

COMPLETION REPORT

National Taiwan University

Ming-sho Ho

Subject of Research Project: **“Citizen Power: How Taiwan Can Learn from Japan’s Grassroots Green Energy Initiatives?”**

Originally, I intended to conduct field research in Japan to gather first-hand data about the post-Fukushima development of community-based renewable energy projects. The planned trip was to be made during the summer vacation of 2020 and the winter vacation of 2021. However, the COVID pandemic has made it impossible for me to travel to Japan during the border control. The Japanese government did not lift the ban on incoming tourists until October 2022, and the Taiwanese government removed the mandatory quarantine for returning nationals in February 2023. As such, I could only learn the progress of Japan’s citizen power initiatives from the existing literature and journalistic sources this period.

Afterwards, I have made three trips to Japan: (1) Tokyo: March 13-15, 2023, (2) Kansai area: June 8-15, 2023, (3) Tokyo: September 26-30, 2024. During these visits, I met academic researchers, NGO workers, and journalists to learn about the current situation of Japan’s environmental movement and the development of green energy. Major findings are: (1) The 2011 Fukushima Incident played a major role in jumpstarting Japan’s energy transition, (2) the post-Fukushima anti-nuclear protests have declined, and the government has successfully restarted some of idled reactors, but Japan was prevented to from return to the previous nuclear reliance, and (3) finally, the idea of “citizen electricity generation” has gained traction, and the grassroots co-ops are one of the its strong supporters. In comparison, although Taiwan’s government has promised to shut down all nuclear reactors by mid-2025, the citizen energy movement has not been entirely successful. The Japan’s success with grassroots co-ops is of critical relevance to Taiwan.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Ming-sho Ho, 2022, “Between Social Movements and Market: A Preliminary Study of Taiwan’s Citizen Power Plants,” 4th World Congress of Taiwan Studies, University of Washington Seattle, Washington, US, June 27-29, 2022 (webinar).

Ming-sho Ho, Yun-chung Ting, Chun-hao Huang, 2024, “Resistance against Green Energy Facilities in Taiwan,” Annual Meeting of Taiwan Sociological Association, Taichung, November 23-24, 2024.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Yun-chung Ting and Ming-sho Ho, 2023, "Between Social Movements and Market: A Preliminary Investigation on Taiwan's Citizen Power Plants." *Journal of Taiwanese Sociology* 72 : 1-56. (In Chinese)

Ming-sho Ho, 2023, "Book Review of Effective Advocacy: Lessons from East Asia's Environmentalists." *Global Environmental Politics* 23(2): 148-149.

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

Ming-sho Ho, 2024, "Geopolitics in Taiwan," in *The Palgrave Handbook of Contemporary Geopolitics*, ed. by Zak Cope. London: Palgrave Macmillan. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-25399-7_38-1.

Ming-sho Ho, 2022, "China's Influence Campaigns among Taiwan's Religious Organization," in *Global Civil Society in a Geopolitical Age: How Civic Activism Is Being Reshaped by Great Power Competition*, ed. by Richard Youngs. Washington DC: Carnegie Foundation for International Peace, pp.7-12.