viewed through a comparative lens.

Questions the papers could address include, but are not limited to, the following: (i) What are the impacts of socio-economic conditions on governance, policy, and management challenges, particularly those related to sustainability? (ii) How do institutional arrangements enable or constrain the effectiveness of policies aimed at promoting sustainable development? (iii) How can governments enhance policy performance under uncertainty and resource constraints, while addressing sustainability concerns? (iv) How can governments manage policy and management issues that transcend national boundaries, especially in relation to environmental sustainability?

Overall, by sharing insights into these questions based on Asian experiences in addressing sustainability challenges across different policy and management contexts, this panel aims to extract practical lessons and academic implications for broader governance and policy issues. The panel will place special emphasis on understanding how sustainable development goals can be integrated into governance structures and policy frameworks in the Asian region.

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Session 1

Wednesday, July 2nd 13:45 to 15:45 (C1)

Contrasting Policy Pathways: A Comparative Analysis of EV Policy Design and Variations in Indonesia and Thailand

Chunhua Ye (National University of Singapore)

Yixian Sun (University of Bath)

Yiyun Xia (LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

Southeast Asia (SEA) faces the dual challenge of industrial upgrading and green supply chains to meet Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, where green technologies can be key solutions. This paper examines the electric vehicle (EV) policies of Thailand and Indonesia, investigating how their distinct industrial bases and institutional frameworks shape their policy design in the EV sector. Thailand, leveraging its well-established automotive industry, adopts an incremental, goal-oriented approach, supported by strong policy integration and foreign investments. In contrast, Indonesia employs a resource-driven, transformative strategy, prioritising battery production through its nickel reserves but struggling with fragmented governance. The study identifies key differences in policy priorities, transformation approaches, and policy integration between the two countries, shaped by industrial legacies, institutional capacities, and policy traditions. Findings underscore the need for tailored strategies that enhance governance coherence, foster stakeholder collaboration, and align industrial growth with decarbonisation goals in SEA.

National Green Tribunal: Maneuvering the Environmental Justice Paradigm in India

Shailendra Kumar (Magadh University)

A process of inclusive development is necessary to strike a balance between public needs, economic development and environment that can ensure practical improvement in people's well-being and ability to live meaningful lives. Environmental justice promotes mechanisms of environmental sustainability and social participation in the appropriate development process. To promote environmental justice, the Indian judiciary has expanded the constitutional provisions to integrate human rights and environment in the context of protection of human dignity and environment. The **National Green Tribunal (NGT**) was established on 18 October 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act (NGT Act), 2010. This Act was enacted through Parliament under the provision of Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which emphasizes the right to live in a clean and healthy environment.

Despite this, there is a need to further expand the scope of NGT for environmental protection by establishing coordination with the development activities taking place in the country so that the environment can also be protected along with the development of the country. Through this research paper, an attempt has been made to evaluate the environmental dispute resolution system in India. It attempts to examine the need for an alternative institution to the National Green Tribunal for hearing environmental cases. It also examines the necessity of an Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism for environmental justice in contemporary times by interpreting some of the most discussed and important environmental decisions of the National Green Tribunal. It examines the symbiotic relationship between joint decision making power of legal and environmental experts/scientists and environmental mediation by specifically evaluating the statutory jurisdiction and related matters of the Tribunal in the context of environmental protection.

Keywords: National Green Tribunal, Environmental Justice, India, Judiciary

Resolving the Paradox in Global Public Administration: State Autonomy and Governance in Hong Kong, South Korea, and the US

Nara Park (Yonsei University)

Wilson Wai Ho Wong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

In Public Administration, there is a dual paradox about the difficulties of comparing regimes of different political systems notably democracies and non-democracies, and even authoritarian regimes, and the need to build a universal theory explaining the performance across systems with variations in their relative strength between bureaucracy and democracy. In resolving these paradoxes, this paper compares the public administration systems of Hong Kong, South Korea, and the United States. It examines how state autonomy can serve as a significant common variable for analyzing the level and evolution of governance capacity in countries with varying configurations of democracy and bureaucracy. This approach could be a foundational element in Comparative Public Administration (CPA) for developing a theory of global public administration.

State autonomy refers to the ability of a state to govern itself and make decisions independently of external influence. This study proposes using state autonomy as a theoretical lens for adopting the “integrative contextualization” framework for producing integrative universal knowledge. To enhance the study of CPAs in a globalized world, this paper highlights the power and utility of state autonomy through a comparative analysis of three cases, demonstrating how variations in state autonomy can explain divergent outcomes. Hong Kong has the lowest state autonomy after politicizing its civil service. As a developmental state, South Korea has its state autonomy embedded in its bureaucracy. The state autonomy in the United States is maintained through a combination of its bureaucracy and political system, each playing distinct but interrelated roles. Understanding how these elements interact helps clarify how state autonomy and governance capacity are interrelated, achieved, and sustained.

Waste Management and Sustainability in Kyoto and New York City

Congmian Jiao (Kyoto Sangyo University)

Waste management is a challenge for large urban areas and is often a city’s largest budget item. At the same time waste management is a complicated process that involves multiple environmental and socio-economic criteria and it Requires multiple stakeholders such as government, municipalities, businesses, experts, and/or general public to get involved. I will use the model of Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) to discuss waste management and sustainability in this paper.

New York city has the biggest solid waste disposal among the cities around the world. It generates 14 million tons of trash each year. The amount is so large that the city manages it through two separate systems, one public and one private. The public system handles waste from residences and government buildings as well as some non-profits. This “public waste,” which accounts for about a quarter of the city’s total, is collected by New York’s Department of Sanitation (DSNY), the largest waste management agency in the world with a yearly budget of $1.5bn, greater than the annual budget of some countries.

Kyoto City faced the same problem with New York city. The amount of waste in Kyoto City in fiscal 2019 was about 410,000 tons. Until fiscal 2000, it had been increasing at about 820,000 tons, but it has been almost halved in the 20 years since then. Waste disposal costs also fell from a peak of 36.7 billion yen in fiscal 2002 to 22.4 billion yen in fiscal 2019.

What’s the difference between Kyoto and New York city? This study use MSDA model to analyze the policy causes of success and failure and discuss waste management and Sustainability.

“A STUDY OF AIR TRANSPORT GOVERNANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES FROM THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL THEORY PERSPECTIVE”

Doreen Zules (University of the Philippines Diliman)

“A STUDY OF AIR TRANSPORT GOVERNANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES FROM THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL THEORY PERSPECTIVE”

ABSTRACT

This study delves into the evolution of air transport regulation in the Philippines using the lens of new institutional theory, with a particular focus on the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). By examining the historical trajectory of air transport governance through various regulatory issuances, the research explores how CAAP has achieved legitimacy by aligning with institutional pressures driven by coercive and normative isomorphism. It further investigates how multiple institutional logics, including state, professional, market, and community logic, have shaped CAAP's legitimacy and organizational structure.

Applying Besharov and Smith's framework, the study identifies significant institutional complexity within CAAP, especially due to conflicting demands arising from its regulatory (state logic), operational, and investigatory functions (a blend of state and professional logics). A critical challenge highlighted is the inherent conflict of interest in CAAP's investigatory role, which poses risks to its legitimacy amidst institutional complexity.

The research leverages recent studies on decoupling strategies and draws comparative insights from other Southeast Asian aviation authorities and Ghana's aviation regulatory framework. This comparative analysis helps to identify potential strategies for CAAP to effectively manage institutional complexity and uphold its legitimacy. The study not only enhances the understanding of how organizations navigate conflicting institutional pressures but also provides actionable recommendations for institutional reform to improve governance in regulatory bodies. These findings contribute significantly to the academic discourse on aviation regulation and new institutional theory, offering practical solutions for enhancing the effectiveness and accountability of similar regulatory agencies.

Keywords: Air transport governance, New Institutional Theory, institutional logics, institutional complexity, organizational responses, Philippine aviation sector, conflict of interest, public policy

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Session 2

Wednesday, July 2nd 16:00 to 18:00 (C1)

How Policy Ideas Travel in Asia: Role of Instrument Constituents in Policy Diffusion

Masao Kikuchi (Meiji University)

This paper seeks to explore how policy ideas travel in Asia, with a special focus on the role of instrument constituencies in policy diffusion. Many policy ideas are proposed, decided, implemented, and travel across administrative and national boundaries in Asia. Policy transfer and diffusion perspectives especially focus on how and why certain policy ideas travel from one jurisdiction to another, or further expand to other levels, both horizontally and vertically.

The policy transfer literature has identified cases of policy transfer in different policy areas and to varying degrees, from ideas to actual implementation. It has also discussed the composition and structure of actors, the nature of policies, and the socio-political context that defines transfer activities. Among these perspectives, this paper uses the concept of “instrument constituencies” as a framework to understand key factors explaining policy learning and actual policy transfer.

More specifically, an instrument constituency refers to a group of actors strongly dedicated to advocating for the adoption of policy instruments, independent of the nature of the issues and political context. This group plays a vital role in how policies move from one jurisdiction to another. In many cases, instrument constituencies consist of groups who share an affinity for a particular policy tool. Examples of instrument constituency cases can be found in various policy areas, including emission trading schemes, public participation, conditional cash transfers, and others. These cases have been found to mobilize resources with the intention of deploying specific policy tools in both developing and developed countries.

Based on the context stated above, this paper aims to trace the development of a transnational instrument constituency in Japan’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) program. Historically, this program has focused on sharing Japan’s developmental experiences with developing countries in Asia, mainly supporting infrastructure development, healthcare systems, disaster resilience, and economic growth. Among these, the paper traces the development of a transnational instrument constituency for regional development policy through the One Town One Village initiative, identifying how the instrument constituency is formed and its impact on policy transfer and diffusion.

Policy diffusion in Asia is a multifaceted process influenced by diverse political, cultural, and institutional factors. Instrument constituencies play a central role in mediating these complexities, ensuring that policy ideas travel effectively across borders. By focusing on the role of instrument constituencies in policy diffusion in Asia, this study offers valuable insights into the mechanisms of policy diffusion and highlights the importance of fostering inclusive, collaborative, and context-sensitive approaches in addressing the region’s sustainable development challenges.

Motivating Air Conditioning Conservation: Impact of Pay-Per-Use Billing

Ching Leong (National University of Singapore)

Damien Soon (National University of Singapore)

Marcus Tian Xi Goh (LKY School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore)

Global demand for air conditioning is growing and represents a significant source of carbon emissions. Methods to promote sustainable use of air conditioning are often costly or lose their effect over time. We

investigate whether and to what extent a pay-per-use billing scheme can motivate air conditioning conservation, contrasted with the more common flat rate structure. Through our archival data analysis of energy consumption data from the National University of Singapore, we found that pay-per-use schemes reduce air conditioning use significantly -by 5% to 9%. We also found that the pay-per-use scheme did not create discomfort or impede cognitive performance, and may even help users to become more mindful of their unsustainable practices.

Public and Professional Preferences for the Nuclear Fuel Cycle in Japan: Insights from a Conjoint Experiment

Reona Hayashi (Hosei University)

Shunsaku Komatsuzaki (Tokyo Metropolitan University)

So Morikawa (The University of Tokyo)

Public preferences for energy policies are playing an increasingly influential role in shaping regional and national energy investment decisions. However, policies related to the nuclear fuel cycle have traditionally been driven by professionals due to their technological complexity, often excluding public input. This exclusion can lead to public opposition when professional and citizen preferences diverge, highlighting the need to comprehensively understand public and professional perspectives and to improve communication strategies between them.

Against this backdrop, the study explores two key questions: (1) How do preferences for the nuclear fuel cycle differ between professionals and citizens? (2) Can information provision to citizens bridge the gap between professionals and citizens?

To address these questions, we have designed a conjoint experiment using original Japanese data. Study 1 examines the causal effects of six key attributes—safety, cost, environmental impact, supply stability, technological feasibility, and decision-making process—on support for the nuclear fuel cycle. This analysis will compare the preferences of the two groups: 130 nuclear professionals and 2,500 citizens. By identifying the extent of preference differences, the study aims to provide a clear picture of where professional and public opinions diverge.

Agricultural Credit Policies in South Asia: A Comparative Analysis of India and Bangladesh

Anindita Mitra (National Institute of Technology, Silchar)

Despite consistent efforts by both Bangladeshi and Indian policymakers to make formal agricultural credit accessible to all the segments of farming households, it is still inaccessible to a large proportion of the farming population, particularly marginal and small farmers. Over the decades, several research studies have examined the factors determining agricultural credit in each of the countries individually, even though they share similar social, cultural, demographic, and economic characteristics. These studies observed that various socio-economic factors influence agricultural credit in both countries. However, a comparative analysis of agricultural credit policies is needed to formulate more effective agricultural policies. Taking insights from the existing literature on Bangladesh and India, this study aims to assess factors that affect the accessibility of agricultural credit in India and Bangladesh and provides a critical and comparative analysis of these factors. The study observed four major findings: firstly, in the case of India, the caste system affects the accessibility of agricultural credit; as the Bangladeshi social structure does not have any caste system, every farmer has an equal probability of receiving a loan. Secondly, in India, gender impacts the accessibility of agricultural credit, whereas due to gender-specific schemes, agricultural credit is more accessible for women in Bangladesh. Thirdly, in Bangladesh, the NGO linkage program and in India, the Kishan Credit Card scheme positively impacted the accessibility of agricultural credit for small and marginal farmers. Fourthly, in Bangladesh, disparities based on the preference of institution depending on the domicile of the farmer have been noticed, whereas, in the case of India, disparities among the states in terms of credit accessibility have been noticed. Based on the findings, this study offers several policy recommendations. First, India could draw inspiration from Bangladesh and implement an NGO linkage program to enhance access to collateral-free loans. Additionally, gender-specific credit programs could be introduced in India to support female-headed farm households. Meanwhile, Bangladesh could benefit from adopting schemes similar to the Kisan Credit Card in India to provide quick loans to marginal farmers.