Analysis of the Policy Decision Process of Emissions Trading System under the Cap and Trade in Saitama Prefecture

Kensuke Kaneda

Key Words: *countermeasure for global warming, emissions trading system, Saitama prefecture, policy decision process, policy-making, The Policy Window Model, Interbranch Policy-Making Model*

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Saitama prefecture introduced their version of emissions trading system under the cap and trade principle (C&T) from April 2011. This is the second climate change emissions trading system in Japan, after Tokyo Metropolis. Actors professing opposition to the introduction of environmental policy frequently exist, and a countermeasure for global warming is no exception. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to find out how institutional designs and factors enable the introduction of the emissions trading system as a policy decision in Saitama prefecture. In addition, the study seeks to generate insights on how to introduce climate change emissions trading system under C&T in other areas in Japan.

2. METHODOLOGY

For the analysis, the author adopted the Interbranch Policy-Making Model that encompasses actors even outside of the government and The Policy Window Model which focuses on agenda setting.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSUION

As a result of the analysis adopting the Interbranch Policy-Making Model, the introduction of the Saitama version of emissions trading system was realized by changing the following items from the emissions trading system in Tokyo Metropolis: the penal code, the limits to the use of credit for factories which is made outside of Saitama prefecture, the way to set boundaries of a place of business, the timing of verification by third party organization, the way to assess the amount of basic greenhouse gas emissions for new place of businesses, the obligation to make a plan about measures for reduction of greenhouse gasses to tenants, the subsidy and name of institution in institutional designs. This result provides insights on how to introduce climate change emissions trading system under C&T in other areas in Japan. The change items except the subsidy which depends on budget are not particular to Saitama prefecture. Therefore, the author considers the possibility of the introduction of climate change emissions trading system under the C&T in other areas in Japan, to increase based on the institutional designs of the emissions trading system in Tokyo Metropolis and considering the above-mentioned change items. In addition, the change items except the subsidy are applicable to every other area in Japan.

As an outcome of The Policy Window Model analysis, the study found several factors that explain the rise of the priority of the reinforcement of a countermeasure of global warming for big place of business in governmental agendas which triggered the introduction of the Saitama version of emissions trading system. These factors are the following: the newspaper article entitled “Prevention of Global Warming, Time is Up”; the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report; the establishment of the highest recorded temperature in Japan in Kumagaya city since observation started; the feedback about the plan for impulsion of measures of global warming; the feedback about the system for plan of measures of global warming; the reelection of the governor in Saitama prefecture; the 2008 summit in Toyako and the proposal for emissions trading system. The proposal for emissions trading system was based on the institutional designs of the emissions trading system in Tokyo Metropolis. The author identifies some factors that have the potential to change the priority of the reinforcement of global warming countermeasures for big place of business in governmental agendas in other areas in Japan from the above-mentioned outcomes: the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, the change of government from The Democratic Party of Japan to the Liberal Democratic Party in December 2012 and the rejection of the Basic Bill of Global Warming Countermeasures.