



Informal Exchange Network and the NIMBY Disputes in Democratization: Refuse Incinerator Politics in Taiwan

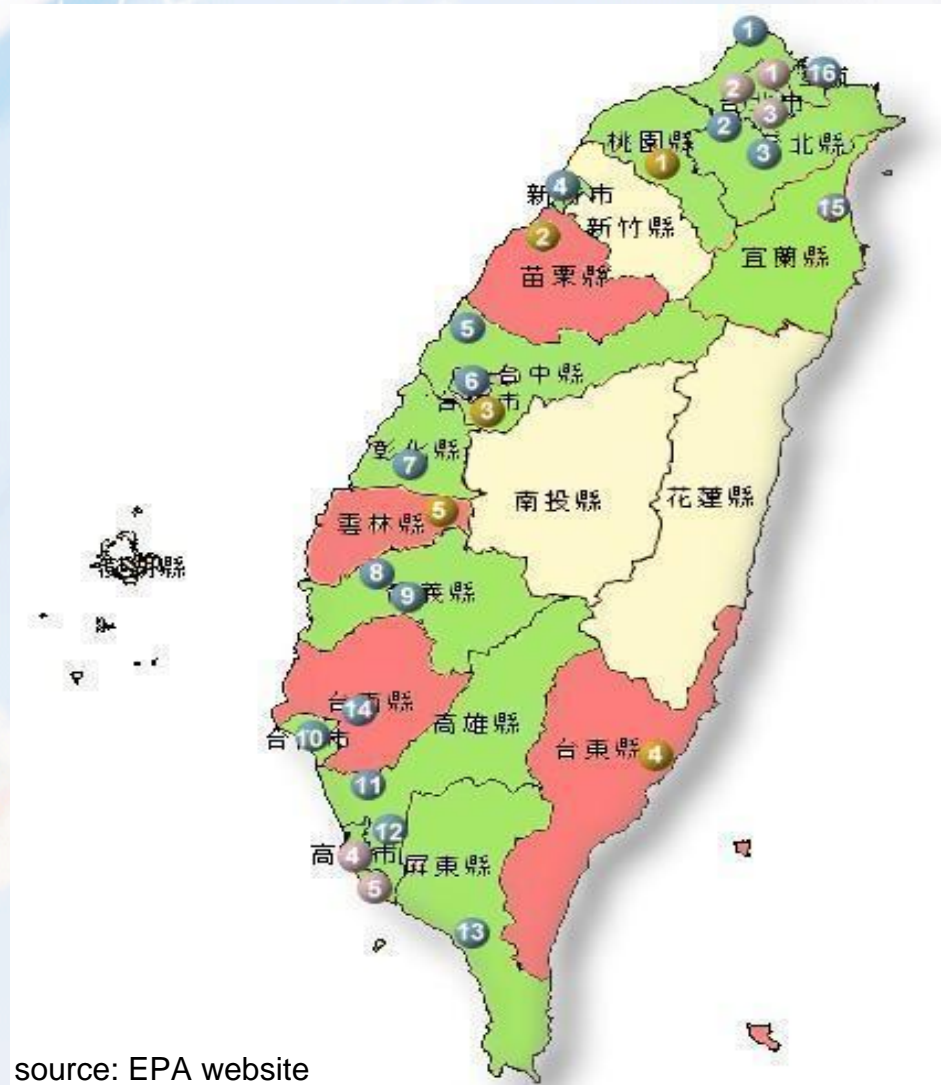
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Research Interest

- **The Puzzle:**

How has Taiwan built up as many as 24+2 refuse incinerators by overcoming NIMBY Protests in its course of democratization?



source: EPA website

Siting Incinerators in the Democratizing Scenario

- Refuse incinerators are typical locally unwanted facilities
- Democratization encourages grassroots protests against the siting decisions
- Institutional capacity for such dispute resolutions are yet to be constructed
- Lack of trusts between Citizens and the government
- Gridlock is expectable



source:<http://www.copiszczny.pl/zh/wiki/%E7%A4%BA%E5%A8%81.html>



source:<http://ecology.org.tw/enews/enews190.htm>

NIMBY and Public Participation

- A mix of a public good and private bad—unbalanced ability in mobilizing supports
- Risk
 - Probability * costs
 - Harder to reconcile
 - political nature of assessment
- Uncertainty
 - Hard to reach consensus
 - Wild imagination and emotional response



source:<http://www.cesroc.org.tw/newland/hl11-05.htm>

NIMBY in Neophyte Democracy --High Transaction Costs

- Insensitive to grassroots demands
- Limited institutional channels for governing intensified interest conflicts
- Limited credibility to redeem the promises
- Lack of tradition of Rule-by-Law
- Highly politicized by electoral competition



source:<http://ecology.org.tw/eneews/eneews190.htm>

Strategic Implications

- Main tasks:
 - Create novel solution schemes
 - Lower the transaction costs
 - dissolve/demobilize the opposition forces
- General Principles
 - Lower the decision making level
 - Offer multiple incentive structure
 - Apply informal networks
 - Patron-client relationship
 - Factionalism, Camarillas, Keiretsu
 - Urban regime



source: <http://e-info.org.tw/node/4415>

The Case: Yun-Lin County

- General Trend of Waste Disposal Policies in Taiwan
- Incentives for Local Politicians to Build Incinerators
- Local Networks as the major Means to overcome fierce objections



source: http://www.ocn-miami.com/color_ocn/366/htmls/tw/tw_05.htm



source: <http://www.libertytimes.com.tw/2007/new/may/11/today-center1.htm>

A Stake-Decking Scandal

- Public Health in Risk
- Absurd contract:
 - A small company control very huge and expensive assets and earn big profit
 - Citizens have to pay the costs
 - High processing fees
 - High interest rate
- Turning to a “private bads vs private goods” scenario

Local Faction Politics

- Faction Lin as the dominant faction
 - Controls gravel extraction, cement, construction, real estates, and local banking businesses
- Major Challenger is DDP that has no grassroots faction organization, represented by Su Chi-Fen

How Faction Work

- Distribute interests among key elites, creating a gang of accomplices
 - Appropriation Committee in Legislative Yuan
 - County council
 - Environmental Impact Assessment
 - Urban rezoning committee
- Demobilizing political actions of the opponents
 - Creating social pressure, defining Legitimacy shaping public opinions
 - Demobilizing demonstrations
 - Sabotage plebiscite

Discussion and Conclusion

- Long-term network seems a powerful counter-force for NIMBY protests
- Solve the problem, but how to define the “problem”? How about social Justice?
- Democratization: taming the monster of informal networks



source:<http://www.epa.gov.tw/ch/aioshow.aspx?busin=332&path=6191&guid=93eec915-5acf-442c-b37d-60d41076adcb&lang=zh-tw>

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source: <http://www.epa.gov.tw/ch/aioshow.aspx?busin=332&path=6191&guid=93eec915-5acf-442c-b37d-60d41076adcb&lang=zh-tw>

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source: <http://www.hccep.gov.tw/about/about1.asp>



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