The Rio+20 Environmental Justice in Hyper-Modernization:
Contradictions of the Millennium Development in a Globalizing World

On-Kwok LAI

Graduate School of Policy Studies, Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan.

E-mail: oklai@kwansei.ac.jp

Abstract

Having the largest numbers of representatives from governmental, business and non-governmental organizations - much like its predecessor of the Earth Summit in 1992, the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), confirms once again the key consensus for human world's future: acknowledging "the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions" (UNCSD 2012) – a new paradigmatic shift of (new) environmental justice for global-locality?

The Rio+20 delivered a big package of (commitments for?) initiatives by world leaders on path for a sustainable future: more than US$500 billion mobilized with over 700 commitments made. The official outcome document for Rio+20, entitled: *The Future We Want*, calls for a wide range of actions: launching a process to establish sustainable development goals, detailing how to use the green economy to achieve sustainable development, adopting a framework for tackling sustainable consumption and production, stressing the need to engage civil society and incorporate science into policy, and recognizing the importance of gender equality and voluntary commitments on sustainable development.

But how far these initiatives transform environmental justices is still questionable. This brief critically examines the new environmental justice for global-local (glocal) governance on sustainable development in hyper-modernizing world by delineating the political economy, contradictions and dynamics in two major contesting developmental arenas: alternative renewable energy re-sourcing and water -cum- food supplies for glocal diversity -cum-sustainability.