

Eco-social Synergies: Legal Challenges at the Intersection of the Environmental and Employment Realms

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ABSTRACT

Just Transition in South Korea's Green Energy Transition in the Era of Climate Change

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The growing intensity of global climate change and its devastating impact has been calling for more prompt actions including green transition of societies and economies. Energy transition from carbon intensive fossil fuels to clean energies such as solar and wind is one of the major elements in sustainability transition, but the transition process can generate losers including labor workers associated with the fossil fuel industry. Therefore, it is imperative that their rights are protected, and the idea of just transition has been thus emphasized along with green transition. Just transition is the idea that the green transition should proceed in ways that are fair, inclusive, and just for everyone involved in the transition, leaving no one behind. This research paper examines the case of South Korea in terms of just transition, addressing how this country has been incorporating the idea into its legal frameworks and policy while it has been executing its climate policy including energy transition policy. More specifically, the paper deals with the questions of who have been identified as those in need of assistance and support, what kinds of legal and policy ideas have been proposed to protect them, and what challenges remain in Korea in terms of incorporating labor workers' rights into the country's sustainable transition plans.