

Japan's domestic policy making for the international climate negotiations on the regime after 2012

Enigmatic or iridescent?

Presentation at the Side Event
Building Blocks for a Post-2012 Regime
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Objectives of this paper

Draw lessons from the withdrawal of the USA from the KP

Without having an examination of domestic politics of major emitters, even a well designed regime would be mere "pie in the sky".

Address the criticism that Japan's attitude: negative, unclear, or "enigmatic"

Very scarce literature on Japanese climate policies (Kawashima 2000, Schreurs 2002, Fisher 2004, Hattori 2007) despite Japan's economic power, the level of its GHG emissions, and its important role in the international climate regime.

JP: the presidency of the G8 in 2008

Argument

Japan's position on the international climate negotiations is not enigmatic but iridescent or common-denominator of positions expressed by domestic stakeholders and two ministries.

Two institutions (the Prime Minister and parliamentarians (environmental zoku) are key for Japan to resolve the stale mate between stakeholders and ministries and to take the lead on the international climate negotiations.

Structure of the paper

Section 2: Examine the importance to focus on domestic politics in analysing the international negotiations

Section 3: Give an overview of Japan's position on the post 2012 regime at the international negotiations

Section 4: Examine Japan's domestic climate politics

Identify stakeholders' views on the post 2012 regime (interviews)

Analyse how stakeholders' views are reflected by ministries (the reports published by Councils belonging to the Ministry of the Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of the Environment (MoE))

Examine other two aspects of Japan's domestic politics, namely the role played by the Prime Minister and the relationship between ministries and parliamentarians (parties) (political science literature)

The conclusions: Summarize the analysis conducted in this paper and examine Japan's recent position based on the analysis.

Conclusions

Japan's position on the international climate negotiations is not enigmatic but iridescent or common-denominator of positions expressed by domestic stakeholders and two ministries.

Two institutions (the Prime Minister and parliamentarians (environmental zoku) are key for Japan to resolve the stalemate between stakeholders and ministries and to take the lead on the international climate negotiations.

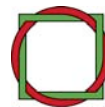
Prospect

The two factors to resolve the stalemate between stakeholders and two ministries present rather negative aspects.

It may be too optimistic to simply expect that Japan will soon make a shift away from its "iridescent" attitude.

A positive aspect: The general public awareness on climate policy has been mounting.

Political stability and the emergence of a new environmental zoku backed by the general public support will be necessary for Japan to decide on its short or medium term targets and to take the lead in the international negotiations.



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Thank you!

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