

STUDY ON REGIONAL REGIME FORMATION
CONCERNING DUST AND SAND STORM PROBLEM IN NORTHEAST ASIA

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ABSTRACT

In Northeast Asia, massive Dust and Sand Storm (DSS) arises in arid and semi-arid areas in China and Mongolia, and it makes trans-boundary impact on Korea and Japan. With scientific identification of increasing frequency and intensity of DSS, the voices about building institutionalized regime to avoid larger scaled negative effects of DSS have become stronger, but study on such regime creation has not been blossomed in this region. Despite of occurrences of numerous national/bilateral/multilateral countermeasures and discussion channels which aim to set legally-binding management system, however, there is no visible result so far. Therefore, considering such a long history of multi-dimensional efforts toward regime creation and low efficiency of those efforts, the question why regime has not been able to create in Northeast Asia for DSS mitigation is raised. Based on this curiosity, there are two main research questions 1) what is the biggest obstacles to encourage each stakeholder be cooperative and mitigate DSS problem, and 2) Do current DSS countermeasures make a progress on problem solving. By answering those two questions, this paper aims 1) to identify the key factor to solve DSS problem, and 2) to verify the indispensability of transboundary regime to promote such key factor and then, to solve the problem. Instead of concentrating only on traditional regime building, the research hypothesizes new regime building for DSS problem, which considers the involvement of non-state actors as a core member and highlights the significance of voluntarily participated

cooperation. For answering these two and measure the reliability of such hypothesis, the survey through questionnaire and interview is the main methodology of this research as well as literature review. First, the research refers to regime theories from different schools – neoliberalism, realism, and constructionism and Young’s study about roles of effectiveness regime in order to identify the traditional regime. It’s hard to estimate effectiveness in condition of non-regime, but instead, it’d be possible to comprehend necessary conditions for mitigating the conflict in traditional regime theory, and this research uses those Young’s findings as standards to measure the possibility of traditional regime building by current countermeasures. Second, the interview and questionnaire survey aims to identify the current state of DSS countermeasures and perspective on problem of all-involved stakeholders. The interviewee covers DSS-involved four different countries- Korea, Japan, China and Mongolia, and four different affiliations including government, business, academia and NGO. In the vein of developing regional cooperation to create and execute practical DSS solution, as conclusion, this research argues that 1) only knowledge-based approach can explain the empirical observation of current regime formation process to address DSS mitigation, and that 2) the traditional approach to support environmental cooperation is not indispensable to vitalize the very key factor – consensual knowledge. That is, building a new model of regime is required for DSS problem-solving in Northeast Asia. These two conclusions refer to five representative results from interview and questionnaire survey, which are 1) Lack of problem awareness and low shared problem understanding level in regional level 2) Low interest of each state in common interest, 3) Concentration more on knowledge and its sharing than on economic factor, 4) Low awareness of existing initiatives, and 5) Tendency of all states to reluctant to regulatory system. In addition, the conclusion is also supported by the result concerning dispensability of traditional regime which is analyzed with the standard of

Young's key roles of effectiveness regime. In the end, the research offers new challenge, a creation of 'community of interest network' embedding multiple-scaled key stakeholders including actors from not only government, but also from business, academia, non-government organization and public together into regime construction, utilizing non state communities knowledge for building consensual knowledge and problem understanding, and encouraging deliberative and meaningful dialogue toward sustainability of Northeast Asia in more practical way.

Key words: Dust and Sand-Storm, Northeast Asia, Sustainability, Environmental Regime, Regime paradigm shift