

Developmental State under Democratic Deliberation

The evolution of Policy EIA in Taiwan's EIA

ABSTRACT

Asian Tigers were sometimes referred to “developmental states” for they were capable of designing successful development agendas and implementing these plans with the compliance of private capital instead of simply regulating the market. However, with the fast democratic transition during the 1990s, the developmental state encountered serious challenges from business sectors, opposition parties and civil groups. Some literature suggested that the increasingly chaotic policies resulted from this infiltration of private sectors jeopardized the state's autonomy in formulating long-term plans.

This article aimed to review the policy process and outcome of state's intention in promoting investments and waste policies from 2005 to 2014. While developmental states were often argued incompatible with democratic regimes, this article demonstrated that the status of Taiwan's developmental state remained firm but fell short to evaluate policy efficiency thoroughly after democratic transition. Furthermore, it WAS the public participation and environmental assessment review (EIA) brought by democratic transition that reinforced the developmental state in Taiwan by correcting the state's errors in promoting those inefficient projects. The participation of civil sector did not lessen politicians' pursuit of constant national economic development; moreover, it further reinforced the capacity of the developmental state in choosing and calibrating developmental agendas.

Key words

Developmental States, Environmental Impact Assessment, Deliberative Democracy, Environmental Activism, Asian Tigers, Taiwan