

**NTS Bulletin October 2014**

*This year is the 20th anniversary of the release of the 1994 United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report, which defined the concept of human security and brought the seven human security components to international attention. It is thus timely to ask: what are now the new challenges to human security? The following is the second part of a series exploring new and complex issues which have gone beyond the seven original components of human security.*

**Energy Security in the 21st Century: A Human Security Perspective**

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Energy security is no longer just about the security of supply; it is multifaceted and inextricably linked to public health and environmental issues. Amidst political instability in oil-producing regions and global warming, it is no longer sustainable to overly depend on high-carbon fossil fuels. To circumvent supply volatility and reduce carbon-emissions, more countries now explore alternative energy such as nuclear power, shale gas and renewables. It is crucial to understand the human security issues associated with alternative sources.

**Nuclear power**

Despite the Fukushima accident, nuclear energy has been viewed as an attractive energy source in rapidly developing Asia-Pacific economies. Japan is now set to re-open its nuclear power plants (NPPs). Vietnam will build an NPP by 2020 while Indonesia and Malaysia are seriously considering the nuclear option. Notwithstanding the low probability of nuclear accidents, nuclear energy planning must address crucial issues, such as safety culture and nuclear waste management. In nuclear-aspiring ASEAN states, public confidence in the enforcement of safety standards is very low. The global community also faces a challenge in addressing the disposal of large amounts of spent fuel accumulated from the world's NPPs because of possible transboundary contamination.

**Shale gas**

As the costs associated with NPPs remain high, shale gas has emerged as a cheaper alternative. Hydrofracking, a water-intensive process being used to extract shale gas, has led to an energy boom in the U.S. In Asia, India and China have the world's largest shale gas reserves and are currently assessing their shale gas potential. However, their reserves are deep and located beneath water-stressed regions, which makes extraction difficult, expensive, and environmentally risky. The extraction process of hydrofracking releases methane and poses inherent risks to public health, air quality, water quantity and quality, and wildlife. Moreover, while promoters of shale gas claim that it has low carbon content; large-scale extraction of shale gas can increase cumulative global carbon emissions.

**Renewable energy**

Renewable energy has been widely promoted as less environmentally and politically risky than other alternative sources like nuclear energy. However, this is not the case with some renewable energy sources like forest-based biomass which emits more carbon than coal-burning and contributes to deforestation. Even though hydropower dams have significantly increased

energy capacity in East and South Asia, they have displaced communities, undermined the quality and quantity of water supply, and continued to disrupt the livelihoods of people across borders and downstream throughout Asia from the Mekong to the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin. Such consequences accentuate the need for a multilateral approach to natural resource governance.

## **Energy security as human security**

The development of alternative energy sources is not a simple case of demand and supply. This strategy is fraught with a range of pertinent human security issues that have framed intense debates among policymakers, the academe, the business sector, and civil society groups from environmental protection concerns to the public health risks alternative sources pose. From a human security perspective, the multi-actor approach to energy security must be anchored on sustainable energy which balances the four priorities of energy supply, public health, economic growth and environmental protection.

### **Core Readings:**

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- Mely Caballero-Anthony, Youngho Chang, Nur Azha Putra, (Eds.), 2012, Rethinking energy security in Asia: A non-traditional view of human security, SpringerBriefs in environment, security, development and peace, Volume 2.
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## **CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS**

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- Julian Caldecott, REDD+ progress is possible – just look at Indonesia, Science and Development Network, 16 September 2014.
- Eileen Poh, Challenges remain even after Indonesia's ratification of haze pact: Legal experts, Channel NewsAsia, 17 September 2014.
- Liuting Chen, Emerging Chinese foundations expand role in disaster management, Notes from the Field, The Asia Foundation, 17 September 2014.
- People's Climate March: Hundreds of thousands march in rallies calling for action on climate change, ABC News, 22 September 2014.
- Paterno Esmaguel II, Philippines, China urged to help each other in disasters, Rappler, 24 September 2014.

### **Selected Publications**

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- Stevens, Caleb, et al, 2014, Securing rights, combating climate change: How strengthening community forest rights mitigates climate change, World Resources Institute, Washington D.C.
- Gianna G.H. Amul & Sofiah Jamil, 2014, Communities and critical infrastructure: Opportunities for reinforcing resilience, Policy Brief, RSIS Centre for NTS Studies, Singapore.

### **Events & Announcements**

- Asia and the Pacific Regional Workshop: Promoting the CDM and the Market Mechanisms, 13 – 15 October 2014, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Asia Urban Futures Workshop, 14 – 15 October 2014, Bangkok, Thailand.

## **ENERGY SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

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- Margareth S. Aritonang, BATAN seeks partnership with Russia's Rosatom, The Jakarta Post, 4 September 2014.
- PH can rely on renewable energy as stable power source, Rappler, 7 September 2014.
- Japan approves nuclear restart amid push to close old reactors, Today, 10 September 2014.
- Nina Chestney, Nuclear energy should be kept out of politics: Russia's Rosatom, Reuters, 11 September 2014.
- RahmadPribadi, A new oil and gas law for people's welfare, The Jakarta Post, 15 September 2014.
- Melissa Goh, Malaysia's challenges in attaining energy security, Channel NewsAsia, 16 September 2014.
- Jay Mariyappan, Clean energy in Indonesia: A massive opportunity which must be seized by its new leadership, Eco-business, 19 September 2014.
- Indonesia sets 2015 energy subsidies lower than this year, The Straits Times, 23 September 2014.

### **Selected Publications**

- International Energy Agency, 2014, Capturing the multiple benefits of energy efficiency, Paris.
- John M. Deutch, 2014, The global revolution of unconventional oil: New markets, new governances, new policies, Milan: FEEM Press.

### **Events & Announcements**

- Women in Energy and Resources Leadership Summit 2014, 21 – 22 October 2014, Brisbane, Australia.
- Water-Energy-Food Nexus Forum, 25 – 27 November 2014, Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney, Australia.

## **FOOD SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Isla Binnie and Emma Farge, Ebola threatens food security in West Africa: FAO, Reuters, 2 September 2014.
- Syed Mohammad Ali, The politics of food security, The Express Tribune, 5 September 2014.
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- Plant diversity in China 'vital for global food security', Farming UK, 8 September 2014.
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### **Events & Announcements**

- 7th McGill Conference on Global Food Security, 28 – 29 October 2014, Quebec, Canada.
- International Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) 2014, 12 – 13 November 2014, Manila, Philippines.

## **HEALTH SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

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- Jeff Mason and James Harding Giahvue, Citing security threat, Obama expands U.S. role fighting Ebola, *Reuters*, 16 September 2014.
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- Juliet Eilperin and Lena H. Sun, Leaders urged to strengthen global health security in wake of Ebola epidemic, *The Washington Post*, 26 September 2014.

### **Selected Publications**

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## **Events & Announcements**

- World Health Summit, 19 – 22 October 2014, Berlin, Germany.
- FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), 19 – 21 November 2014, Rome, Italy.

## **PEACE, HUMAN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Citing women's crucial role in peacebuilding, UN officials urge concrete support on ground, UN News Centre, 3 September 2014.
- Joe Cochrane, In Southeast Asia, Indonesia is an unlikely role model for democracy, The New York Times, 4 September 2014.
- Floyd Whaley, Philippine bill would give Muslims autonomy, The New York Times, 10 September 2014.
- Sarah Whyte and Lindsay Murdoch, Scott Morrison set to sign refugee resettlement deal with Cambodia on Friday, The Sydney Morning Herald, 24 September 2014.
- Assawin Pinitwong, Fighting closes Mae Sot border post, The Bangkok Post, 27 September 2014
- Philip Heijmans, Sectarian violence in Myanmar threatens livelihood of Muslims, The New York Times, 28 September 2014.
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### **Selected Publications**

- Alex J. Bellamy, 2014, From Tripoli to Damascus? Lesson learning and the implementation of the responsibility to protect, International Politics, Vol.51, pp.23 – 44.
- Michelle Yonetani et al., 2014, Global estimates 2014: People displaced by disasters, Geneva: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and Norwegian Refugee Council.

## **Events & Announcements**

- The Third International Conference on Human rights and Peace and Conflict in Southeast Asia, 15 – 17 October 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- First Annual Australia-China dialogue on R2P, 28 October 2014, Beijing, China.

## **TRANSNATIONAL CRIME**

### **News and Commentaries**

- Chris Matthews, Fortune 5: The biggest organized crime groups in the world, Fortune, 14 September 2014.
- Piyanut Tamnukasetchai, Transnational gangsters: Over 20 big foreign criminal gangs here, The Nation, 14 September 2014.
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- Conrad John Masabo, Marobe Wama, and Tekla Paul Mlyansi, The role of regional integration in fighting crime and terrorism: The case of the African Union's (AU's) initiatives, 1999-2014, Peace and Conflict Monitor, 18 September 2014.

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- Katherine Lawson and Alex Vines, 2014, Global impacts of the illegal wildlife trade, London: Chatham House.

### **Events & Announcements**

- FIBA 2015 15th Annual FIBA Anti Money Laundering Conference, Miami, United States.
- Conference on White-Collar Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering, 13 – 17 September 2015, Zurich, Switzerland

## **WATER SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

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- Jordan fights water poverty amid Syrian refugee influx, Ammon News, 9 September 2014.
- Israel offers its expertise for Modi's clean Ganga mission, Times of India, 10 September 2014.
- Devon Knudsen, Water security no longer 'future threat' for Sahelian Africa, African Arguments, 15 September 2014.
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- Adelphi, 2014, The rise of hydro-diplomacy: Strengthening foreign policy for transboundary waters, Berlin.

### **Events & Announcements**

- 2014 Global Water for Food Conference, 19 – 22 October 2014, Seattle, USA.
- Workshop: Comparing Water Governance in China & India: Challenges & Policy Options, 24 – 25 October 2014, Singapore.