

Regionalism's Challenge to the Pollution Haven Hypothesis:
A study of Northeast Asia and China

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Abstract

This paper explores the phenomena of environmental coordination within Northeast Asia. I initially frame the discussion around claims that China is a pollution haven for its neighboring countries, and I look for evidence in the domestic and regional environmental institutions which challenge China's pollution haven status. I find that there is a science and technology-based epistemic community in Northeast Asia which provides an important theoretical response to counter the pollution haven hypothesis. As well, given its strong science and technological output, Japan is poised to assume leadership of the Northeast Asian environmental regime for at least the short- to medium-term.

Keywords: epistemic community, regionalism, green R&D, environmental policy, pollution haven hypothesis