

Rising Needs for Strategic Policy Research towards Sustainability in Asia

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Science and Policy Linkage

Science and policy intrinsically contradictory, as

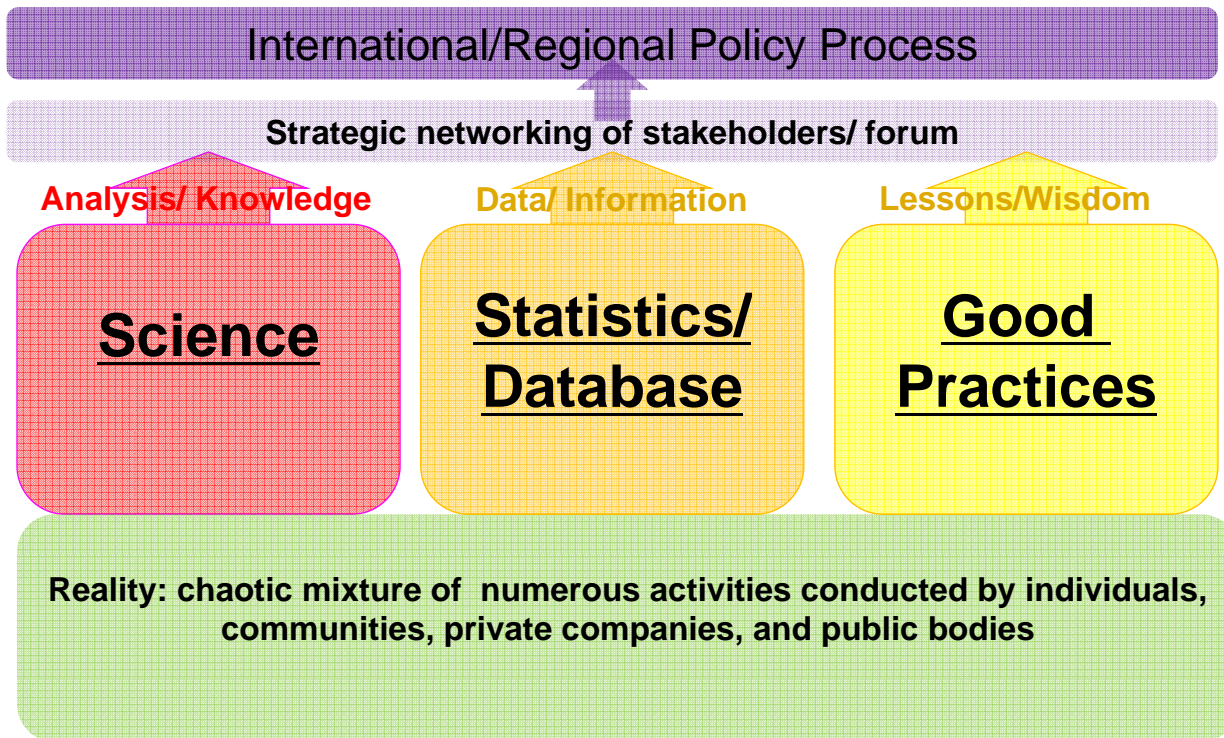
- (i) science tends to dictate what should be done, and
- (ii) politics does not necessarily come up with best solutions, as it is subject to democracy, or any other political processes.

Recent environmental matters are more science driven than before, because:

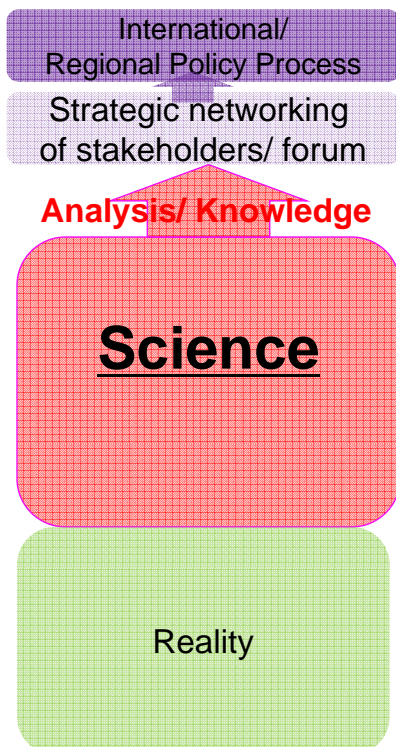
- (i) Only science (not anything else) can tell what is the problem (like climate change, ozone layer destruction), and
- (ii) Science can mostly provide solutions (effective technologies).

Thus, great needs for improved science policy linkage

Three strategic approaches to influence policies



Science and Policy



- By analyzing the reality, it provides conceptual frameworks for proper policies.
- The role of science in environmental policy making is increasingly important.
- Most of academic institutes/research institutes are limited in this approach

Key features of science

- Since the number of scientists limited, and resources limited, it can never capture the reality fully. **(limitation)**
- Science can rarely come to a single common conclusion, when it comes to environmental issues. **(uncertainty)**
- Science is not driven by (environmental) issues, thus no guarantee to come up with solutions in time. **(irrelevance)**
- General, abstract and not visible in many cases. **(difficulty to understand)**

Good practices and policy



- By accumulating good practices in the real cases, it provides rich lessons and wisdom for achieving success in mostly a qualitative manner.
- Conducted by individuals, communities and companies.

Composting: a good practice in Indonesia



Segregated waste collection from the community



Household compost basket



Bratang Compost Centre



Sonokwijenan Compost Centre



Keputran Compost Centre

Features of Good Practices

- Applicable only **under certain conditions**. Up-scaling and replication not guaranteed.
- **Ad-hoc** in selection, not necessarily represent the reality.
- Participatory, **more compatible with democracy** than science.
- Visible and specific, **easy to understand**.

Improved mechanisms for interaction

1. Politics in Science

- (i) Democracy in science (e.g. IPCC process: dominant scientific views: **uncertainty**)
- (ii) More policy relevant studies (through good practice case studies, for example: **irrelevance**)

2. Science in Politics

- (i) Discursive democracy (informed discussions by randomly selected individuals: **invisibility**)
- (ii) Social experiments (deliberate introduction of new practices to examine social acceptability: **limitation**)

Thank you for your attention.

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