

Global Governance and Climate Change —An Assessment of Challenges and Strategies Related to the COP15 Decision-Making Mechanism

Jiun Han Tsao

Department of Political Science, Chinese Culture University
55, Hwa-Kang Road, Yan-Ming-Shan, Taipei 11114, Taiwan
E-mail: jiunhantsao@yahoo.com

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to analyze the “United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,” hereafter referred to as UNFCCC). Particular attention is paid to the organizational structure and operational mechanism of the “Conference of Parties, COP” under Article 7 of the UNFCCC. In the 16 years between 1995 and 2010, the COP failed to carry out aims related to the objectives, principles, commitments and financial mechanisms of the UNFCCC, which are required to measure achievements regarding greater energy efficiency, and to control greenhouse gas emissions. The performance of operating mechanism for governing climate change under the UNFCCC represents a “governance failure.” Using the case study of the Copenhagen Conference (COP15) decision-making mechanism, this study attempts to explore relevant questions regarding why well-established COPs, supported by the public sector, private sector and the third sector of the world as a whole, is failing to play a constructive role in policy planning and implementation. This study considers the design of the COP with a view to enhancing its governance capacity.

Key Words: UNFCCC, Conference of Parties, Copenhagen Conference (COP15), Global Governance