



Local Energy Initiatives: Imaginaries, Transition, and Empowerment in Post-Fukushima Era



Date : 22 March 2021 (Monday)

Time : 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Venue : Conduct via Zoom

Zoom Link:

<https://cityu.zoom.us/j/92716461738?pwd=UINiL2NwSzg5cGwzb0c2ZDIRWmVQUT09>

Language : English

Moderator : Dr. Ho Wing Chung

Abstract

The combined tragedy of the tsunami resulting from the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake of March 2011 and the subsequent nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant provided Japan's general public with opportunities to learn more about nuclear energy, radiation, and climate change. With the tragedy, Japan's renewable energy initiatives have expanded their support base beyond anti-nuclear movement constituencies. The study examines local renewable energy initiatives led by both the Fukushima prefectural government and citizen groups in Fukushima. These initiatives emphasize the local production and consumption of energy. The study concludes that, while local energy initiatives by citizen groups in Fukushima aim at strengthening local autonomy and offer a new way of exercising citizens' democratic rights (e.g., the right to choose energy sources), the national government seeks to integrate Fukushima's renewable energy into its hydrogen plan.

Biosketch

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Setsuko's research interests include: Development, Environment, Transnational Activism, and East Asian Societies (China and Japan). She has examined environmental activism, transnational activism, and the effects of donor projects. She is currently researching transnational activism surrounding the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Myanmar, a joint project between the Myanmar and Japanese governments. Her publications include *Activating China: Local Actors, Foreign Influence, and State Response* and her articles have appeared in *Mobilization*, *Sociology of Development*, *AsiaNetwork Exchange*, the *Journal of Asian Women's Studies* (Japan), and the *Journal of International Cooperation* (Japan), among others.

All Are Welcome