

Policy Diffusion of Renewable Energy Ordinance

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1. Background and objects

The Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011 and the enforcement of Feed-in Tariff in 2012 raised interest and investment to renewable energy (RE), which brings growth of RE markets. Moreover, it makes a small movement of establishments RE ordinance among local governments (LG). As a new shift of energy policy in LG, overall research on the movement is needed in addition to existing case study researches. To cover the absence of previous studies, this paper focuses on the whole movement in terms of the policy diffusion and clarifies that establishment RE ordinance has been diffused among some LG as independent efforts.

2. Methods

Policy process in LG will be analyzed with using the dynamic cross-reference model proposed by Ito shuichiro which explains how LG study from experiences of other LG in order to tackle their problems and that policy diffusion is occurred as a result. With relying on the model, we will apply to RE spread as LG's problems and RE ordinance as policy adoption. Firstly, we will focus on the relationship between the movement of RE ordinance and policies in the central government and public opinions to confirm that LG adopt RE ordinance by their voluntary effort, which means the central government does not require LG to adopt RE ordinance. Secondly, we will determine presence or absence of similarities between anticipatory ordinance and subsequent one to prove subsequent LG consult anticipatory ordinance as a reference and gather related accounts. In the last part, we will have one case study to focus on policy making process and analyze deeply.

3. Results and Analysis

6 prefectures and 21 municipal governments have RE ordinance and three quarters of them established after 2012. There is no relationship between RE ordinance adoption and central government policies. The leadership of politicians in LG and public opinions, the start of FIT are observed as triggers of adoption ordinance. In addition, some LG which made ordinance after 2012 had influence from experts and specialized institutions. Some similarities and accounts are also observed among some LG. Especially influence from Hokkaido and Konan of Shiga is confirmed. From case study on Takarazuka of Hyogo, we get same result that Takarazuka used some ordinances of anticipatory LG as their reference.

4. Conclusion

As a conclusion, although there was help from experts and institutions to some LG, we can say that the movement of adoption RE ordinance is voluntary action by LG without influence from the central government. Moreover, diffusion from the first LG to the last one is not observed but at least RE ordinance in Hokkaido and Konan were diffused to other LG through policy making process.