

# **Nuclear energy policy in Europe**

## **A Case Study of Phasing Out Nuclear Energy in Germany**

Nagako Sato

Graduate Student of Doctoral Course,  
Osaka School of International Public Policy,  
OSAKA UNIVERSITY

This research seeks to provide a practical analysis of nuclear energy policy in Europe.

There are various energy policy directions originally. However, in the face of the Global warming and the prolonged recession, signs of shift in energy policy are observed in some countries. In this situation Germany's case seems to be suitable to think of recent nuclear energy trends in the respect that man can observe nuclear energy policy as a problematical political issue and recently more accelerated one because of changing in political administrations.

In general, Germany is regarded as one of the leading countries in Europe for the strong environmental movement, the powerful environmental party. However, many problems must be actually pointed out. First, phasing out nuclear energy is even now one of the disputable political issues in Germany though it was aimed at by environmental party's challenging as the government party. Secondly, main actor's behavior changed and lost credit. About Niedersachsen state GORLEBEN, the German federal government decided to resume shipping nuclear waste from German nuclear power plants to French and British reprocessing facilities and back again, although Green environment

minister had a few years before clamored against similar shipment. Thirdly, as a result, there is the collision between central government and local government. In this point, the relation between environmental party and movement has to be deeply reconsidered. For clarifying these problems, I also use here materials and interview from environmental party, the Social Democrats and anti-nuclear movement in Germany and Belgium.

From the above, this work would provide a case study for the energy policy from now on. Here, we can take the opportunity of looking back on the achievement of environmental party as the government party from 1998 to 2005 and the mutual influences with the European nations in this period. And it would also show the profitable case how the anti-nuclear movement and political party will relate to each other to build a further civil society in the future. At last, the system of cooperation in European nations and our future of the nuclear energy policy must be considered.