



Eco-governance, civil society and the need for integrated urban carbon management: The cases of Hong Kong, Singapore and Taipei

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Abstract:

City-regions and their complex urban metabolisms both drive and respond to the challenges posed by climatic and environmental change. Drawing-upon preliminary empirical research, this seminar sketches how global cities, particularly three in Asia—Hong Kong, Singapore and Taipei—are responding to arguably one of the most critical sustainability challenges facing the planet today: *carbon dioxide (CO₂) management associated with the risks of global and regional environmental change*. The seminar compares current climate change rhetoric and initiatives of governments, the business sector and civil society in these three cities.

The seminar also outlines how a comparative investigation of the efforts of non-government organizations (NGOs) in Hong Kong, Singapore and Taipei is yielding insights in two distinct areas: First, the role and nature of civil society in governance for urban sustainability or 'eco-governance'. Second, the pressing need for integrated, or 'bundled approaches' to urban carbon/energy management at various scales inside city-regions. How to bridge the gap between these two seemingly distinct spheres of social and sustainability science will be a critical research challenge.

About the Speaker:

David is presently a PhD candidate at the University of Hong Kong (DUPAD) and a Visiting Associate at Academia Sinica, Taiwan (CAPAS). His work focuses on urban sustainability in Asian cities. David has a Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, (BES) (Waterloo); and a Master's degree in Resource & Environmental Management, (MRM) (Simon Fraser). He has previously served as Manager/Coordinator for an economic development NGO on Northern Vancouver Island (Canada) for 4 years; and worked as an intern and consultant to UNDP and Agenda 21 in The Republic of Mongolia. David is interested in learning about how humans can overcome our fears, prejudices and greed to co-operatively create sustainable organizations, institutions and cities, for a healthy planet.

ALL INTERESTED ARE WELCOME

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