

Emblematic Issue: Air Pollution



Emblematic Issue: Air Pollution

- ☀ Nature & dynamics of transboundary air pollution
 - ~ lack of systematic scientific data at regional level
 - ~ problem sensationalized & exaggerated by media
 - ~ HK officials: problems beyond SAR's control
 - ~ HK talks to GD province ; actual decisions at local
 - ~ problem likely to persist for long-term

Mode of Cooperation

| Responsibilities | | | Secondary | Residual |
|-------------------|--------------|-----|-----------|----------|
| Committees | | | | |
| Sino-British | 1985-2000 | | | *** |
| H-G | | | | |
| HK-Guangdong | 1990-1999 | *** | | |
| EPLG | | | | |
| Sino-British | 1994-1997 | | *** | |
| ICC | | | | |
| HK-Mainland | 1997-present | | *** | |
| CB MICC | | | | |
| HK-Guangdong | 1998-present | | | *** |
| CJC | | | | |
| HK-Guangdong | 1999-present | *** | | |
| JWG | | | | |

Mode of Cooperation

| Spatial scale | Local: Shenzhen | Local: Delta region | Provincial | Central |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|---------|
| Committees | | | | |
| HK-Guangdong | | | *** | |
| EPLG | | | | |
| HK-Guangdong | | | *** | |
| JWG | | | | |
| Sino-British | | | | *** |
| ICC | | | | |
| HK-Mainland | | | | *** |
| CB MICC | | | | |
| HK-Guangdong | | | *** | |
| CJC | | | | |
| Sino-British | | | | *** |
| JLG | | | | |

Mode of Cooperation

- ☀ Critics on current mode of cooperation
 - ~ lack speed & substance
 - > largely confined to information exchange
 - > information from mainland extremely limited
 - ~ weak implementation
 - > asymmetrical follow-up actions
- ☀ Why ineffective cooperation?
 - ~ critics: major institutional constraints in HK & PRD

Institutional Constraints

- ☀ Critics: institutional constraints in Hong Kong
 - ~ pitfall of "one country, two system" scheme
 - > HKG unwilling to initiate projects
 - > "non-interference" = "non-communication"
 - ~ preserving HK autonomy
 - > pre-97 fear over erosion of autonomy lingers on
 - > SAR officials reluctant to pursue collaboration
 - ~ lack of coherent policy on cross-border cooperation
 - > current approach: "ad hoc" & "reactive"
 - > lack of institutional home-base for cross-border coop

Institutional Constraints

- 🔥 **Critics: institutional constraints in PRD**
 - ~ **fragmented governance structure**
 - > env. agency no power over other govt offices
 - > provincial EPB no direct authority over local EPOs
 - ~ **dominant pro-growth culture**
 - > post-reform inst. culture values economic growth
 - > pro-growth culture entrenched in hierarchy

Conclusion

- 🔥 **What do we know?**
 - ~ limits to what Hong Kong alone could do
 - ~ it is going to get worse before it gets better
 - ~ cross-border links insufficient & progress limited
 - ~ little is actually known

Conclusion

- 🔥 **What are the implications for research?**
 - ~ **technical**
 - > regional-level environmental data
 - > unifying env objectives, standards, legislations
 - > data: sensitive issue
 - ~ **institutional**
 - > strengthen existing structure? or
 - > establish new regional governance structure?
 - > paradigm shift ⇔ eco-system approach
 - “multiple jurisdictions, one system”