The Socio-politics of Nuclear Safety in Taiwan after Fukushima Disaster

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For the last twenty years, the antinuclear movement has played a major role in the mobilization of the Pan-Green camp. In particular, as the opposition to the construction of nuclear plant number four (NP4) converged with the creation of the DPP in the mid 1980s, the opposition to nuclear energy became mainly dependent to the DPP forces and its good will on that issue. Then, because of other economic constraints and pressure from KMT, the opposition to nuclear energy eroded among the DPP, especially after the government of Chen Shuibian failed to halt the construction of NP4. Since March 2011, the Fukushima disaster has insufflated a new dynamism for antinuclear movement in Taiwan. It was stressed that Taiwan nuclear plants would not resist a similar seism, and, considering the small size of the island, and the proximity between Taipei and NP1-2, this eventuality could provoke nothing more but the collapse of the country. Then during the electoral campaign for the January 2012 elections, the DPP was the more responsive to an important pressure from environmental NGOs to decide a full ban on nuclear plants. However, as I will argue, the issue remained a minor one during the debates and the influence on the votes was limited. This paper is a first synthesis of a poll survey, an extensive fieldwork interaction with various actors and observation of key events (including a trial where Taipower is involved, negotiations at EPA, interviews of Atomic Energy Council managers, protest actions, etc.).

Keywords: Nuclear plants, safety, risks perception, mobilization, antinuclear

福島核災後台灣核能安全的社會政治

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過去這二十年來,台灣泛綠陣營在反核運動的動員上扮演著重要角色。尤其是民進黨 在 1980 年代中期誕生的時間點恰好遇上反核四興建的社會運動,反核運動越來越仰 賴民進黨的勢力與意志。然而隨後,民進黨內部的反核勢力逐漸減少,並且由於國民 黨的施壓,陳水扁政府未能阻止核四續建。2011 年 3 月之後,福島災難激發了台灣 反核運動的新活力,反核人士不斷強調台灣核電廠無法抵禦類似規模的地震。再者, 台灣島地小人稠,核一核二非常接近台北,萬一發生類似情形,極可能造成全國性的 崩潰。2012 年 1 月總統大選的競選活動期間,民進黨算是最努力地回應環保團體的 要求,誓言施行非核家園。但在選舉辯論中,核能問題並未成為優先討論的議題,因 而對選票的結果影響不大。本論文將透過一個簡易民意調查的結果、與重要行動者的 深入田野互動,以及對於幾個關鍵性事件的觀察(例如台電被告的訴訟,環保署會議, 原能會的採訪,抗議行動等),對福島核災後圍繞著台灣核安議題所形成的社會政治 提出綜合分析與討論。

關鍵詞:核電廠,安全,風險知覺,動員,反核