



The Policy of Rural Water Supply in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam

An analysis of water governance in a 'state- and donor-centred' setting

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- Increasing water scarcity due to worsening water quality
- Less than 50% of rural households have access to clean drinking water, only 20% to hygienic latrines
(WB/Danida/MoNRE 2003)
- Policy Reform: NRWSS/NTPII



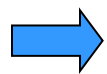
Source: G. Waibel

- In practice:

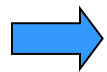
- VN off track for achieving MDG 10 in rural areas (ADB 2006)
- NTPII 2010 targets unlikely to be achieved

- In theory:

- Lack of knowledge on the functioning of policy-making in the water-sector in Vietnam
- Lack of knowledge on influence of local actors, political cultures, institutions, ideology, history... on policy-making



How does policy reform work in Vietnam?



Which factors at which levels influence policy-making?

- ◆ Identifying incentives that drive policy decisions and implementation in water services delivery (*policy causes*)
- ◆ Understanding the status quo of water governance in rural water supply (*process of decision-making and implementation*)
- ◆ Assessing the appropriateness of water policy to solve local problems (*policy impact*)



Source: www.rwssp.org.vn

- How is water supply delivery governed in the rural area of the Mekong Delta, Vietnam?
 - Perceived problems?
 - Policy goals?
 - Negotiation and decision-making on policy formulation?
 - Policy measures?
 - Policy implementation?
 - Policy impacts?



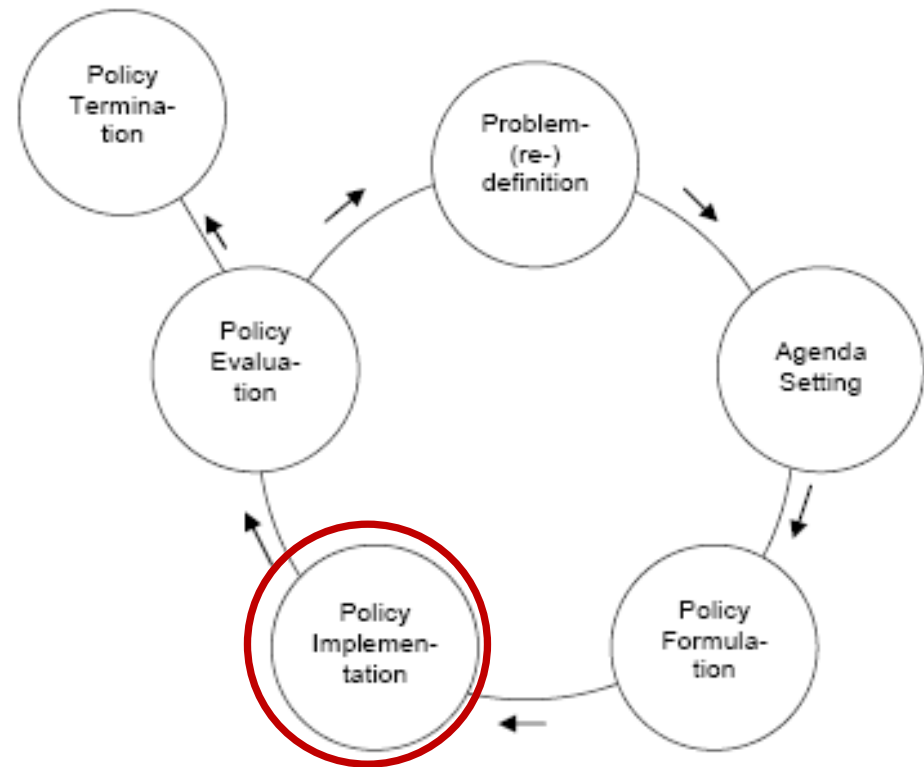
Source: www.katz-r.com

- ,Water governance‘ as decision-making in, and implementation of water policy (*no normative connotation!*)
- Policy processes in Vietnam:
 - ,state-centred‘ (Grindle 1999)
 - ,donor-centred‘ (Mollinga 2007)

➔ *No ,suitable‘ theory for analysis of state- and donor-centred policy processes*

Public Policy Analysis:

Investigation of all forces, influences and conditions that form or determine the actions of public policy agencies, and the results of which become apparent in intentions, programmes and its implementations
(Schneider/Janning 2006)



The 'Policy Cycle' (Jann/Wegrich 2003)

- Heuristic case study approach: inductive identification of variables, hypotheses or causal mechanisms that influence the outcome of water supply policy
- ‚Policy Cycle‘ for structuring the research process and identifying (,locating‘) relevant variables
- Investigation of two cases: one district in Can Tho City Province, one district in Tra Vinh Province (pilot province for NTPII)

Investigation of policy implementation

- What is happening on the local ground?
- What are the incentives for action?

<i>Methods</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Localities</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of local planning and evaluation documents and reports • Participatory mapping • Informal and semi-structured interviews • Participatory observation • Influence network mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial, district and commune level political authorities • Local staff/consultants of development agencies • Private actors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 district in Can Tho City • 1 district in Tra Vinh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In total ca. 3 months per case

- Comments on the relevance and feasibility of my research?
- Contacts to relevant authorities, scientists, development agencies, NGOs...?

Thank you very much for your comments and suggestions!



Source: H.-D. Evers