

The restructuring of global climate governance

Chinese-Dutch subnational cooperation for new green deals in cities and regions

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EU and China in international climate governance – a crisis?

- Three major players of international climate policy: EU, China, USA
- China as biggest polluter of GHG emissions; increased importance in international negotiations
- Copenhagen Accord negotiated by BASIC countries and USA; EU marginalized

 EU and China in international governance – a crisis.



EU and China in international climate governance – a crisis?

- Results of international negotiations need to be implemented at subnational level (regions and cities)
- Importance of metro-regions for climate governance
 - 50% of the world's population lives in cities
 - cities account for 75% of global energy consumption
 - cities account for 80% of global GHG emissions



Climate governance – the subnational level

Importance of climate change to cities and regions

- need to develop policies to reduce GHG emissions (mitigation)
- need to adapt to local impact of climate change (adaptation)
- social and technological innovations can be generated in the context of and implemented in cities and regions

➔ Cities and regions are an essential part for the global architecture of climate governance.



Climate governance – the subnational level

Governance structure: Transnational arrangements

- bilateral
 - city partnerships (Rotterdam & Shanghai)
 - regional partnerships (State of California & Chinese province Jiangsu)
- multilateral
 - networks of cities (C40)
 - networks of regions (nrg4SD)



Shift towards new forms of transnational climate governance which support the development of subnational low carbon economies?



Subnational cooperation and new green deals

- Subnational new green deals in cities and regions
- Subnational cooperation in multi-level systems
- Framework for analysis



Subnational cooperation and new green deals

- Subnational new green deals in cities and regions
 - to overcome the climate crisis, cities and regions have to build upon innovative solutions, in cooperation with knowledge institutes and the economy
 - “regional learning” / “learning region”: Lagendijk (2001): learning regions are
 - structured contexts for communication supportive to collective processes of knowledge articulation
 - embedded in wider networks of exchange and learning at national and international spatial levels



Subnational cooperation and new green deals

- Subnational new green deals in cities and regions
 - “regional learning” as a process which enables stakeholders from different political levels and entities to combine their forces and, at least in the long run, succeed in creating “learning regions”, including innovation networks and supportive infrastructures.



Subnational cooperation and new green deals

- Subnational coordination in multi-level systems

- Hierarchical coordination
- Vertical coordination
- Horizontal coordination



Horizontal coordination can lead to the institutionalization of bilateral cooperations and transnational networks



This may facilitate regional learning and the development of learning regions



Subnational cooperation and new green deals

- Framework for analysis
 - characteristics of regions and cities
 - actors and actor constellations
 - networks and infrastructures within and between cities/regions that support the transfer of knowledge
 - types of policy transfer



Case studies of Chinese-Dutch subnational cooperation

Climate policies and their implementation on subnational level

1. Hebei: Co-Development Program Hebei and South Holland
2. Shanghai: Co-Innovation Program Pudong/Shanghai and South Holland; City Partnership with Rotterdam; C40



Co-Development Program Hebei and South Holland

- since 2003
- aims at creating opportunities for investment, cooperation and network building between organizations from the Provinces Hebei and South Holland
- organizes matchmaking for companies as well as research cooperation for knowledge institutes of both regions
- focus on water and environment, education, energy and emissions, harbor and coastal development



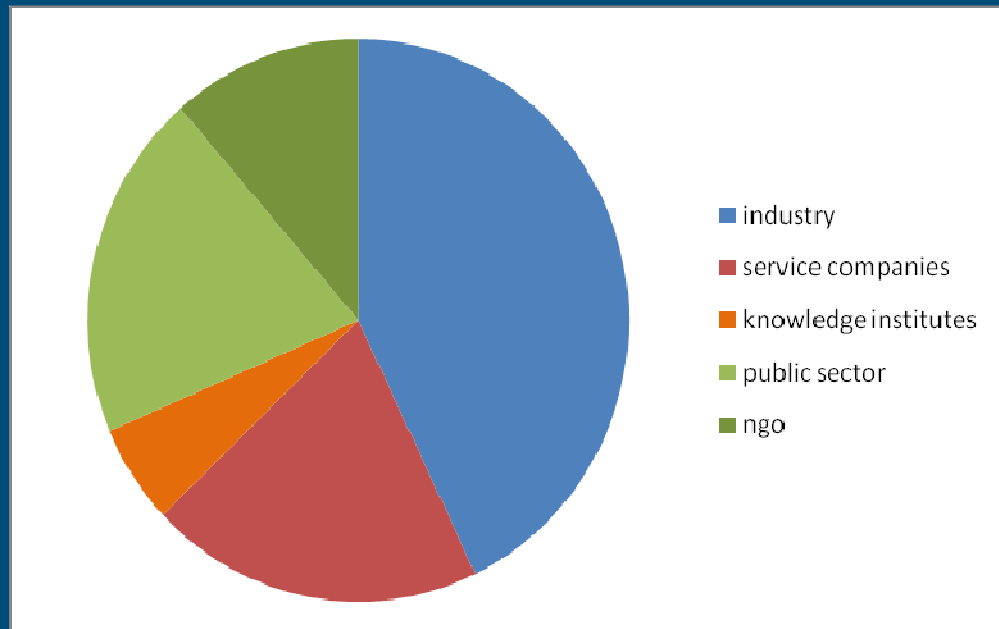
Co-Development Program Hebei and South Holland

Characteristics of regions

South Holland	Hebei
location at the North Sea -> vulnerability to climate change	location at Bohai Sea -> vulnerability to climate change
40% agricultural economic value on 7% of arable land	“grain basket of China”
can draw up their own regulations, as long as they do not conflict with European and national legislation; government has a stimulating role in economic development	formally subordinated to central government, but in practice large discretion with regard to economic policy
development built up on knowledge economy; cooperation to master challenges; “learning region”	→ Learning through transnational cooperation?

Co-Development Program Hebei and South Holland

Actors and actor constellations



Distribution of actors within exchange

Provincial government

- Framing of cooperation
- Mediation between companies
- Making contact to knowledge industry in the Netherlands

Service companies and knowledge institutes

- make policy concepts applicable to the Chinese context



Co-Development Program Hebei and South Holland

Networks and infrastructures between cities/regions

- Emergence of network structure primarily focuses on mutual visits
 - exchange of officials to observe management processes
 - business and knowledge institutes within “trade missions” (guided tours through companies, meetings at universities, schools and hospitals as well as thematic conferences)
- Coordination: officials draft a 2-year program based on the results of conferences



Co-Development Program Hebei and South Holland

Types of policy transfer

- copying: concepts like “low carbon city of the sun”
- emulation : transfer of policy concepts like “knowledge clusters”, “permit schemes”
- convergence of policy paradigms: sustainability as part of economic development; importance of soft knowledge for climate policy



Subnational Cooperation Programs Shanghai and South Holland / Rotterdam

- South-Holland Shanghai Pudong Co-Innovation
 - since 2004
 - cooperation areas: life sciences, greenports, ICT, “new materials”, water management and traditional Chinese medicine
 - exchange of knowledge and best practices and on helping business to enter markets
- Rotterdam-Shanghai City Partnership
 - delta cities, port area, important national economic hubs
 - cooperation areas: public works, finance and taxation, sports, environment, education and culture
- C40 membership



Conclusion

- Which crisis?
- Effective cooperation between subnational levels
- On the subnational level, we can see a convergence to solutions in the field of climate and energy
- Conditions for success of cooperation differ across subnational governments ... →



Conclusion

- Cooperation Province Hebei and South Holland:
 - project-based cooperation as a result of the discretion with regard to economic policy
 - emergence of a joint policy agenda which develops gradually through iterative exchanges and agreements
 - private business together with researchers and officials develop ideas of cooperation, which are then used to generate new plans for cooperation in an ex-post frame
 - governments as “entrepreneurial state”: policy sets broadly defined development paradigms – business, knowledge institutes, service companies and representatives of public sectors get involved to put them into action



Conclusion

- Cooperation Province Hebei and South Holland:
 - climate policy enters the policy agenda as a response to actors' needs

- Shanghai and its subnational transnational arrangements
 - cooperation between district Pudong and Province of South Holland; sister city agreement Shanghai and Rotterdam; both cities are represented in the C40
 - climate policy only in C40
 - climate policies subject to high uncertainty
 - access to multiple options to develop tailor made solutions
 - climate policy in complex urban systems requires specialization



Conclusion

- subnational arrangements are rather based on their functionality than on administrative divisions (cooperation of South Holland with Shanghai Pudong and Hebei)
- Shanghai: diversification and transnationalization of governance structures
- Hebei: bilateral agreements foster institutional learning towards new green deals
- emergent solutions (including institutional learning) at subnational level are pivotal for mitigation and adaptation in the context of global climate change
- experience of subnational cooperation should be uploaded to bilateral EU-China agreements



Thank you for your attention.



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