

Executive Summary

This project aims to build a collaboration network towards the social acceptance of nuclear and coal power in East Asia.

1.1. Main Argument

Some ASEAN countries are introducing or planning to introduce nuclear / coal power plants due to high growth in energy demand. However, public concern on the safety and environmental impacts of these plants makes it difficult for these countries to proceed with development plans. Based on recognition of such issues, two separate international symposiums were held in Japan (focused on nuclear) and in Thailand (focused on coal). In the symposiums, the role of nuclear / coal power in the world and in East Asia, and the way to promote social acceptance on nuclear and coal power were discussed.

The major findings are:

- Both nuclear and coal power have advantages such as economic efficiency, reliability of electricity, energy security, climate change solution, and so on. Based on such advantages, these power sources have their own roles in each country's energy mix.
- The necessity of these power sources, however, is not fully acknowledged by the public and it should be excluded by the government and power companies.
- It is especially important to communicate on the safety and environmental impacts of these power plants to the public via simple explanation and transparency. A patient dialogue with the people is needed.

1.2. Policy Implications

- Dialogues should be designed such that opinions of the public are truly incorporated with the decision of the government, hence reflecting many layers of dialogue between policymakers and the public. To achieve this as well as the public's trust in the government and experts, the understanding of the public should be indispensable.
- Another important thing is to understand what the public needs. In order for a proposal to be acceptable, it must provide the end-user with considerable benefits. In this regard, the policymaker must clearly present to the public the economic and social benefits of the policy, both local and nationwide, as well as its disadvantages.