

International environmental cooperation between Japan and China towards East Asian Sustainable Development

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Abstrak

Japan and China have a long history of environmental cooperation. In recent years, economic potential of environmental industry has been well recognized, besides the requirement of environmental protection. Both Japan and China have incorporated green growth into their dominant national strategies and set up high priority for promoting environment and energy related industries, which serves as the background for further mutually beneficial cooperation. In this article, we reviewed the history and found that Japan-China environmental cooperation has developed from government-oriented stage to business-oriented stage. It is more stable against the complex and volatile international political situation; but stable intergovernmental relationship is one of the key factors for initiating environmental cooperation projects. Later, we discussed the opportunities and challenges for Japan-China environmental cooperation considering the roles of state actor and business power. A systematic scheme was concluded to analyze the critical factors and dynamic relations for environmental cooperation and business. Business power has been exerting more and more influence on international and domestic environmental politics. Due to the political limitation of state actors, business power is expected to be more active in promoting stable and sustainable cooperation. Moreover, environmental cooperation could also be a key to mitigating the political tensions between Japan and China.