Abstract / Special Session: Energy Poverty, 11th IAS-STS Conference, Graz

Poverty of Energy-cum-Technology after Fukushima 3.11 Disasters? Transformative Experience for Japanese to Re-Sourcing New Energy...

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Abstract

This paper examines the unprecedented, near-apocalyptic, policy-practice learning experiences of Japanese civil, governmental and business sectors to cope with the reduced electricity supplies due to the 3.11 (2011) disasters at Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, highlighting a new emerging-regime of clean-safe energy governance embedded in humanity-technology matrices. It examines the dynamics, contradictions and tensions, between humanity and technology, as expressed in the forms of new media-based culture and knowledge creation and transfer, within a wider context of the *Risk Society* as coined by Ulrich Beck. In the risk age, people cogenerate and embrace all forms of risks (and techno-disasters) for (but sometimes, against) global-local development. Emphasizing critical engagement for new energy policy and praxis innovations, human agencies are considered as instrumental for the project for renewable and sustainable energy re-sourcing and consumption: towards functional differentiation of knowledge building, transfer and synthesis, on energy science and technology. It also articulates that risk is embedded in sociotechnological systems, disasters hence are normal accidents in advanced global capitalism! Using case studies on the disasters-driven innovation of energy supplies and demands in Japan, it highlights the intertwining relationships, dynamics and contradictions of social transformation towards renewable energy re-sourcing, with inter-governmental policy initiatives for, as well as commercialization of, sustainable new energy resourcing and uses: both social agencies and socio-economic system are undergoing transformation driven by global technology risks, shaping the individual's idiosyncrasies respond and pursue his/her strategic innovative venture for energy consumption.