The Role of Lobbyists in the Formulation and Adoption of Climate Change Mitigation Policy in the United States

Mary D. Becker, Ryo Fujikura, Mikiyasu Nakayama and Manami Fujikura

Abstract

Lobbying is an attempt to persuade a lawmaker or official in the administration to support, oppose, or alter legislation and policies that will favor the interests of the group the lobbyist is representing. This paper discusses the role of lobbyists in the climate change debate in the United States and the strategies they use to influence the public and lawmakers. In 2014, there were 11,509 registered federal lobbyists in the U.S. who reported spending $2.41 billion on lobbying activities. There are many effective strategies for influencing lawmakers and government officials. Lobbyists do not rely on one strategy, but employ many different tactics concurrently. Most importantly, lobbying is based on building a relationship, maintaining trust, and never misleading the lawmaker or staff member. The strategies include targeting the lawmakers to persuade, obtaining access to lawmakers and staff, activating and mobilizing lawmakers' constituents, supporting grassroots campaigns, focusing on a lawmaker's interests and the local impacts, funding education and research organizations, educating the lawmaker, supporting media and education campaigns, building partnerships or stakeholder groups, and contributing to political campaigns. As the climate change issue has grown in prominence, the number of players who have a vested interest in the outcome of mitigation measures and who weigh in on climate policy has grown. During the climate policy debates in the early 2000's, 70% of the lobbyists represented heavy industries that would be most affected by curbs on fossil fuels. By 2009, everyone was weighing in, from the alternative energy manufacturers, to the large banks and private equity firms, to public agencies and cities. Importantly, lesser polluting industries who feared that they would be disadvantaged by the credits and exemptions going to the heavier polluters already involved in the discussions rushed to get involved in the climate debates. The role of science in creating a case for climate change mitigation measures is obviously critical. One of the tactics of those groups who seek to block climate change mitigation measures is to attack the very existence of global warming and climate change. The climate change skeptics often “cherry pick,” or select only the data that support their view, while ignoring the other data in making their observations. Scientists are actively trying to rebut the misconceptions about climate science in the media and educating the public and elected leaders about the issue. Scientists employed by mainstream environmental groups perform studies and publish peer-reviewed papers in reputable scientific journals in addition to briefing policy makers on the science.
Abstract

According to the examination by the Board of Audit of Japan, many coordinators have weak abilities to support a food industrial cluster. Therefore, most of the clusters have not functioned as a regional sustainable business. In this paper, we considered primary roles and abilities for a coordinator, and analyzed the results of the questionnaire survey on the support activities in the cluster. As a result, we suggested the following three viewpoints and methods to continuously conduct the cluster. First, it is necessary to set “the promotion of a new product and a new business development” as the primary purpose at the time of planning and operating the cluster, and devote to food production and processing on the basis of the purpose. Second, these activities should be supported from a viewpoint of the cluster’s entire operation and individual entities that organize the cluster. Finally, it is important to acquire a wide range of abilities to instantly deal with various changes of the economic circumstances by a policy. The coordinator has to effectively and efficiently support the cluster, while taking the three viewpoints and methods into account.
A Study of a Japanese disaster policy.
— A change of the recognition to “a crisis” and “a disaster policy” —

Masayuki Kurita

Abstract

I try to clarify the following problems in this report.

A postwar disaster policy of our country to change from “disaster prevention” to “crisis control” and the extended process and significance. I investigate what kind of influence a change of the political administrative recognition had on legislation and budget.

I arrange “the definition of the crisis” that is the result of the crisis control study. Then I arrange “the graded grasp of the crisis” and confirm the tendency of the disaster policy.

Firstly I survey the disaster that occurred in postwar our country. Then I examine disaster-related laws, ordinances and budget. Then I arrange “the definition of the crisis” and “the graded approach of the crisis” that is the result of the crisis control study to serve as a reference in thinking about a disaster-policy.

Finally anti-disaster measures clarify expansion or a unified process from “disaster prevention” to “crisis management” politics in an administrative field.

Keywords: crisis, crisis-management, disaster prevention, disaster-measures, government
Formation and Development of the Silver Human Resources Center

Kazuyoshi Ozawa

Abstract

The Silver Human Resources Center was established in Tokyo as an “agency for the elderly” in 1975. Under the philosophy of “autonomy and independence, cooperation and mutual assistance”, and with the aim to spread across the country the idea that “through working with and leveraging the rich experience, knowledge, ability and technical expertise of the elderly, we contribute to society and ensure that the elderly are gaining the opportunity to do something meaningful”.

Currently, it has about 7.5 million members and annual contracts worth approximately 300 billion yen.

Through contracting and delegation from companies, households and public organizations, the Silver Human Resources Center is undertaking work of “temporary, short term and other” nature in local communities. The main operations are focused around providing members (elderly people) with work that matches their wishes and skills.

In Japan’s ageing society, this is a structure expected to be capable of changing the elderly from “people who are supported by the local community” to “people who support the local community”. I’d like to consider about formation and development of The Silver Human Resources Center so as to find hint of several problem solving of aging society.
A study for the challenges and solutions in food security policy of Japan
— The food security policy seen from the Farmland and Agricultural-producers problem, and the emergency-food-security-guidelines analysis —

Takahiro Aoyama

Abstract

This paper describes the importance and the necessity of a food security policy. In a state which has sovereignty of the people, the maintenance of people’s security is indispensable. Although there is much national uneasiness, especially food security is an important policy in connection with life support. However, peace and gluttony rarefy the importance.

Now, the food self-sufficiency ratio of Japan is 39%. This is a problem which is strongly influenced, when import from overseas is stopped. In Japan, the food security indicator is defined for such an emergency. However, its existence is seldom known by people and it is lacking in concreteness and synthesis nature. On the other hand, in the production-of-food structure of Japan, many problems have accumulated, such as reduction in farmland, a producer’s aging-population issue, reduction of food production that occurs accompanying with them, etc. These may threaten food security of Japan and may make put people in danger in case of emergency.

Thus, the purpose of this paper is to help to remove uneasiness from Japanese people by extracting the current status and issues of the food security policy of Japan.
Study on a Framework for Public Hearing and Public Relations in Local Governments

Shigeki Kanai

Abstract

This paper focuses on the framework for activities of public hearing and public relations in local governments in Japan, since the activities are basic functions in management of local governments.

Recently, NPM (New Public Management) has been introduced by local governments, and their administrative services are assessed from the viewpoints of the citizen’s participation, the citizen’s consent and the citizen’s satisfaction. Accordingly, local governments have to improve the quality of the public relations continuously. In addition, because of the recent development of ICT (Information and Communication Technology), many local governments consider a new system of public hearing and public relations for their information provision function and information collection function.

In this paper, the author reviewed the preceding studies on public hearing and public relations in Japan, and constructed a modern framework for them in local governments.
The Actual Conditions and Issues on Climate Change Policy at Municipalities in Eastern Japan
— Findings from an Internet Research —

Shinnosuke Suzuki

Abstract

In recent years, almost all municipalities have published information disclosure about climate change policy on the website. However, have the information disclosure on the website aroused public awareness of the climate change, and have it affected environmentally conscious behavior in daily life of citizens? This paper considered these things as research questions. I investigated the current status of the information disclosure on the website at all of municipalities in Eastern Japan based on the internet research. And these data were analysed by the quantitative content analysis. As a result, it was found that the category pages as most important elements when municipalities published information on the website could not utilize. In other words, municipalities have to rethink the structure of the website in order to effectively promote the information disclosure about climate change policy on the website. Therefore, this paper suggested following things. A guideline for how to build a website to promote clearly information disclosure should be created by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications which have demanded promotion of e-municipality.

Keywords: Municipality, Climate Change Policy, Website, Internet Research, Quantitative content analysis
The present conditions and policy promotion of the next-generation car technology
— Directionality of inspection and the policy promotion of "next generation car strategy 2010" —

Masafumi Itoh

Abstract

“Next-generation car strategy 2010” that is the strategic design of the next-generation car technology in April, 2010 But, it was announced. The action that is given priority to in that “plug in hybrid car (PHV)” Two of "electric car (EV)" were shown. On the other hand, “it is an internal combustion engine”, and the mainstream of the global market occupies 98%. As for the technique with a little environmental load thought about under the present conditions, “PHV” and “EV” are promising, but are not decisive.

While, in this article, surveying it about a feasible next-generation car technology at the present; I try comparison consideration about “PHV”, “EV” and “an internal combustion engine”. The overwhelming advantage understands that I do not exist among both. In addition, the characteristic of the main global market is different from a Japanese market every market, and it is difficult that the present technique can become the global standards.

I compare the recent cabinet decision change with the priority issues that “next-generation car strategy 2010” showed and, in such situation, consider it and begin to warm the priority issues of the policy.

By the main subject, I propose “a fuel cell electric car” as an alternative plan. Load environmental as for this technique Zero and the fuel exist unlimitedly. Possibility acceptable in all markets It is the highest and is an ultimate environmental car. On the other hand, it is necessary for that a product, study does co-operation, and a lot of spread problems to promote it wrestle, and this is because it is essential to earth environmental conservation, environment load reduction.
Study on the “Education Policy of New Liberal Club”

Koji Satoyoshi

Abstract

New Liberal Club, which was launched as a result of the corruption and rigidity of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) under the 1955-system, also grew out of the context of postwar societal change and cleavage.

Such party formation reflects multiplicity and diversity of the Japanese politics, and its existence itself probably was a manifestation of the changes in the 1955-system.

Moreover, the existence of New Liberal Club as an experimental party is likely to have paved the way for the establishment of the non-LDP coalition government in 1993 and the change of government in 2009.

In studying political party policies as what constitute public policies, this paper will discuss the “education policy of New Liberal Club” from the view point of “forging an education-oriented country” which was the party’s focus principal from the time of its launch.

It will verify the contents and points of the education policy proposed by New Liberal Club that came in as a new political party based on its party organs, and examine the policy deliberation during the transformation period of the 1970s and 1980s or policy changes of the 1955-system.

Furthermore, it will examine the influence of its principles and policies on Diet activities and political process, and how political parties and policies are related.
Masayoshi Ohira Cabinet as a “National garden city initiative” and Land planning of post-war Japan’s

Katsumi Takeno

Abstract

Land policy in post-war Japan, bore fruit “Comprehensive national development plan (ZenSo)” and it has contributed greatly to the economic growth. However, it has led to regional disparities and urban issues at the same time. These problems are a major issue today.

On the other hand Masayoshi Ohira organized a group of scholars in the Cabinet of his own, was announced a “National garden city initiative”.

Those aims of this initiative while being opened, tried to draw a model that can live independently in rural areas. And also it was trying to show a new community image.

These initiative or model this has become suggestive even today, although embodied was not by his death.

In this paper, while consideration also thought experience of Ohira, while overview also the relationship between the national planning of the same era, it was discussed way necessary thought, approach also, in land planning in the future.
Origin of the first denial of territorial dispute over the Senkaku Islands

Masato Tomabechi

Abstract

“The Basic View on the Sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands” : quoted from the official website of MOFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan) is “ There is no doubt that the Senkaku Islands are clearly an inherent part of the territory of Japan, in light of historical facts and based upon international law. Indeed, the Senkaku Islands are under the valid control of Japan. There exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands .”

If you look at this, you tend to think as that since conducted a Cabinet decision that the Meiji government incorporated the Senkaku Islands in 1895, the government had claimed so consistently.

However, I was reviewing the official documents and related parliamentary proceedings, the government had stated in the first “ There exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands”, said that it is an April 1985 I made it clear in the essay. Some earlier studies acknowledged at the Japanese Government had been denied territorial issue since 1990s. However, in my research, I could not find a study that clarified the Foreign Minister, Mr. ABE Shintaro as the origin. Moreover, the answer of the Foreign Minister Abe, realistic view, which can be a hint to solve the Senkaku a “problem” are also included.

Based on such abnormally close by the Chinese military aircraft to the SDF machine, also tension situation to continue then greatly retouched in part of the contents of my master thesis, you want to recommend policy solutions Senkaku Islands dispute.
Evaluation of air pollution in China based on Air Pollution Index and applicability of the index.

Naoya Sawazu and Ryo Fujikura

Abstract

Air pollution in Chinese cities from 2000 to 2013 is analyzed based on 381,050 data of Air Pollution Index (API) obtained from a Website of Chinese Government. The applicability of the index is also assessed. Long-term trend of average values of the index is declining, but maximum value of each year does not decrease, indicating little improvement of the air quality despite of recent intensive anti-pollution measures enforced by the central government. While low APIs have been generally recorded in southern cities, extreme pollutions have been often observed during winter in many of the northern cities. High APIs have also been recorded during spring in the north, indicating the strong impact of yellow sand. API is a single index and easily understandable for the ordinary citizens. However, it merges both impacts of natural yellow sand and anthropogenic air pollution. In order to assess effectiveness of air pollution control measures, it is better to record and to provide concentration data of individual pollutants.
Abstract

The objective of this paper is to reveal characteristics of the bill of rights and the parliamentary systems of the 2013 Constitution of the Republic of Fiji through comparative analyses with those of the past and draft constitutions.

After the 2006 coup, President Iloilo made an announcement to abolish the 1997 Constitution and asked Interim Prime Minister Bainimarama to create a new one. The Bainimarama government requested Professor Yash Ghai, a Kenyan academic in constitutional law, to draft a constitution in 2012, and Professor Ghai created one with his Constitution Commission members through Fiji-wide discussions. However, President Nailatikau rejected his draft, and Prime Minister Bainimarama ordered his legal team to create a revised version. The revised version was made in March 2013, and the Fijian nationals were asked to submit their opinions regarding the revised version. Reflecting the opinions, the 2013 Constitution was enacted on September 6, 2013.

Under the 2013 Constitution, a general election was conducted on September 17, 2014. Some neighboring countries including Australia and New Zealand and institutions in Fiji including political parties and NGOs have worried if the election would be conducted with free and fair bases under the constitution. They have especially concerned articles for the bill of rights and the parliamentary systems. That is why this analysis was conducted for the bill of rights and the parliamentary systems of the 2013 Constitution comparing with those of the 1970, 1990 and 1997 constitutions and the 2012 and 2013 draft constitutions.

Through the analyses, this paper found out that the bill of rights of the 2013 Constitution was created based on that of the past and draft constitutions, and its parliamentary systems aim at excluding non-democratic systems of the past. Especially, the bill of rights relaxes limitations of the rights, reflects that the Fijian government has disliked political activities of labor unions, and considers land security matters of indigenous Fijians and free elementary education. The parliamentary systems simplify its election systems and set up the 5% threshold to be elected as an independent candidate and political party.
Control of discretion for the judicial precedents in railway projects
— The prediction and the comparison for the judicial precedents in railway projects

Takuki Tabata

Abstract

The prediction and the comparison is the common criterion of evaluation in methods for the control of public works. This essay research the prediction and the comparison for the judicial precedents in railway projects. Effect of consideration, The court do not judge that between prediction and reality of difference, financial deficit by excessive of the prediction, excessive of the population prediction. The court do not judge to the comparison for the basis of the land expropriation law, the urban planning law, the local government law, the railway business law. I think of law for enforcement on correct prediction and properly comparison.