

Public Concerns on Coal / Nuclear and Risk Communications

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Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

What forces will shape the future ?

● Drivers and challenges

- 1) Globalization, *Deglobalization*, Globalizations and Regionalism
- 2) Policies, societal values, and Public (consumers) behavior and attitudes
- 3) Power of Alienation, Distrust and Hatred or Power of Trust and Understanding?
- 4) *Learning and RE-BALANCING*
- 5) Knowledge in the Age of **Anthropocene** : *learning our way out of unsustainability*



Outline

- Energy Security as Our Problem, Everyone's problem
- Why the public? Who are the Public?
- What is Risks Communication?
- Energy Decision-Making and Public Involvement
- What Next Steps

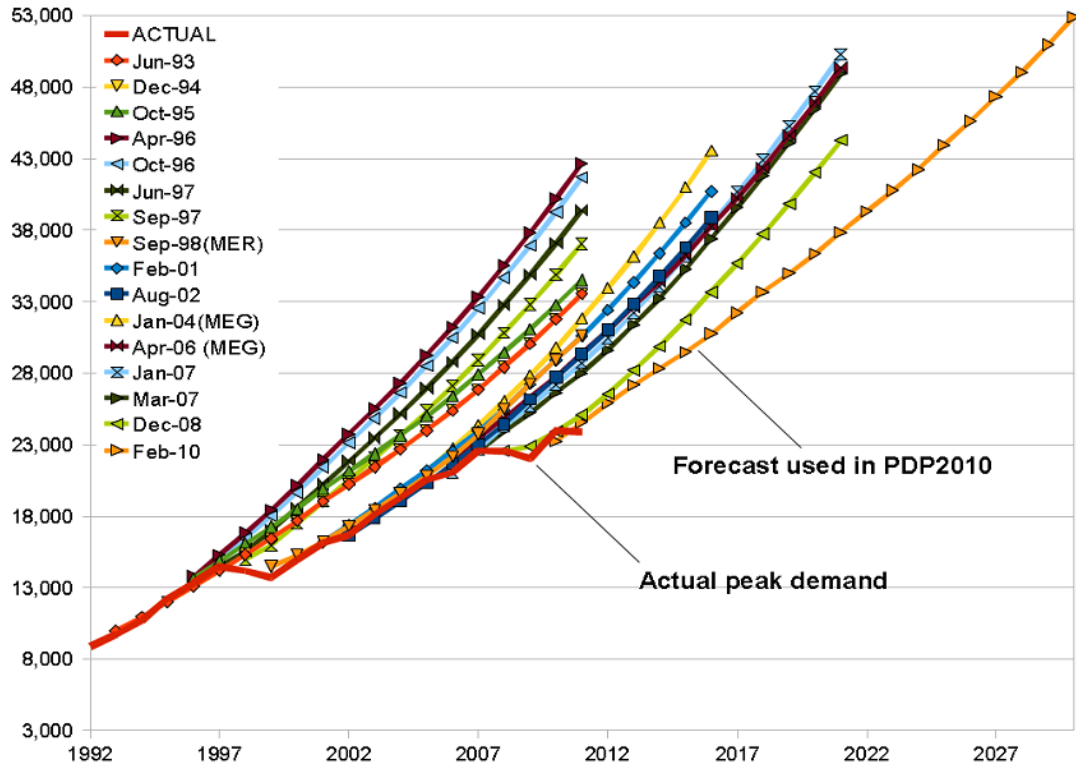


Seeking a Sustainable Energy Transition: Generation Technology Choice

- Thailand has experienced growing public protest against large-scale generation technologies
 - Large hydropower dams (e.g. Pak Mun)
 - Coal fired power stations (e.g. Mae Moh, and recently a proposed plant in Krabi)
 - Proposed nuclear power stations
 - Power import projects (e.g. Xayaburi)
- Although still to be strengthened, provisions in the Law and Constitution (1997; 2007) have:
 - Established provisions for Environmental Impact Assessments and Health Impact Assessments
 - Increased the opportunity for public participation



Seeking a Sustainable Energy Transition: Strengthening Power Planning Processes



- A 2006 study showed that 12 of the past 13 estimates by EGAT were overestimates
- Large power projects remain preferred, although there is now a growing proportion of renewables
- These large projects privilege the interests of EGAT and large power companies

Power planning was reformed with the Energy Act (2007)

- ✓ Formation of Energy Regulatory Commission
- ✓ *Some* public participation in PDP 2010

X Much remains to be done to further increase participation and internalize social and environmental costs

Thai civil society groups have called on EGAT to reform energy planning and prioritize renewable and decentralized energy projects, and energy efficiency



Who are the Public?

- “The public” means one or more natural or legal persons”- a collection of numerous continually shifting interests and alliances, which may be in conflict with each other
- a catch-all to describe those with an interest in a decision, other than a proponent, operator, or responsible authority. The individuals making up a public may be involved as individuals or as members of organisations. They may become involved due to their proximity, economics, social or environmental issues, values, etc.
- A person doesn't have to be a citizen to be a member of the public

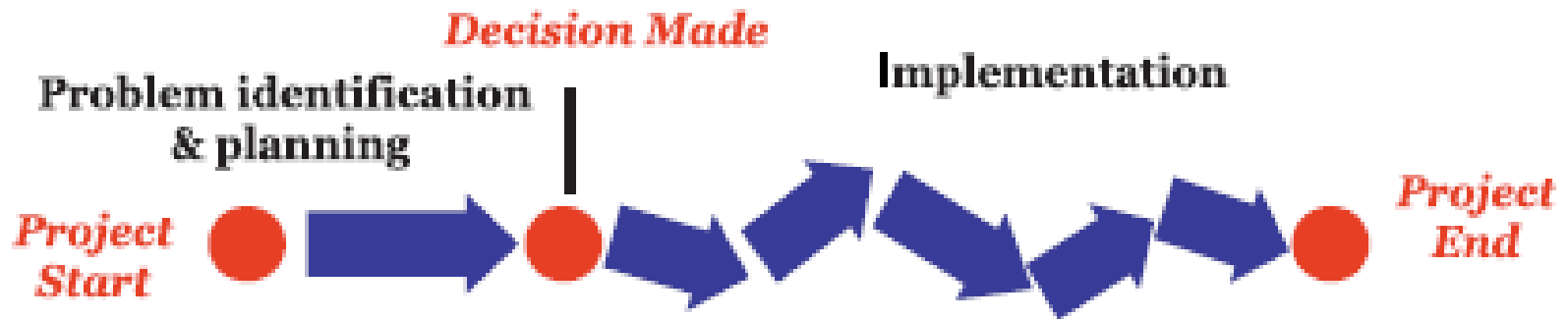
Public Concerns and Perceptions

1. What are the public's concerns and perceptions?
2. What is the social response to the risk? Possibilities of political mobilization or potential conflict?
3. How are public concerns defined by
4. Are there differences in stakeholders' attitudes and value, or from inequities in the distribution of benefits and risks?

DAD and DEAD : loss of trust

- Studies indicate a serious gap in understanding and trust between stakeholders
- Existing decision-making structures are often based on either the traditional DAD (Decide, Announce and Defend) or DEAD (Decide, Educate, Announce and Defend) methods, and this can be seen as one source of this gap in trust.

Unilateral Decision-making



Participatory Decision-making



Unilateral versus participatory decision-making

RISK Communication

1. one-way information not, two-way
2. Certain concerns are not taken serious, or treated as irrational atienation
3. Low level of confidence or trust in the information given, and in the decision-making process weakens the whole process

Stakeholders :

Key Questions for Involvement

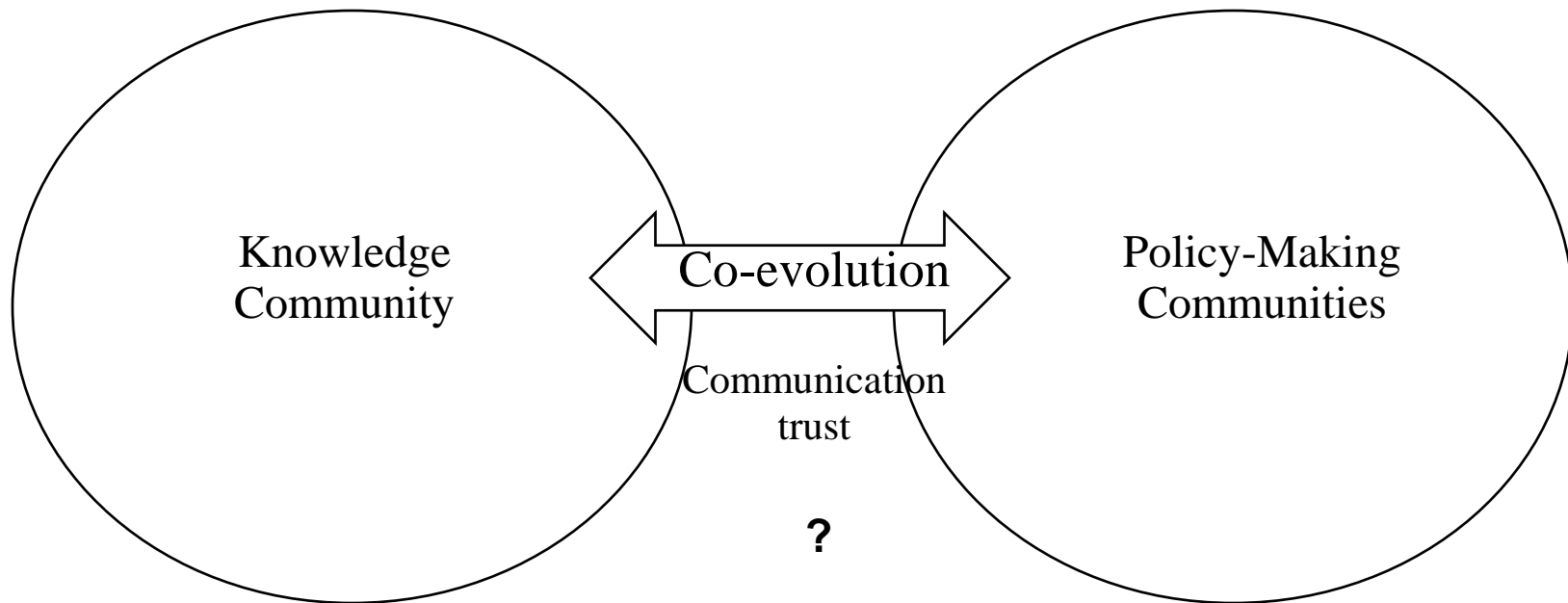
- **Inclusion**

- *Who* : stakeholders, scientists, public (s)
- *What* : options, policies, scenarios, frames, preferences
- *Scope* : multi-level governance (vertical and horizontal)
- *Scale* : space, time period, future generations

- **Closure**

- *What counts* : acceptable evidence
- *What is more convincing* : competition of arguments
- *What option is selected* : decision making rule (consensus, compromise, voting)

Co-Evolution of Research and Policy Making



COE: Knowledge / Communities / Methodologies



The wider context

Organizational Capacity

Organizational Capacity (1)

■ Assetts

- *Laws and regulations* that establish rights and obligations
- *Resources* – financial and physical – to gather information and act
- *Knowledge* – the experience and expertise to best use the resources
- *Integration* – with which to access and deploy the other assents

■ Skills

- *Flexibility* – adapting to change in a dynamic situation
- *Vision* – preparedness to think “ outside the box ”
- *Directivity* – being an agent for external change when necessary



Organizational Capacity (2)

● Capabilities

- *Relations* – links between the actors to create the basis for collaborative learning and decision making
- *Networks* – enhanced links between key actors
- **structures** that create and oversee the overall process and how all the actors interact

Choosing the Tools for the job

Level 1: Education and Information Provision

Level 2: Information Feedback

Level 3: Involvement and Consultation

Level 4: Extended Involvement



Dialogue Planning

November

March

2015

2016

Closed meeting
Business

Expected participants

- EGAT
- TEPCO
- BLCP
- JICA
- JBIC
- JETRO

ERI/IEEJ

Closed meeting
NGOs
Civil Society
Expected participants

-
-
-
-
-

SRI / ERI

Consultation
Stakeholders
Policy makers

Business

And Civil
Society

Open discussion
Business +
Civil Society +
Policy makers

Expected participants

Both sides of
Business and
NGOs
ERI/SRI