



Environment and Society between East and West

6 June 2012 & 5 June 2013

International Workshops

National Dong Hua University

Environment and Society between East and West 1

A sociological, cultural and scientific approach of environmental risks perception and reality

6 June 2012

Environment and Society between East and West 2

Legal, geostrategic and technological tools for the constitution of a Sustainable Society

5 June 2013

Dissemination Workshop in the framework of the EU commission Project IRSES 'Evaluating Policies for Sustainable Energy Investments: towards an integrated approach on national and international stage (EPSEI)' ¹

Organized by Dr. Jean-Yves Heurtebise, Associate Member of the CEPERC, Aix-Marseille University,
Associate Member of KGC, Stanford University & Visiting Assistant Professor at National Dong Hua University

Thanks to the generous support of National Dong Hua University Department of Sociology and Public Affairs

Special Thanks to Li Der-shing, Professor at National Dong Hua University, Head of Sociology and Public
Affairs Department (Chair)

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Environment and Society between East and West

Executive summary for the two workshops

In the span of one century, human society experienced a sea-change mutation affecting globally and irreversibly our way of living and thinking. From 1890 to 1990, human population fourfold increased, life expectancy doubled, urban population multiplied by fourteen, and industrial output by forty. Meanwhile the geographical center of cultural and military power shifted two times: from European colonialist countries to the United States global military governance to India and China emerging demographic-economic superpowers. Furthermore, the exponential development of transport and communication technologies (train, plane and internet) created a new interconnected and interdependent world.

However economic and industrial revolutionary development not only produced new important goods but also new unavoidable “bads” while technological and scientific progress not only brought new solutions but also generated new problems. First, the process of globalization aroused antagonist reactions of local players. Second, if development multiplied wealth, it also increased inequalities. Third, if industrial development increased GDP, it also consumed natural resources and generated ecological threats (climate change, species extinction, pollution risks). Four, despite a wide recognition of environmental problems and their unpredictable, irreversible and complex impacts on society, emerging countries’ agenda for growth makes it more and more difficult to reach a common agreement in international *fora* dedicated to environmental issues (let us remind that China is now the first world polluter with GHG emission increasing at a rate of twelve percent per year).

Environmental problems cannot be resolved without East and West to reach a new kind of mutual understanding on social, legal and cultural issues. These two international workshops will be precisely dedicated to exploring Environment and Society interactions in the framework of East and West past, present and future relationships in a multidisciplinary perspective; the first one will define problems (ecological risks), the second will attempt to provide solutions (sustainable practices).

Focusing on ecological risks in this first workshop means to provide the epistemological, sociological and cultural framework of understanding of social and environmental critical interactions. The sociological aspect of the ecological crisis comes from the fact that risks are distributed on the basis of the unequal share between goods and bads: the fact that the richest 7% of world population are responsible for 50% of CO₂ global emission while the poorest 50% for only 6% implies that the poorest are affected by a situation to which they are contributing the less more (threats to bio-safety and eco-safety do concentrate in poor areas). This symposium will exemplify, with reference to Taiwanese case-studies, how global challenges are embodied in local practices of adaptation and contestation based on public participation. Furthermore, the recent tendency to promote cultural interpretations of such a global and transnational phenomenon (for example Pan Yue’s claim for an “*ecological civilization*” guided by “*the ecological wisdom of the Chinese civilization*”) will be examined.

These workshops will be hold in the department of Sociology and Public Affairs of National Dong Hua University at Hualien in Taiwan and integrated in the diffusion activities of the IRSES-EPSEI FP7 project, thus involving recognition of National Dong Hua University as an *ex post* joint-partner. As such conference papers delivered in these two workshops could be inserted to the forthcoming publication of the two collective books lead by IRSES-EPSEI scientific coordinators Dr. Paolo Farah and Dr. Piercarlo Rossi.

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A sociological, cultural and scientific approach of environmental risks perception and reality

Schedule of the 6th June 2012 Workshop

Location: 國立東華大學人社二館第四講堂

Presentation: Greetings: 13h30-13h40

Li Der-Hsing 黎德星, Professor, Head of Sociology and Public Affairs Department, National Dong Hua University (Chair)

Introduction: Conference: 13h40-13h50

Jean-Yves Heurtebise 何重誼, Aix-Marseille University Associate Member, Visiting Assistant Professor at National Dong Hua University

Keynote speech: Environment and Ecology: 13h50-14h30

Hsia Yue-joe 夏禹九, Professor, Dean of College of Environmental Sciences, National Dong Hua University.
“A framework for collaboratory research of social-ecological systems / 社會生態系統協同合作研究的架構”

First Session: Environment, Risks and Society: 14h30-16h00

Paul Jobin 彭保羅, Head of CEFC Taipei (French Centre for Research on Contemporary China, Taipei office) and Associate Professor, University of Paris Diderot : “*Sociopolitics of nuclear safety in Taiwan and Japan before and after Fukushima disaster* / 福島核災後臺灣與日本核能安全的社會政治”

Ho Ming-sho 何明修, Professor, Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University & Hong Chen-shuo 洪晨碩, Master student, Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University: “*Challenging New Conservative Regimes in South Korea and Taiwan: A Comparison of the Anti-American Beef Protests* / 挑戰新保守政權：比較南韓與台灣的反美牛抗議”

Second Session: Environment, Risks and Culture: 16h00-17h30

Gwennaël Gaffric 關首奇, Lyon 3 University PhD Student, Institute of Transtextual and Transcultural Studies: “*Brave New World Revisited: Ecological Risks in Science Fiction from Taiwan and the World* / 再訪美麗新世界－臺灣與世界科幻小說中的生態風險”

Jean-Yves Heurtebise 何重誼, Aix-Marseille University Associate Member, Visiting Assistant Professor at National Dong Hua University: “*The cultural perception of risks in the context of the integration between environment, science and society* / 環境、科學與社會整合概念下對於風險的文化感知”

Conclusion: panel session and discussion: 17h30-18h00

All participants: Prof. Li Der-shing; Dr. Jean-Yves Heurtebise; Prof. Paul Jobin; Prof. Ho Ming-sho; Prof. Hsia Yue-joe; MA Gwennaël Gaffric & Hong Chen-shuo.