THAILAND'S ENERGY POLICY REFORM: THE NEED ON THE CONFLICT: A CASE STUDY OF KRABI COAL POWER PLANT.

SANCHAI RATTHANAKWAN

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Bangkok, Thailand
E-mail: sanchai.ra@ssru.ac.th, kainooy@gmail.com

Abstract- This research aims to study and analysis the alternatives and decision making of energy policy of Thailand government in particular electricity from coal. The researcher used qualitative research methods and collect data from primary documents and secondary documents. It also has in-depth interviews and focus group. The research can be concluded that setting the issues and energy policy agenda does not give priority to the social sector in terms of creating a policy agenda that is coming from people who are trying to protest the power plant. The government reversed the decision, citing the need for electric power shortages and the need for support from public policies to put into practice. Energy policies are determined by the government over the needs of the people. Thus leading to the conclusion that Thailand's energy policy reforms are needed on the conflict.

Keywords- public policy, policy process, energy policy

I. INTRODUCTION

Energy policy is one of the policy that the government focus to reform. The energy policy was set up to enhance the economic potential of the country. In the long term it is requiring state agencies to cooperate with the private sector to build power plants, increased use of fossil fuels and renewable energy of all kinds. There are also collaborate with neighboring countries in energy development and promote the use of science, technology, research and development and innovation by encouraging large investment projects in the country. [1]

Energy Regulatory Commission forecast and plan for power development in the country was reviewed and revised power development plan (PDP2010: Revision 3) to comply with the new policy of the government and plan infrastructure investment and economic growth of a trend as well as to prepare for the AEC (ASEAN Economic Community: AEC)[2]. The power development plan (PDP2015) has followed the guidelines of the National Energy Policy Council has approved by a period of economic and social development plans consistent with the National Economic Development Board. Along with planning to Energy Efficiency Development Plan (EEDP) and develop Alternative Energy Development Plan (AEDP) to have period of the plan as well as plans PDP2015. [3]

Ministry of Energy has a policy to integrate energy development plan for the country's energy management to be aligned.[4] The focus on three issues: 1) Energy security: to meet the demand for electricity to support economic development plan and national societies, including the fuel diversification are used to generate electricity to be appropriate and to reduce the risk of fuel 2) Economy: must take into account the cost of electricity at reasonable and not an obstacle to economic and social development of the country in the long run and taking into account the efficiency 3) Ecology: to reduce its environmental impact, especially with the goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions per unit of electricity at power plants.

The plan gives priority to the stability of the power system to provide a comprehensive security system, electric power generation, transmission and distribution of electricity area. Therefore, it is important to consider the risks to the power outage. So it has considered stability of the power system in the south because of the electricity demand of the southern increased by an average of about 3 percent per year, as well as the entry of migrant workers, especially workers of Myanmar.[5] It reflects that a growing economy need more electricity consumption. So the demand for electricity is increasing, there is a need to develop more power plants in the years 2019 -2024.

The result of the government's energy plans entail condemnation and protests since mid-2014 to the present. Thus, the movement of opposition groups in Krabi province claims in the area and movement in Bangkok. The protest movement is widespread in all public areas including local governments, Fishing Networks, NGO, Scholars and social activists. The movement of a group that has received attention from the public is The Protect Krabi from Coal Network.[6] The network consists of 21 organizations with a motion demanding in different ways. To demonstrate the power plants that do not need such a campaign asking supporters to submit a list of 40,000 claims to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand to cancel the construction of coal plants in Krabi Province by walk campaign including a strike at the building of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning Office. [7] Each person labeled "No Coal" under the feet both sides to display standpoint objections the coal power plant in Krabi Province and calls for reforms to assess the environmental impact and health (EIA/ EHIA) as

well as so starved the government announced the cancellation of coal fired power plants. [8]
In this research, the researcher tried to analysis process of energy policy in particular the analysis of alternatives policy and policy decisions.

II. RESEARCH DESIGN AND DATA

The purpose of this research is to study and analysis the alternatives and decision making of energy policy of Thailand government in particular electricity from coal. The researcher used qualitative research methods. Collect data from primary documents and secondary documents. It also has in-depth interviews and focus group with leader and members of community. This research using the analysis of policy process theory by attention analysis the alternatives and decision making process.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reform energy policy from coal through a case study can be analyzed be seen that from process of public policy.

1) The analysis of policy alternatives

To describe and analyze, process and analyze alternative energy policy. The researcher uses the concept of John Kingdon[9] describes and analyzes the process before policy decisions. The issue was the source of the issues and the policy agenda of the government alone, especially the issue of coal is sourced from government agencies, namely the Department of Energy has partnered with the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, the development plan for the country's electricity. The study found that there are no transmission problems from outside the government to set the agenda of the government in the form of a motion by the leaders of the groups or the public sector and various civil society organizations.

In addition, process analysis and analysis of policy alternative might be considered by the model proposed by Roger Cobb, Jennie-Keith Ross, and Marc Howard Ross [10] is to create a policy agenda based on outside initiative model can not happen because the government does not allow groups outside the public sector, who have been directly affected can not create policy issues and contribute to the decision process. The government claims that the policy action that could resolve the suffering and needs of citizens, without moving any claim that this action is in the nature of mobilization model is a process. The government is trying to present policy decisions and policy needs support from the public sector to lead the practice. Also be clear that the policy is consistent with the traditional coal inside access model policy is happening within government agencies. Despite attempts to establish the participation of the public sector but policymakers will happen after then. The involvement of the public was spontaneous from the public because of expectations that could be affected by the government's decision.

In summary it can be said that defining the issues and the policy agenda coal plant does not give priority to the social sector in terms of creating a policy agenda that is sourced from various groups. Outside the government as a form outside initiative model, but with a focus on combining the stability and the status of the state as a model inside access model and try to offer and want to support the policy of the public to contribute to the self-mobilization model.

2) The analysis of policy decisions

The researchers used the idea of Steve Vertovec[11] to analyze the power plants policy. Steve Vertovec said the public policy process must give priority to the citizen**.** Citizenship in this case is the rights, duties and activities of individuals or groups, the relative expression of interest to the public, affecting their quality of life and life chances of the other agents in the society. The involvement creates ownership to happen is people who are more stakeholders. In addition must also contribute to the meeting to find consensus, alliance's policy and campaigning on the base of network benefits. The political interests of the individual to the social network, it is essential to present alternative policies better. Social networking gives the appearance of a variety of human equality, which is different from the relationship with the state under the policy. The social network has challenged the government decision, which will be replaced by horizontal networks of relationships that each member of the alliance. Not only related with the activities of the network, but the network is also where members can share and debate with each other. The modern society is a pluralistic society can not be achieved with the objectives of each method measures the force of the state. Therefore, it needs to be gathered in a manner that is governance.

Considering awarding the coal policy will be seen that the process of public policy. The government pays attention to the meaning and value of participation. Citizen and social networks make some decisions. After the movement of people in the area and a network of civil society, particularly the trilateral commission, which consisted of local people, government officials from the ministry of energy and the electricity generating authority of Thailand and representatives of the legislature. The government also suggests that at least some of the public hearing. However, the government has confidence in its own data that is accurate. Government use and forecast future consumption of electricity from the state agency, so it is accurate and reliable. It can be said that energy policy, especially in power plants is determined by the nobles, scholars or academics over the issue of public demand.

In conclusion, reform energy policy found expression indicates the policy, including the impact is expected to occur, the researcher suggests that under the public policy framework that energy policy should not be viewed only. Environmental issues will follow should not discount policy instruments to control or action that is legal, but must be considered in the whole of the public administration, along with the notion of public policy. The issue of energy policy and coal that must be put out does not mean that the project will be canceled in accordance with the needs of the people. The government may put forward further consideration at any time. To be considered again objected to the motion, it will happen again if the project or change to a different area of the country was subject to protest as well. While the need for electricity, it is undeniable that there is a need for more real. The challenge is that the government will deal with this issue and how to reform energy policy if a serious incident occurs, the demands of opposition groups that reflect the need to reform the policy process is over.

CONCLUSIONS

Policy reform is so important and why the need to reform the social awareness and understanding, not just of the "new" but it is good and beneficial to the public. If taken to a meaningful reform of Chokchai 's study[12], it can be seen that policy reforms, power policy may not be able to say that this is the reform process because there is still opposition challenged. Collection of data on the other side did not agree and may not be sure that it will lead to a breakthrough than ever. The content is defined in the policies focus on the acquisition policy is also important. In other words, the policy is to be reformed as well. A concise policy and policy on public sector plays a leading role. Attenuation of the various parties needed to be reformed as well. Each side has a policy target or focus different. For energy policy, the research suggests that the answer to the reform policy is to make energy a sustainable and equitable use thoroughly. So what the government was carried on coal or other energy reform is not sustainable. Therefore, the reform of energy policy will lead to a sustainable. Researchers have suggestion below.

1) The policy process: Government must be open public forum to present information intensive and surrounding areas. All policy actors and stakeholders need to be involved, in particular participating in the final stage of the decision.

2) The relevant information must be taken into consideration: Numerical data, the statistical agency of the state. Of course, a number that indicates the imperative need that can not be denied but at the same problems suffered and impacts from locals and stakeholders also must be taken into consideration as well.

3) The analysis be seen the real problem: To lead to reforms must make it clear that any group of people. The new policy is a solution or a specific group of people who will benefit the general interests of public policy should belong to the people.

4) Energy policies often affect the environment and people in the area might have affected the health: Policy should include measures to support or assist those affected. To understand the third sector policy on one side is important because it makes social awareness shared in the story. For energy policy the government and people of the areas affected and the majority of the society to pay attention and try to get involved with.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author would like to express sincere thanks to Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University for kindness and support to this paper.

REFERENCES

[1] Energy Policy and Planning Office. 2012. Power Development Plan. Ministry of Energy.pp.3-1
[2] http://www.matichon.co.th/news_detail.php?newsid=1437711007
[3] Energy Policy and Planning Office. 2012. Power Development Plan. Ministry of Energy.pp.1-1
[4] Energy Policy and Planning Office. 2012. Power Development Plan. Ministry of Energy.pp.2-1
[5] Musthaya Patchanee.2016. The Characteristics and factor of Myanmar return migrants in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University,Thailand. Cite in http://www.worldresearchlibrary.org/up_proc/pdf/216-145925001242-47.pdf
[6] http://www.komchadluek.net/detail/20150326/203634.html
[7] http://www.citizenthaipbs.net/node/4830
[8] http://tcijthai.com/tcijthainews/view.php?ids=4567
[9] Kingdon, John W. “How does an idea’s time come? Agenda alternative and Public Aiternative, and Public Policies” in Shafritz, Jay M. & Hyde, Albert C. (2007). Classic of Public Administration. Wadsworth: Cengage Learning, pp.445-449.
[10] Roger Cobb; Jennie-Keith Ross; Marc Howard Ross. “Agenda Building as a Comparative Political Process”. The American Political Science Review, Volume 70, No.1. (Mar., 1976). pp.126-138.
[11] Steve Vertovec. “Minority associations, networks and public policies: re-assessing relationships”. Journal for Migration and Ethnic Studies 25(1) [1999, in press]
[12] Chokchai Suttawet.2013. Paradigm reform in Thailand: Considerations for the Reform of public and self-reform. Thailand Parliament Journal, 61 (2013) Vol. 12, pages 11-38.

★★★