

The background of the slide is a photograph of a beach. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach with gentle waves washing onto the shore. The water is a light blue-grey color. In the distance, several offshore wind turbines are visible, their towers and nacelles extending into the sea. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall scene is calm and serene.

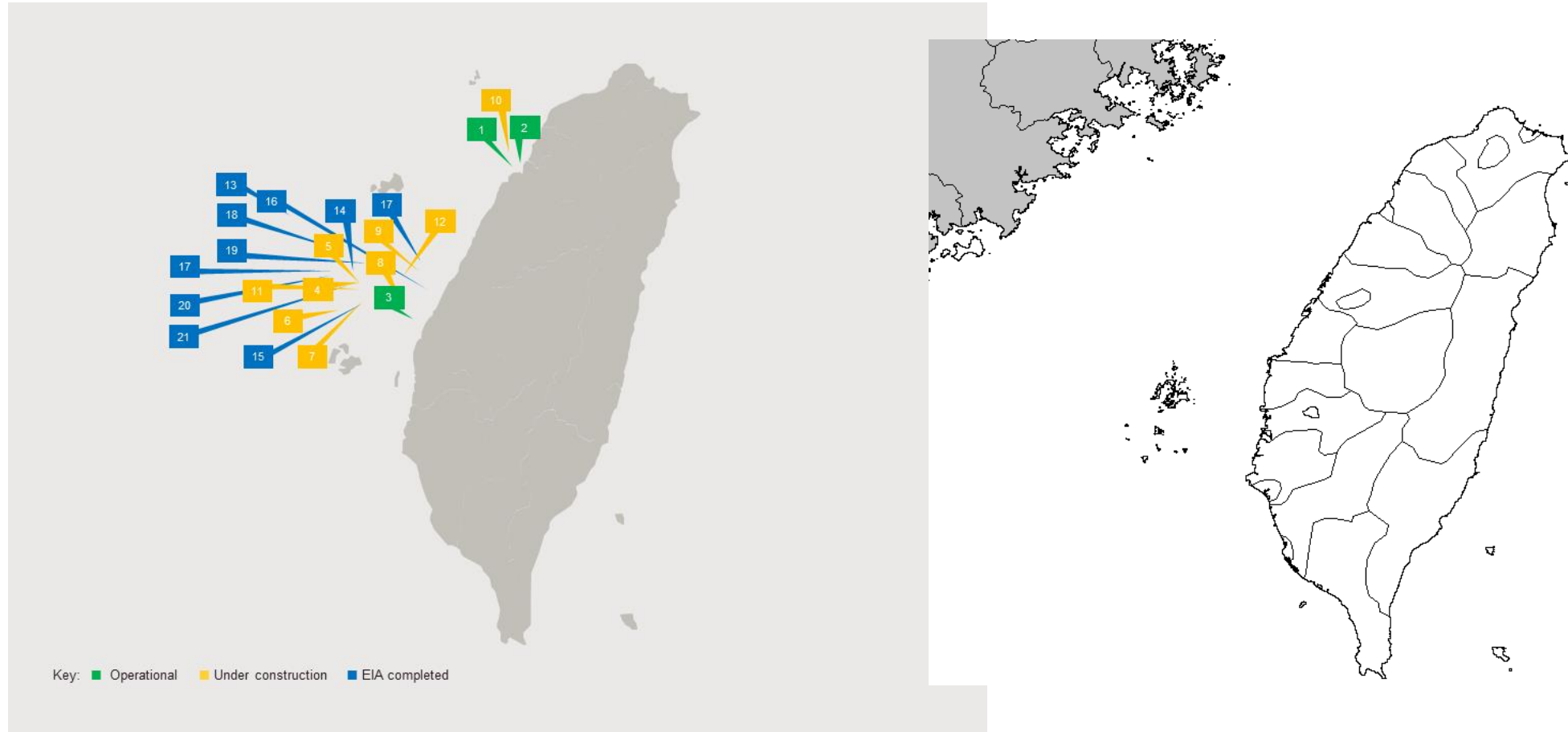
Contested Timescape of the Offshore Wind Development in Taiwan's Nearshore Waters

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“Green Gold Treasure in the Taiwan Strait”



Credit: Norton Rose Fulbright

<https://www.nortonrosefulbright.com/en/knowledge/publications/e50b5c34/global-offshore-wind-taiwan>

Background

- Fishermen's Main Appeal: 生存權 (right to live)
- The “offshore wind power plant fisheries compensation formula” was implemented to compensate the supposed loss of fishery.
- Spatial compensation scheme did not resolve the conflicts
- “Fish stocks appear at different sites and periods.”
- Ocean is an ever-changing timespace (May and Thrift 2003)

Main argument

- Introducing a “timescape” perspective in addition to “ocean grabbing” framework
 - Timescape: “cluster of temporal features” (Barbara Adam 2005; Laura Bear 2016)
- Time-related factors are equally important to spatial factors.
 - Countdown timer for wind energy installation
 - Epistemology of time, labor in/of time, and temporal autonomy for fishermen
- “The right to live” —preserving one’s unique mode of existence formulated from practical engagements with the ocean

Wind Industry as “Chronocracy”

- Manipulation of time to maintain or consolidate politico-economic inequality.
- Application of knowledge (expert knowledge), technology (the technology of arranging time), and ethics (the judgment of the value of time). Legal and economic pressures are also utilized to govern the worth of time.
- Inhibits or dispossesses the ability of some individuals to imagine and plan their own futures, and influences their perspectives on the daily course of events.
- Pushes certain individuals to accept the temporal thinking of others (usually elites) (Kirtsoglou and Simpson 2021).

The following...

1. Protest scene which typifies how the chronocracy of offshore wind power affects fishermen's livelihood.
2. The temporal characteristics of offshore wind power development
3. The temporal characteristics of coastal fishery
4. **The temporal autonomy of coastal fishery is a significant reason why the conflicts are difficult to settle through spatial compensation schemes.**

Temporal conflicts: an example

- Contending the new "Changhua Wind Farm Channel Navigation Guidelines"
- The navigational limitations were added to avoid collision with the incoming flux of construction vessels
- Must report the intent of entering the waterway 8 hours before.



Credit: Han-shu Chung @ Environmental Rights Foundation

The fishermen said...

- "In contrast to land-based road traffic with fixed boundaries and regular traffic signs, we fishermen follow the fish."
- Land-based concept of time is incompatible with the working patterns of fishing vessels.

Temporal order of sea tenure

- "Time" was widely used to regulate access to marine resources (ex. Durrenberger and Palsson 1987)
- Rule of thumb--"first come first"
- The first person to arrive at a certain location has priority when using that ocean space and claiming the reward of their catch.
- **"How can the beggars kick out the temple stewards ??!"**
 - Feeling unfair that the "beggar" who comes late at the temple has the right to expel the individuals who have been there long before

Countdown Times

- Temporality of Offshore Wind Development
- The prominence of renewable energy on national development agenda is based on a linear view of time as a "countdown timer" (Kyle Whyte 2021)
- "a sense of urgency, a desire to find quick solutions"
- Due to the shortage of time on carbon reduction, offshore wind is considered the most efficient means of large-scale generation of "clean electricity"; therefore, its governing body—the Energy Bureau—has obtained the priority right to assign ocean space.

OWF chronocracy

- Transnational corporations bring to Taiwan a set of temporal concepts that they believe should and can be applied globally.
- "Universality, simultaneity, progress, punctuality, productivity, and acceleration" (Awasis 2020:832) that constitute the core of chronocracy in offshore wind power development.

Time is essence



Divergent
timelines

Streamlined
and linear
process

Time is essence

- TIME is the unit of value accumulation; delays in development schedules would result in increased costs and hurt the country's investment rating.
- Political wrestling determines which temporal concepts are dominant and which are excluded or subsumed.

Temporal Rhythms of Coastal Fishery

- The small-scale fishermen who rely on fishing for household income also seek the highest possible return per unit of time
- Not on clock time but must consider both the "when" and "where" of time-space factors, as well as the continually altering rhythms of marine nature.

Temporal Rhythms of Coastal Fishery

- Tidal Rhythms
- The value of tidal time contributes to fishermen's disputes over the wind farm projects.



Stranded in the low tide

Temporal Rhythms of Coastal Fishery

- Seasonal Variations
 - Wind turbines are near the winter migratory route of the most valuable fish—mulletts.



Winter migratory routes of mullets

Making mullets caviars (black gold)

Temporal Rhythms of Coastal Fishery

- Timing and Versatility
 - "In bad weather, the reaction time to avoid collision may be less than a second!"
 - The physical presence of the piles might increase the number of obstacles and shorten their reaction time



Raft waiting outside the harbor for the right tide

Temporal Autonomy

- Coastal waters have many different rhythms of time, including tides, seasons, fish movements, etc.
- The ability to coordinate these rhythms has typically resulted in intricate time skills among good fishermen.
- Due to their knowledge of the sea's cycles, fishermen are able to preserve a high degree of autonomy over their work hours.

Temporal Autonomy

- “Back to the sea” —young generation of fishermen
- For financial gain, as well as for the autonomy to control their own schedules and their life trajectory.
- “I’d rather be *laoda* (老大, the boss) in a remote poor area than an underdog in the big City”
- Preserving a section of the ocean as fishing ground is akin to protecting the capacity of young people to build a future on their own, without having to subsume themselves to the mainstream society.

Conclusion

- Time-related factors must be considered in order to fully comprehend the resistance of fishermen to offshore wind development.
- Criticizes the land-based thinking behind the planning and execution of offshore wind projects.
- Argues that even those who are labelled as “ethnic majority” can, through their physical engagement with their environment, constitute a unique mode of dwelling (being-in-the-world).

Slow down~

- How about we cease considering linear time and countdown time as the sole time frame that defines the rhythm of daily life?
- We might have more room to evaluate alternatives to the one-size-fits-all solutions proposed by technocrats and big corporations, and to build a better foundation for mutual understanding, communication, and collaboration, so that one day we might be closer to the ideal of a truly fair and just energy transition.

The End. Thank you for listening!