

Environmental Cooperation or Diplomacy? Lessons from Transboundary Air Pollution and the Way Forward

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Abstract

Despite the fact that there are many transboundary environmental issues in East Asia, including air pollution, fisheries management, and ocean pollution, not so many social science researches into this field has been conducted so far. Consequently, we know very little about the formation, decision-making, outcome, and effectiveness of the various forms of environmental cooperation taking place in East Asia. In this presentation, I will derive some lessons from my research and experience in the East Asian transboundary air pollution issue to further environmental cooperation with a special focus on Japan. Then, I will sketch out some ways to move forward in the field of PM2.5. The distinction between supportive and persuasive cooperation, and a new way of doing science for persuasive environmental cooperation will be explained and emphasized. Also, the definition and role of the epistemic community concept will also be clarified, since there is a huge misunderstanding of the concept that is frequently used in the discussions of enhancing environmental cooperation in East Asia.