

20th REFORM Group Meeting, Salzburg – Aug.31-Spt.4, 2015
Low Carbon Markets and the Legacy of Nuclear Power

The role of local governments for climate protection and energy in Japan

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Outline

1. Historical perspective
2. Characteristic, strength and weakness
3. Some LGs' Strategies
4. Recent challenge

Historical perspective

■ Historical perspective

- Local governments, especially TMG (Tokyo Metropolitan Government) explore and lead national environmental/climate/energy policies in Japan
- Some local governments follow and spread, then national rule changed

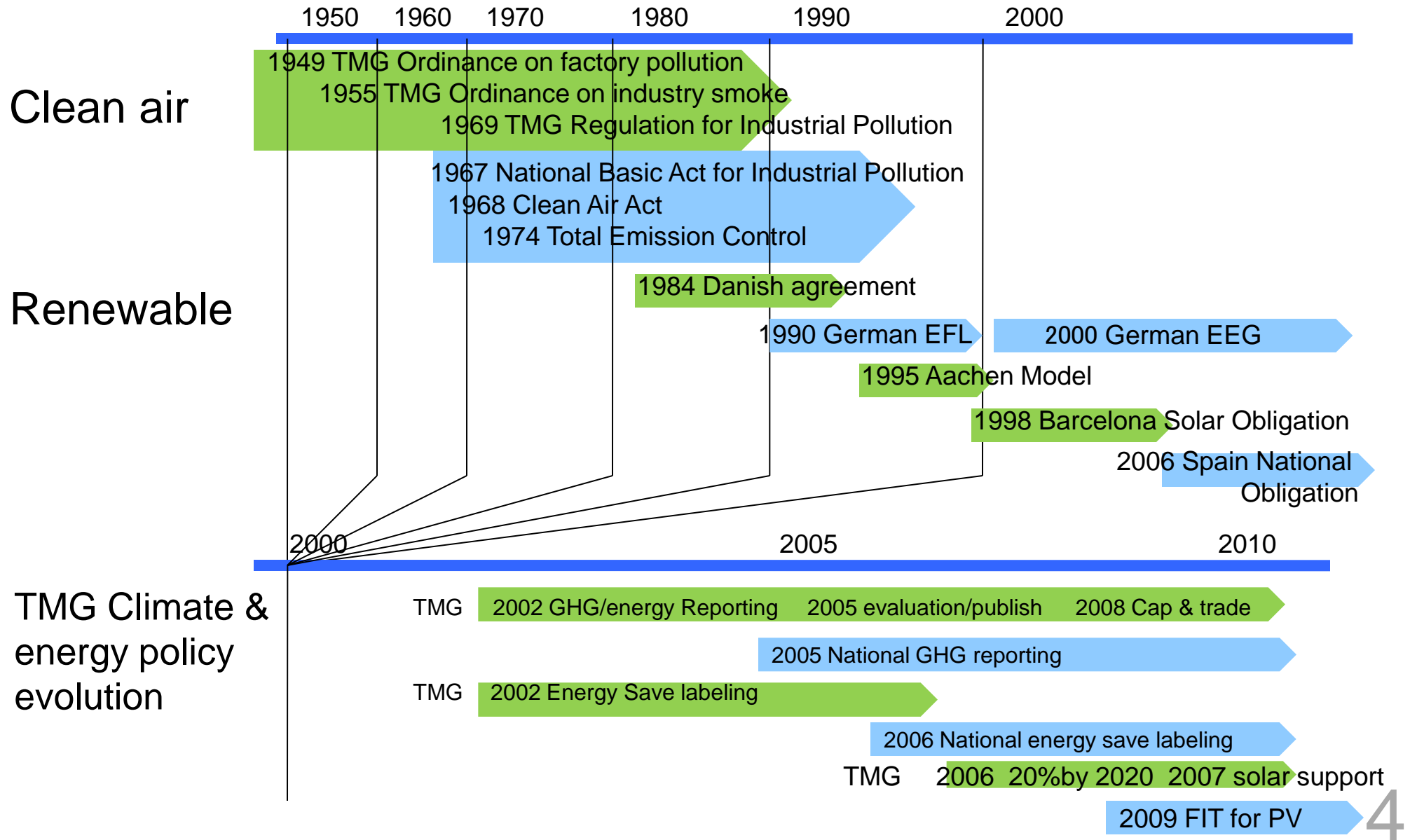
■ Shifting “policy theme/domain”

- Policy concept/domain has been shifting
 - ✓ Originally, Waste management
 - ✓ 1970s~ Pollution control
 - ✓ 1990s~ General environment/Agenda21
 - ✓ 2000s~ Climate
 - ✓ 2011~ Energy
- Especially after 3.11, “energy” come to the front , replacing “climate”

■ Policy innovation and evolution

- 1960-70s ; From “no control” to “end-of-pipe”
- 1980-2000 : planning and subsidy
- 2000- : various “demand pull” based policy tool and mechanism

historical perspective

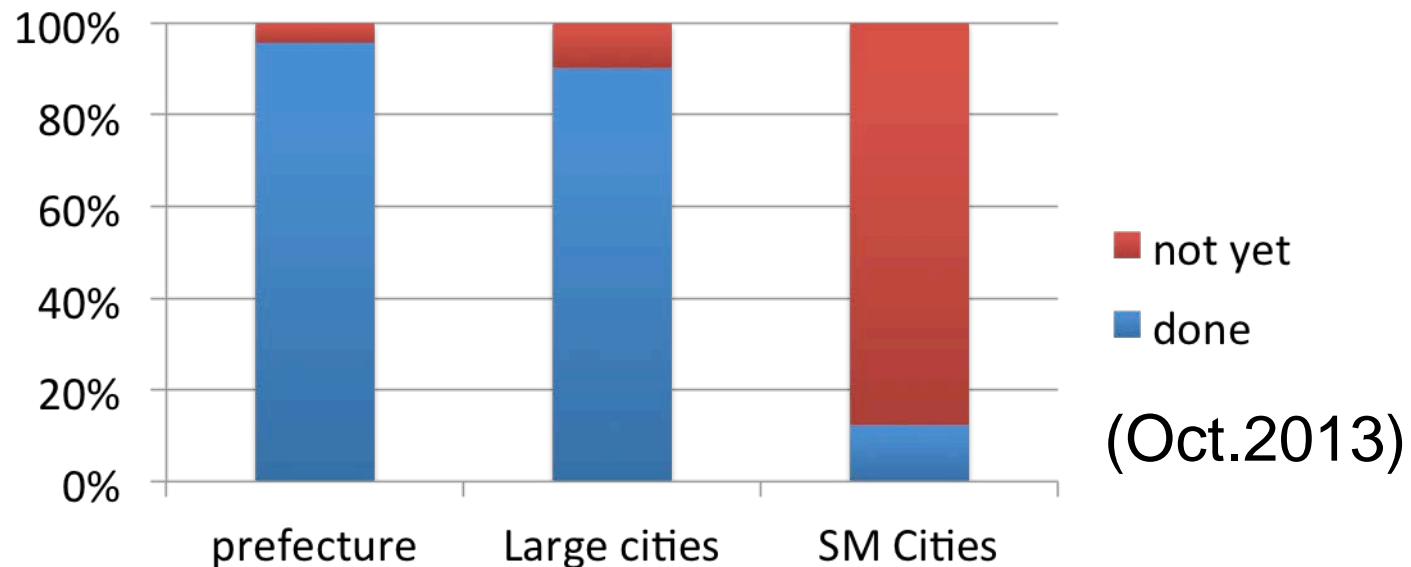


Characteristic of Japanese local governments (LGs)

- “**Chiho Jichitai**”- meaning “local self governing body”, consist of 47 prefectures, and 1,742 municipalities
- Ironically relatively looks **less independence** than those in Europe both in financially and in political governance
- Almost all LGs’ local tax income are small share of their total budget, typically 10% to 30%.
- National government strongly **control** LGs both in politics, in all area of policies/regulations, and in personnel relation.
- Many of ex-national bureaucrats challenge for **governors/mayors** as their “next job”, and often succeed.
- Almost all LGs receive national bureaucrats as “**watch dog**” by rotating personal affair, as well as sending LGs’ staffs into national ministries for more “personal network”

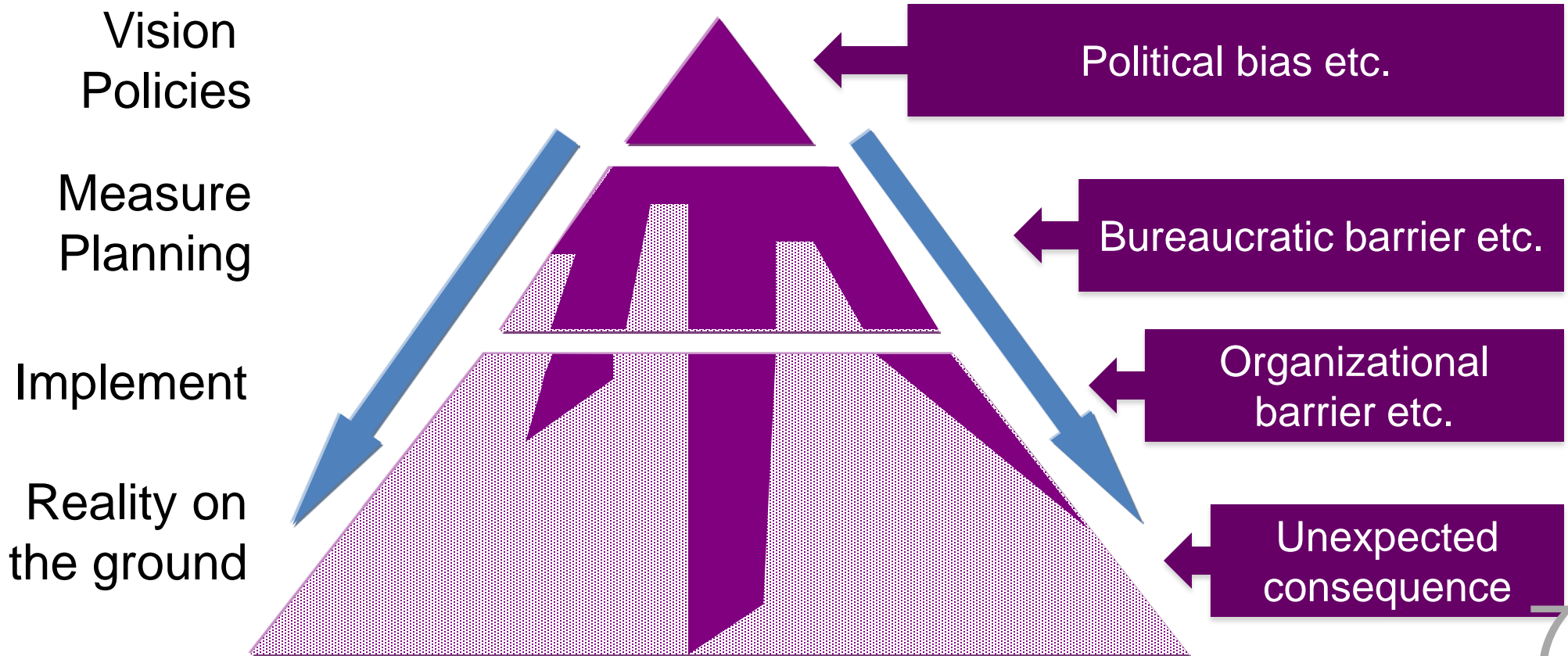
Legal framework

- Legal framework of climate policy by local governments (LGs)
 - Under Climate Protection Act (1998), LGs are obligated or recommended to set master climate protection/mitigation plan
 - Prefectures (47) and larger cities (102) are obliged
 - Medium and small cities/town/villages (1,620) are recommended
 - Many of LGs' climate protection/mitigation plans are relatively ineffective



Managing process from vision into reality

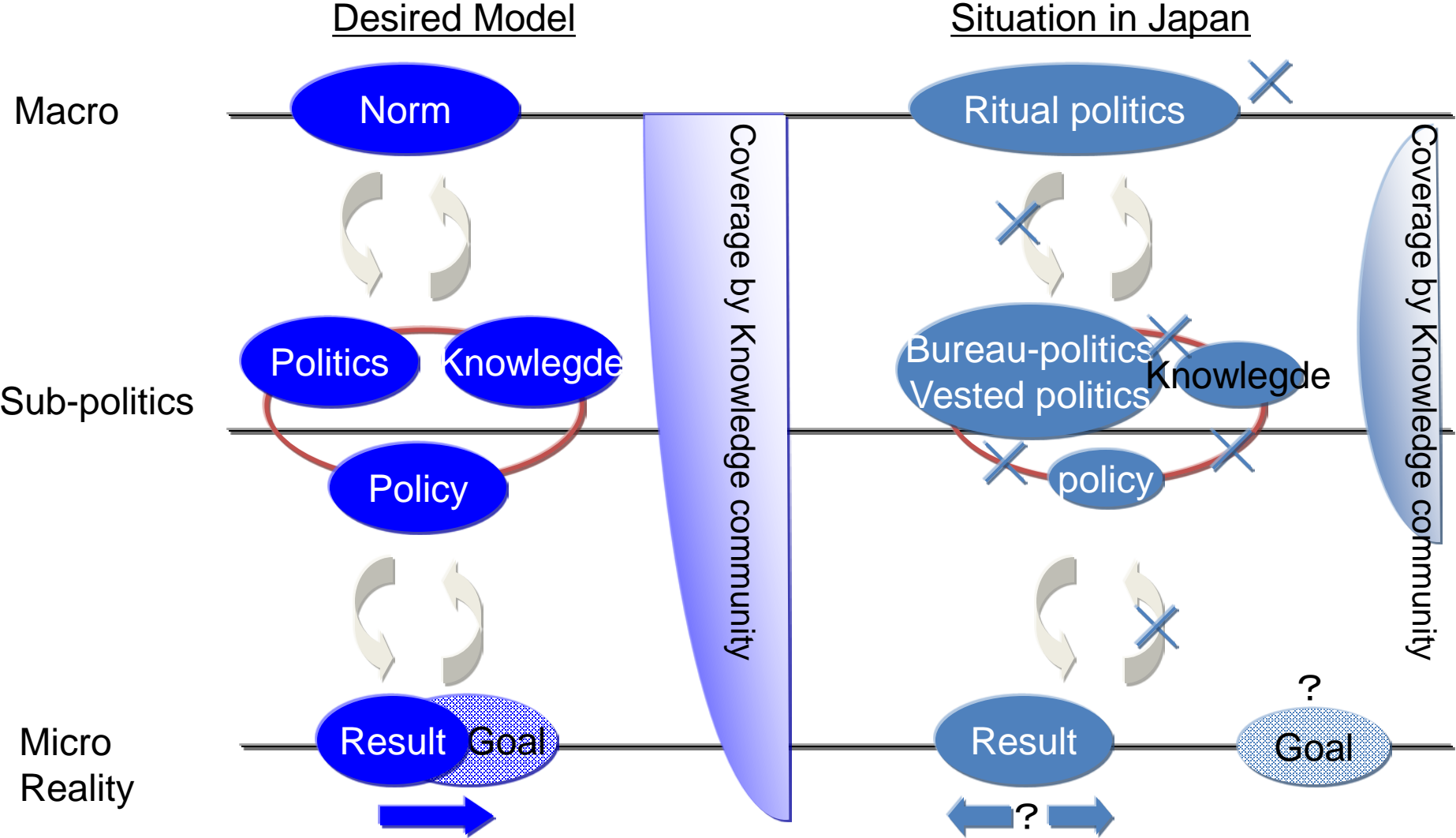
- Necessary knowledge is exponentially expanding from “vision/policy” toward “the reality”
- Avoid top-down & bureaucracy, needs Informational governance and social network



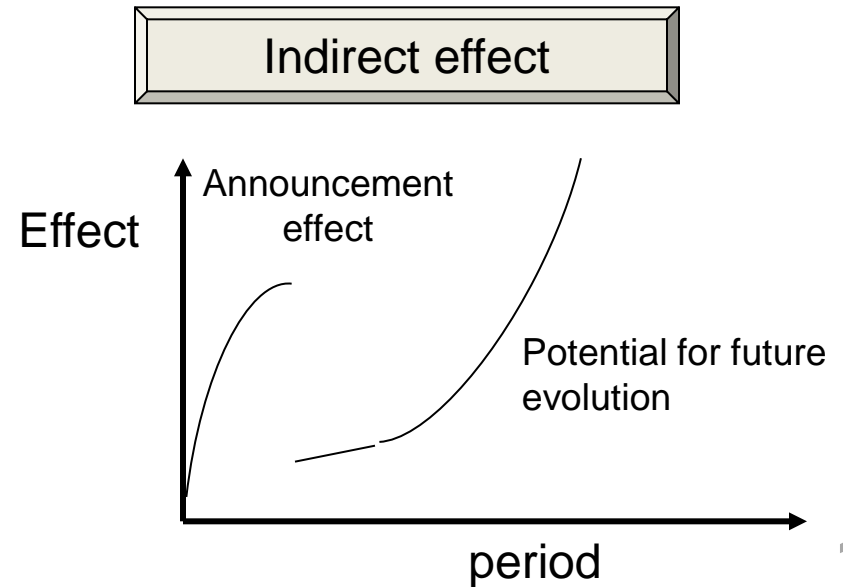
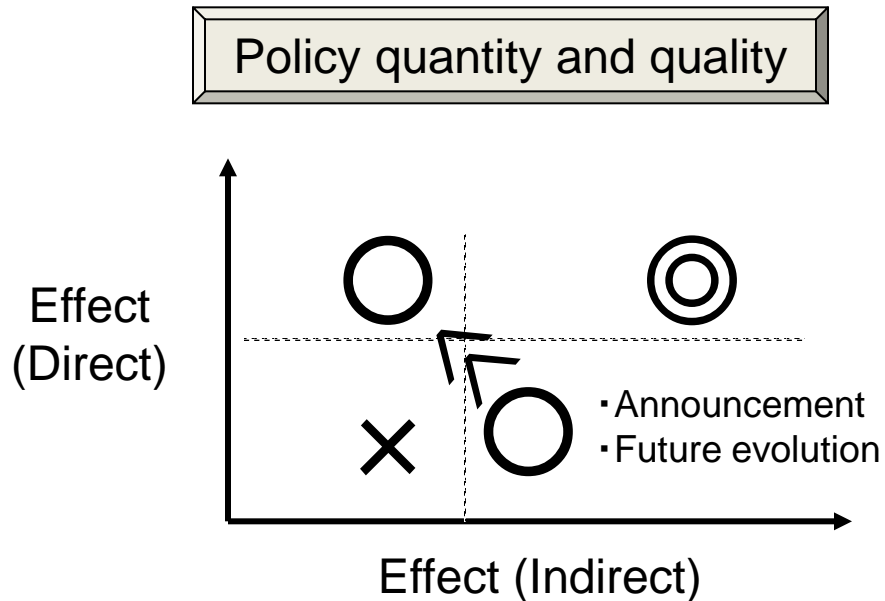
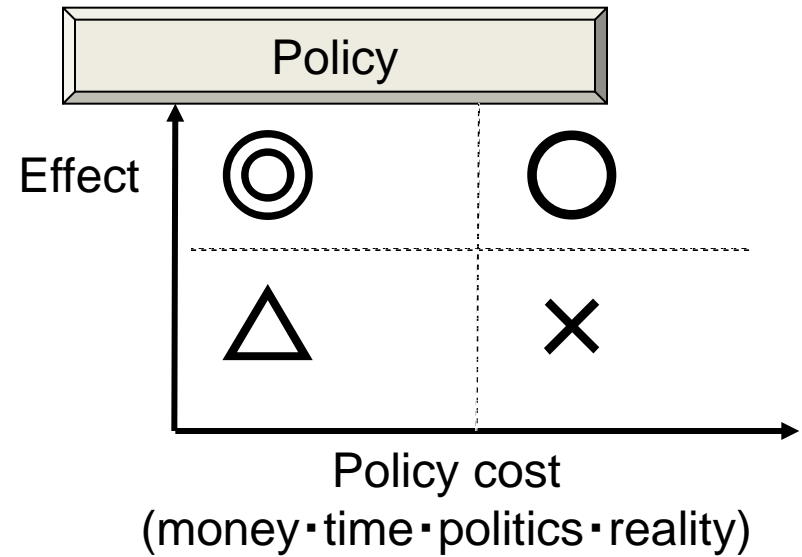
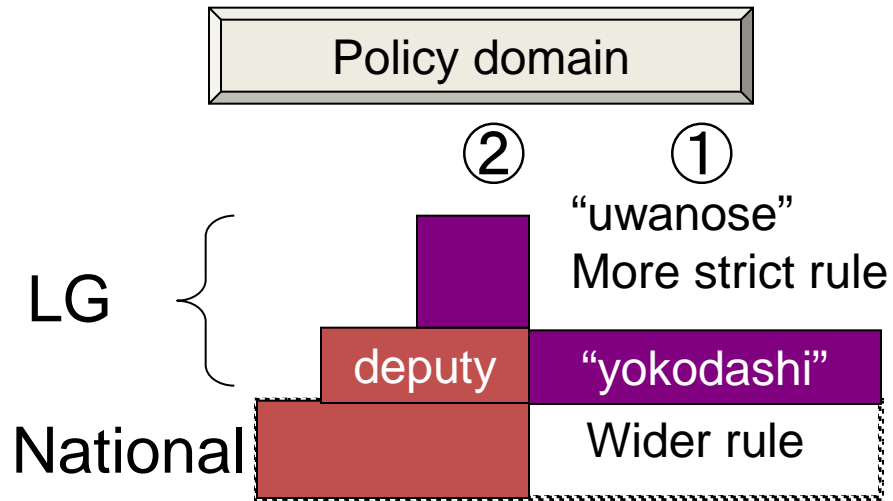
Strength and weakness

- Strength :
 - ✓ easier make thing happen at smaller scale
 - ✓ spreading policy “copy & paste”
- Weakness :
 - ✓ Local congress, often authoritarianism with poor knowledge, play not as “innovator” nor “supporter”, but “incumbent barriers”
 - ✓ LGs staffs are more **decisive**, but often poor **capacity** and difficult to **continuity** both for policy innovation, essentially due to short term rotating personal affair, rather than 4 years governor/mayor’s term.
 - ✓ Difficulty of **integration**, due to serious divided bureaucracy
 - ✓ This make Japanese LGs difficult to keep international network effectively, easily fallen into “ceremonial relation”

Political structure of energy & climate issue

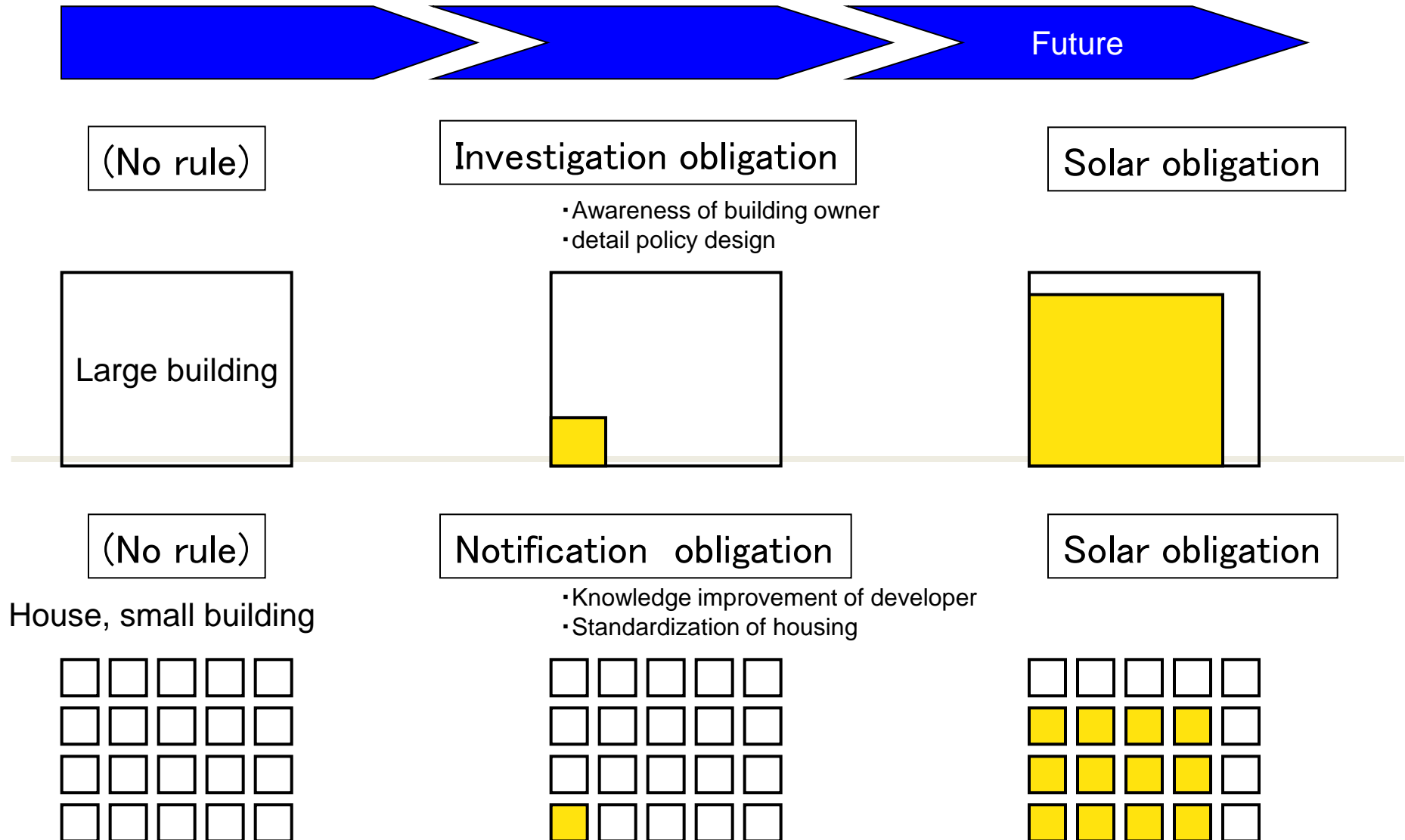


LGs' Strategies for policy innovation



LGs' Strategies for policy innovation

The case of solar obligation in Japan



Some of top runners climate & energy policy



Nagano

- Ambitious target, innovative policy, participatory process



Fukushima

- 100% RE by 2040

Takarazuka City
10% by 2050



Kyoto

- Renewable obligation

Iida city

Tokyo

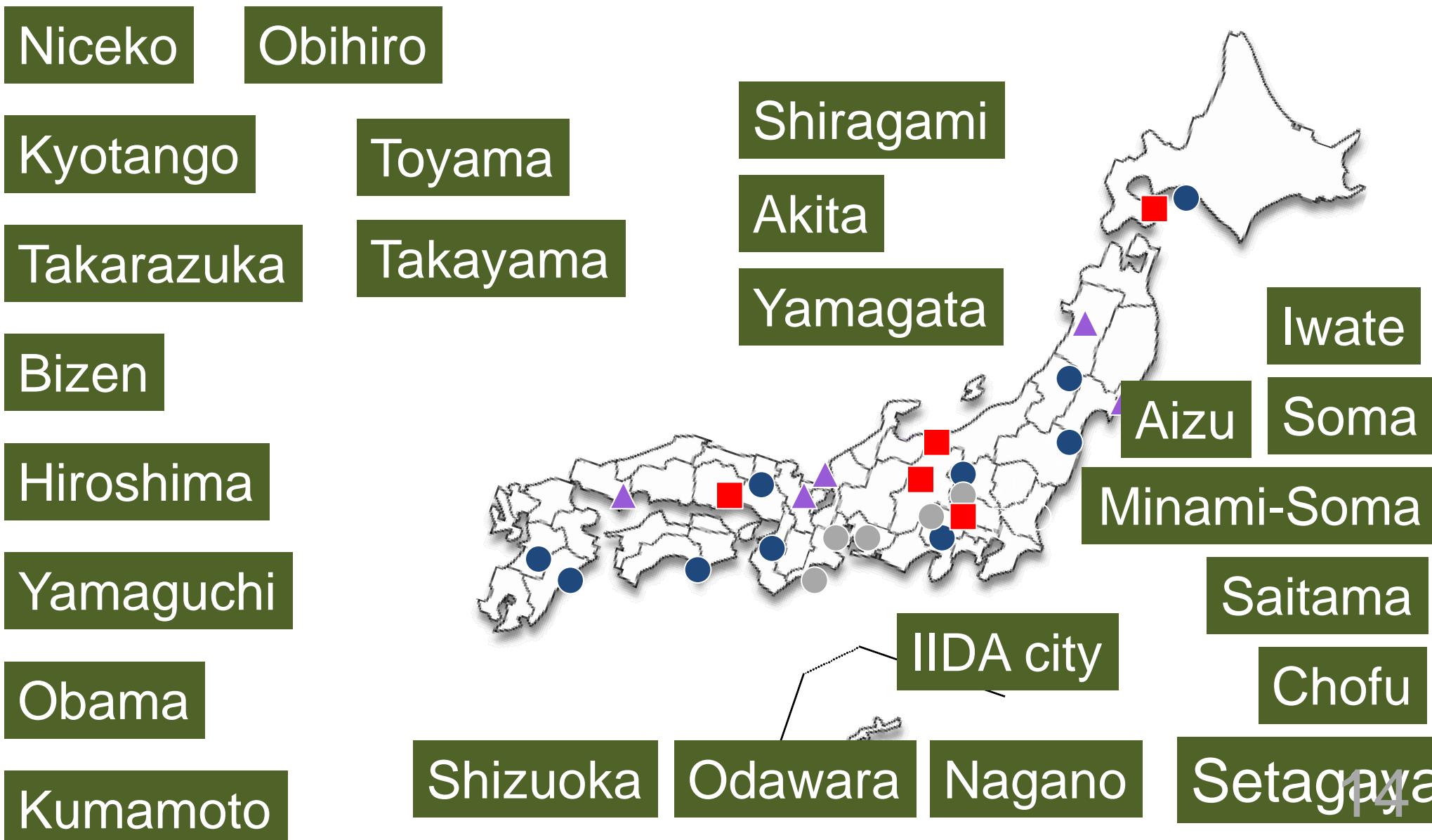
- 20% RE by 2020
- Tokyo Cap & trade
- RE policy package



LGs Networking for climate protection

- 1993~ Environmental communities network
- 1993~ ICLEI Japan
- 1994~ National Wind Municipality network
- 2001~ Environmental capital city network
- 2012~ Mayors' network for nuclear phase-out

Rising community power in Japan



Concluding remarks

- Historically LGs has been playing an important role to develop and innovate environmental policies in Japan
- The concept of policy tools/mechanism by LGs also has been developing along with time and topics
- Some of LGs has been and being a front runner to explore climate/energy policies
- “Climate policy” is relatively minority within LGs politics, so there has been a tendency that it is less effective, less integrated policy within LGs politics.
- After 3.11, since the interest of LGs has been shifting from “climate” to “local energy” as a driver, as well as relatively higher priority of policy and politics, such as local economy interest, biomass booming, interest toward district heating, local ownership/cooperative etc.
- In spite of chaos in national energy/climate policy, some of top-runner LGs try to explore the way to go “RE100%” future, although many of LGs are left behind.