City University of Hong Kong

Department of Public & Social Administration

Research Student Seminar

Siting Conflicts and Sustainable Development
- Collective Action against Locally Unwanted Land Uses in Hong Kong

Paper Presented to the European Network for Housing Research Conference 2012

by

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>16 Aug 2012 (Thursday)</th>
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<td>Time:</td>
<td>16:00-18:00</td>
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<td>Venue:</td>
<td>B7516 (SA Conference Room), 7/F, Blue Zone, Academic Building City University of Hong Kong (Please use Lift No. 8)</td>
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In spite of their benefits to the society as a whole, locally unwanted land uses (LULUs) like power plants, incinerators and landfills are not welcomed by local residents. People are generally unwilling to have these facilities sited in their neighborhoods for their negative external effects. Local resistance emerges almost every time when the Government proposes a controversial land use. This eventually creates siting conflicts and results in the abandonment or postponement of plan to provide certain urgently-needed facilities. The project disruptions might pose challenges to the sustainable development of a city. The recent siting case of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities in Hong Kong was chosen to illustrate the challenges to the city’s sustainable development from the social, environmental, economic and institutional perspectives. The importance of environmental concerns, social justice and institutional inadequacies in shaping local residents’ adversarial behavior towards the Hong Kong Government will be discussed.

Keywords: Locally Unwanted Land Uses, Resistance Movement, Collective Action, Siting Conflicts, Sustainable Development

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(Free admission)

All are welcome!