Recent Development of Bio-fuel Policies and Regulations in Taiwan

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Abstract

Energy efficiency, environmental protections, reducing the dependence on fossil fuels, and securing the autonomy of energy supply are becoming the major concerns in developing new energy policy of many countries. In recent years, Bio-fuel, a much debated and controversial alternative energy, has become a solution or a strategic policy tool, to answer those aforementioned concerns in transportation sector of many countries. A number of countries or regions developed comprehensive regulations in promoting the usage of bio-fuel, such as mandates or direct/indirect subsidies, etc.

Taiwan, a part of the global village with deep reliance on fossil fuel, the government also carried out several programs/regulations to promote the use of bio-fuel in accordance with the national policy to promote the alternative energy, such as "Green Bus", "Green County", as well as nationwide mandate use of B1 biodiesel (mandatory B2 nationwide in 2010). Meanwhile, a legal framework has been developed as the base to carry out those policies, in particular, the pass of the first comprehensive renewable energy law in 2009 and amendments to several energy laws from 2008 to 2009. Although the overall deployment of renewable energy, in particular biofuel, is still in initial stage in compared to some leading countries or regions, the current development in Taiwan still shows the government's intention to achieve the sustainable development as well as to create more possibilities for the green economy in Taiwan.

This article focuses to review on the recent renewable energy policies promulgated in Taiwan, in particular on the promotion of bio-fuel; including laws, administrative programs and regulations, and further investigate the effects and deficiencies of such legal frame work.

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