



International Mini-Symposium
Energy Transitions in Japan and Germany – Policies, Perceptions, and Practices
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ABSTRACT

National and international drivers and barriers to energy transitions – What influences political decisions on energy policies in Germany?

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With the adoption of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially SDGs 7 and 13, in 2015, the international community has set clear goals and targets to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and to transition to renewable energy. However, current national emission trends deviate to a large extent from the goals states set out in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Moreover, even if all countries meet their individually determined pledges and goals, global warming is expected to reach around 3.0°C above pre-industrial levels, instead of the 1.5-2°C goal states agreed on in the Paris Agreement.

Bearing in mind global emission trends and international agreements, a key question arises that will significantly influence the failure or success of the international community's efforts to mitigate climate change: Under which conditions do states increase their ambitions and foster implementation to transition to decarbonized economies?

Therefore, the presentation seeks to: 1. Summarize Germany's national-level policies on the so-called "Energiewende" (energy transition), 2. Analyze national factors that influence the German government's decisions to transition to renewable energy and phasing out of coal and nuclear energy, and 3. Contribute to an understanding of Germany's decisions in light of regional and international organizations and agreements, such as the European Union's Green Deal and the Paris Agreement.