Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia

July- Aug 2008 No. 12

NTS-Asia

- Security Beyond Borders -

NTS-Asia Subregional Workshop on Migration and Remittances: Non-Traditional Issues in Asian Security Discourse

BRAC CDM, Dhaka

22-23 Aug 2008

The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of the University of Dhaka in collaboration with the support of the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia) organised a two-day training workshop on Migration and Remittances: Non-Traditional Issues in Asian Security Discourse at BRAC CDM, Rajendrapur, Dhaka from 22-23 August, 2008.

The workshop was designed to impart a sound understanding of governance of migration and remittance in regional and international frameworks. It was envisaged to work as a platform for the South and Southeast Asian young policymakers, academics and researchers to share their views and thoughts on the issue and develop a functional network among themselves. Furthermore, the workshop aimed at equipping these young professionals with necessary conceptual frameworks and measures to desecuritise migration and remittance and building development-friendly migration and remittance regimes.

Twenty participants from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Philippines and Ghana with diverse backgrounds took part in the workshop while as many as eight experts from home and abroad participated as resource persons. The workshop highlighted the importance of migration as a livelihood strategy, the developmental impact of global remittance and likely consequences of securitising migration and remittance. Themes include, among others, global migration, importance of remittances, labour migration scenario of South and Southeast Asian countries, Securitisation of migration and global remittance regime after 9/11.

In this edition:-

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Seminar on "Public Health Surge Capacity Building in China: From SARS to HFMD"

By Dr Huang Yanzhong,
Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Global Health Studies
At the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy andInternational Relations, Seton Hall University.

10th July 2008, RSIS Conference Room 1, 2.30pm - 4pm

In this seminar, Dr Huang noted that the need to mitigate and ameliorate the consequences of disease outbreaks makes it imperative for China to strengthen its health system capacity to effectively respond to public health emergencies. As demonstrated in the 2003 SARS epidemic, the system lacked not only "sensitivity" (early recognition of a disease) but also "connectivity" (effective risk communication). In the wake of the crisis, the central leadership has placed greater emphasis on the public health surge capacity building. Yet as the recent outbreak of hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) in eastern China has indicated, while the central government has become more transparent and responsive in dealing with public health emergencies, central-local capacity gap remains the biggest challenge the Chinese leaders have to face in surge capacity building.

(1) Defining Surge Capacity

According to the US' Human Health Services, surge capacity is defined as "a health care system's ability to expand quickly beyond normal services to meet an increased demand for medical care." Dr Huang however noted that such a definition is problematic as the focus would be solely on medical treatment and does not allow adequate role to play for actors other than health professionals such as policy makers and civil society. Hence, Dr Huang offers a modified definition, that is "the ability of a state to expand quickly beyond normal services to effectively respond to public health emergencies". Measuring the state's surge capacity would therefore be based on 3 forms of capacities:

I. Surveillance, Laboratory and Epidemiological capacities

- the first line of defence in being sensitive to detecting and identifying pandemic threats

II. Effectiveness in Risk Communication ("connectivity" in two forms)

- Horizontal "connectivity" - requires open and effective communication between multidisciplinary groups in multiple sectors
- Vertical "connectivity" - the ability of health professionals to utilize available technologies and information systems to formulate reports to health authorities in a timely manner (bottom up); or the ability to publicize the presence of a disease outbreak through media outlets in a way that minimizes disturbing effects (top-down)

III. Ability to effectively implement prophylactic and non-prophylactic measures.

- the ability to meet increased demand for medical care and to provide prophylaxis for populations at risk (vaccination, disinfection, isolation, quarantine, etc.)

(2) The Importance of Surge Capacity in China

There are several reasons why surge capacity is critical in China. Firstly there is the need to mitigate the consequences of disease outbreaks. The lack of surge capacity can lead to rapid spread of infectious disease and panic. This in turn could lead to a destabilizing effect on a state's economy. Such was the case during the 2003 SARS epidemic, in which China's gross domestic product dropped by 0.7%. Secondly, there is the need to prevent a spillover effect, whereby a national issue could turn into a global issue given the transnational nature of infectious diseases. Thirdly, China plays a critical role in global health security as it has a fifth of the world's population and its disease burden rate is 1 out

of every 7 people. It is also a major player in the international system and has a history of some the major epidemics in the world. Fourthly, surge capacity has become a priority in China's health system capacity building after the 2003 SARS experience, where China failed to respond adequately.

(3) The SARS Experience

During the SARS breakout in 2003, Dr Huang noted that China faired poorly in all 3 capacities. Firstly, there was poor sensitivity in detecting and identifying the viruses. Secondly there was a lack of connectivity within the system. There was a lack of interdependence amongst the various organs as seen in the fact that the military hospitals, for instance, withheld vital statistic from civilian hospitals. The lack of vertical connectivity was reflected in the information clampdown which resulted in the masses not being informed about the threat; and also the tendency of lower-ranking government officials to distort information to display to higher levels of government that the situation was under control. This cover-up by officials thus contributed to the lack of medical capabilities as hospitals and medical personnel were not aware of the situation and thus totally unprepared for the stream of victims that came in.

Fortunately, a change in Chinese leadership brought about a shift in focus in the national agenda. The post-SARS period in China was characterized by a greater emphasis on social justice, with increased funding for the public health sector. An online disease system was also created to ensure greater efficiency in the reporting of new cases, without the information being distorted in the process. A legal

framework was also established facilitate greater connectivity amongst various government bodies.

(4) Assessing Capacity Building's effectiveness – the HFMD experience

Dr Huang then turned to assess the effectiveness of China's capacity building by examining the breakout of Hand, Food and Mouth Disease (HFMD) amongst children. He noted that while HFMD is rarely fatal and caused by a less exotic and better understood bug, there was still an unusually high fatality rate in China's Fuyang province in early 2008. This, Dr Huang, explained was due to the lack of sensitivity. For instance, although the first cases of HFMD were detected in late March, there were only correctly diagnosed in late April. Nevertheless, the central government provided strong technical and political support for addressing the outbreak. Dr Huang also noted that while local authorities were well connected, there was less efficiency in alerting central authorities and in turn to the general public.

In conclusion, Dr Huang noted several lessons learnt from China's pandemic outbreaks. Firstly, while the central leaders may address the issue of disease outbreaks with a sense of gravidity and urgency, local leaders still find it difficult to alter their existing behavioral patterns in crisis management, in particular with regards to (1) the continued lack of local surveillance, epidemiological, and laboratory capabilities at the local level; (2) problems in the risk communication; and (3) problems in implementing prevention and treatment measures in a timely and effective manner. Secondly, the central-local capacity gap remains to be the biggest challenge in surge capacity building. Finally, there is the problem of bureaucratic incentive structure – which thrives on economic growth and the regime's paramount concern of stability – and the absence of genuinely engaged civil society. These two factors would therefore still sustain strong incentives of cover-up, misinformation, and inaction, and ultimately lack of efficiency in addressing disease outbreaks in China.

During the discussion session, questions raised included the role of civil society and the differences in surge capacity during a pandemic outbreak and a natural disaster.

RSIS Seminar on "Energy Security and Climate Change: Nuclear Energy as a Solution?"

Mr. Konstantin Foskolos
Head a.i., Laboratory for Nuclear Materials, Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), Switzerland
and
Dr. Dennis Berry
Director Emeritus and Consultant, Sandia National Laboratories, USA
15 July 2008, RSIS Conference Room

In his presentation, **Mr Konstantin Foskolos** argued for the adoption of nuclear power as an alternative source of energy in the long run. He was of the opinion that nuclear power unlike the conventional fossil fuels offers far more returns in terms of energy production which is also cleaner and more sustainable in the long run. Nuclear power thus is a good source of alternative energy source for countries which needs to secure its energy security by diversifying the energy mix. The relevance of nuclear power is gaining increasing importance and urgency as it is believed that the world's supply of fossil fuels would not be able to meet demands. However, Foskolos opined that the reason why nuclear energy is underutilised is due to safety issues. Thus, in support of his thesis on the safety of nuclear energy, he shared the research findings from his multi-criteria life-cycle analysis framework which showed that nuclear energy is by far the safest, most energy efficient and cost effective.

Mr Foskolos gave a brief rundown of Switzerland's energy market which comprises 55 percent hydro, 40 percent nuclear and five percent others. In the long run, he explained that Switzerland would not be able to meet its own energy needs and the same can be

said of the global energy market. This is because, Switzerland, which is also typical of the global trend, will be characterised by increasing energy demand. Therefore, there is justification in calling for an increased share of nuclear power in the global energy market. However, there is too much bad press on nuclear energy despite its obvious advantage especially when an environmental issue such as climate change has become a major global issue. Therefore, in accessing the benefits of nuclear energy in relation to other energy sources, he proposed the use of Life-Cycle Analysis (LCA) framework. Foskolos explained that this assessment framework takes different component, such as ecology, technology, economics, environment and health, into account.

In a nutshell, the LCA studies the impact of the different energy sources on the various components. However, for a more comprehensive study, Foskolos added the use of a multi-criteria analysis which reflects the human and social costs which is best measured from the dimension of 'sustainable development'. Foskolos shared the findings of his study which was based on this approach and the result showed that nuclear energy is a much more efficient, cleaner and sustainable alternative compared to oil and natural gas.

In the second presentation, **Dr Dennis Berry** argued that nuclear energy is not the way forward in meeting the challenges of global energy security and climate change. He argued that even if there is a 28 percent increased in the use of nuclear energy between now and 2030, it would still remain insufficient in reducing the world carbon emissions. However, he opined that nuclear energy does help diversify the energy market and thus help achieved energy security especially for countries which are too dependent on oil and natural gas.

Dr Berry argued that while nuclear energy looks promising for the future, it is still uncertain whether it can resolve environmental issues such as climate change. He explained that even if there is a 28 percent increased in the number of power plants in the world by 2030, it would only effectively reduced the projected global carbon emission rate by 0.9 percent while the carbon emission from the use of fossil fuel would have increased by approximately 50 percent. Berry explained that the problem cannot simply be resolved by adding more nuclear plants because these plants are costly and need a high capital outlay and thus developing countries may not afford the construction of nuclear plants. At the same time, the emerging economies of non-OECD countries want the cheapest and most available power source readily available to them. Therefore, Berry opined that the way forward with regard to climate change has to be in the form of the following combination: increase energy efficiency, use more renewable energy and use more nuclear energy.

Berry also stressed that nuclear power cannot address the issue of climate change on its own because of the high reliance on oil in the transportation industry. This is one area where the increased use of nuclear energy cannot make a significance difference because nuclear plants are mainly used to generate electricity. The rate of car ownership is growing and is expected to grow further in the future. As it stands, Berry estimated that car ownership and the transportation industry contributes about one third of the global carbon emission. However, Berry concluded that nuclear power has an important role in moving countries towards energy security because these countries are able to diversify their energy mix and thus reduce their dependency on fossil fuels. Also, it helps countries play their part in reducing the global carbon emission.

During the discussion session, questions raised included the use of smaller nuclear plants in developing countries as well as in small countries (like Singapore), and whether there is sufficient uranium to supply the global demand for nuclear energy.

NTS Activities in the Research Centre Non-Traditional Security and Peace Development (NTS-PD), Zhejiang University

From February to June 2008, NTS-PD organized a series of academic seminars on the topic of non-traditional security and public crises management, ecological securities, social securities and China's sea power.

In August 2008, NTS-PD completed the registration for a major social science project with the Ministry of Education of China. The project will be on building capacities in responding to non-traditional security issues in China.

Several events are also lined up in late 2008 (see 'Upcoming Events' section)

Roundtable Discussion on the Expanding Role of SAARC in Promoting Peace and Development in the Region

7 July 2008, RCSS Colombo

The Regional Centre for Strategic Studies organized and hosted a Roundtable Discussion on the Expanding Role of SAARC in Promoting Peace and Development in the Region on 7th July, 2008, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, as a precursor to the SAARC Summit to be held in Colombo late this month.

The Roundtable Discussion was attended by Heads/Deputy Heads of Mission of the SAARC Member States of, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, and, Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka and Heads/Deputy Heads of Mission of the Observer States, i.e., China, EU, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea and USA, resident in Colombo and the High Commissioner for Mauritius in New Delhi, India, together with a panel of experts on regional cooperation drawn from think tanks, the academia and the private sector.

Secretary Foreign Affairs Dr. Palitha Kohona made the keynote address and a statement on behalf of Sri Lanka. Ambassador Nihal Rodrigo, former Secretary General, SAARC made the opening remarks. The Heads/Deputy Heads of Mission made presentations expressing the views of their respective countries on the theme of the Roundtable.

CSIS, Jakarta part of the Terrestrial Carbon Group

CSIS, Jakarta is a part of the Terrestrial Carbon Group, an organisation that pushes for efforts to unlock the potential of terrestrial carbon (including trees, soil and peat) in the climate change solution.

Responding to the urgent need to unlock the potential of terrestrial carbon (including trees, soil, and peat) in the climate change solution, the Terrestrial Carbon Group released a paper entitled, "How to Include Terrestrial Carbon in Developing Nations in the Overall Climate Change Solution". The Terrestrial Carbon Group proposes nine guiding principles for effective action on terrestrial carbon.

The Terrestrial Carbon Group comprises specialists from science, economics, and public policy with expertise in land management, climate change, and markets in developing and developed nations.

Members include: Ralph Ashton, Chatib Basri, Rizaldi Boer, Peter Cosier, Ruth DeFries, Mohamed El-Ashry, Tim Flannery, Thomas Lovejoy, Jacques Marcovitch, Warwick McKibbin, Daniel Nepstad, Carlos Nobre, Hugh Possingham, Bernhard Schlamadinger, Hadi Soesastro, Joseph Stiglitz, and Bernardo Strassburg.

The Terrestrial Carbon Group's paper recognises that over the coming decades, vegetated land in developing nations will be increasingly threatened with conversion to agricultural and plantation use, and to human settlements and infrastructure. This will cause greenhouse gas emissions, underscoring the ongoing importance of terrestrial carbon in the climate change solution.

Under the Bali Roadmap agreed in December 2007, developed nations and developing nations committed to take new action to mitigate climate change. Action on terrestrial carbon could contribute to fulfilling these commitments.

Both market and non-market approaches to terrestrial carbon and climate change are necessary. Within that context, the Terrestrial Carbon Group proposes a

market-based system that includes all the components that would need to be agreed at an international level (whether bilateral, multilateral or global). Nations would determine national and sub-national implementation systems targeted to their specific circumstances. The proposed system is as simple as possible and has two purposes: (i) to allow the international trading (whether bilateral, multilateral, or global) of carbon credits based on the maintenance and creation of terrestrial carbon, and (ii) to guarantee that action under the system contributes to longterm climate change mitigation.

The Terrestrial Carbon Group's proposed market-based system encourages broad participation because it provides incentives to developing nations regardless of their historic rates of deforestation and terrestrial carbon emissions.

Emissions from terrestrial ecosystems are currently seen as 20% of the climate change problem. The Terrestrial Carbon Group provides a pathway to turn this problem into a solution by placing a new economic value on tropical forests and other terrestrial carbon.

Mr Ralph Ashton of the Terrestrial Carbon Group said, "Human-induced climate change is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases have only two other places to go: the oceans and the terrestrial system (including land and vegetation). Terrestrial carbon is a critical untapped element that could provide up to 25% of the climate change solution."

Terrestrial Carbon Group member, Dr Thomas Lovejoy, said, "The good news is that, while some uncertainty remains, we know how to use forests and land management as part of the climate change solution. The science, the economics, and the drivers of land-use decisions are all well enough understood. And the institutional arrangements are possible."

"Climate change is not just an environmental issue; it has impacts on all facets of life in developed and developing nations alike. Avoiding dangerous climate change is an essential task for the whole world. It is a difficult task, and we must therefore use all available means," said Terrestrial Carbon Group member, Professor Hadi Soesastro, Executive Director of CSIS Jakarta.

"Both market and non-market approaches to terrestrial carbon and climate change are necessary. Within that context, we propose a system to credibly include terrestrial carbon in developing nations in the international response to climate change using carbon markets," said Terrestrial Carbon Group member, Professor Jacques Marcovitch.

"Our proposed system gets through the stumbling blocks of additionality, leakage, and permanence," said Terrestrial Carbon Group member, Dr Mohamed El-Ashry.

"Our proposed system does not restrict economic use of land, but instead opens up one new economic development option — generating and selling terrestrial carbon credits. This puts a new economic value on terrestrial carbon, including trees, soil and peat," said Terrestrial Carbon Group member, Dr Chatib Basri.

"The Terrestrial Carbon Group recognises the ongoing efforts on reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. Our paper supports those international negotiations, as well as emerging national, bilateral, and multi-national efforts to maintain and enhance terrestrial carbon," said Terrestrial Carbon Group member, Dr Daniel Nepstad.

To download the full paper and for further details, please visit the website: www.terrestrialcarbon.org.

Source: CSIS Jakarta & The Terrestrial Carbon Group Media Statement - Sao Paulo, Jakarta, Washington DC, Geneva, Vienna, London, Sydney. 18 July 2008

Regional Workshop on Energy & Non-Traditional Security

28-29 August 2008

Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel

The issue of energy security – namely the security of supply, demand and sustainable development of energy – has taken on added significance given the devastating effects of spiraling world oil price. This has only exacerbated pressures on national economies and thwarted socio-economic developments of many developing countries. The significance of oil on the global economy has therefore transcended beyond the traditional political concerns and into the sphere of non-traditional issues such as human, health and food security, which have ultimately served to undermine the security of the state.

The stream of protests in various parts of Asia as a result of governments' action of raising domestic fuel prices and their inability to mitigate soaring prices of basic food commodities, clearly underscores this trend. The demonstrations in Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand in 2007 are a reminder of this trend and an indication of the risks posed to governments if they fail to provide the basic needs of their people, especially the poor and marginalized who would be most affected. Thus, it is critical to adopt a holistic and inter-disciplinary approach to addressing rising energy as well as human security needs.

This, however, would not be a smooth ride. While interdependence, cooperation and advancements in technology are viable options to address the issues, the degree of interconnectivity coupled with this limited and uneven distribution of resources could undermine efforts. The issue of biofuels is one such

example. Once heralded as the poster child for sustainable energy, its detractors now regard 1st generation biofuels as a rival against food supplies; no matter whether directly, or indirectly in terms of competition for arable land. It is unprecedented, for the world to face the dilemma between fuelling our stomachs and powering our industries. Furthermore, other technology savvy solutions have their flaws – Solar energy is expensive, the dams built for hydropower energy are potentially dangerous and nuclear energy, would pose long term problems with its radioactive waste. This therefore brings into question, the ability of states of states' in being able to effectively adopt such alternative energy resources, vis-à-vis the implications that these initiatives would pose to the security of not only their citizens, but the rest of the region.

These issues and challenges were raised Regional Workshop on Energy and Non-Traditional Security, from the 28th – 29th August 2008 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore, organized by the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University. The workshop examined the shifting approach to energy security beyond the conventional, state-centric, geo-political approach toward a human security-centric approach in the East Asian region; including the role of major external players such as the United States, China and India. It was acknowledged that existing discussions on the issue still remain divided as seeing energy security as a traditional issue and thereby require greater emphasis on human security.

The workshop gathered together energy experts from throughout the East Asian region. Delivering the Opening Address was Professor S.K. Chou, Executive Director of the Energy Studies Institute from the National University of Singapore. In his address, he underscored the need to further understand the non-traditional security aspects of energy security. He also noted that the way forward would be to acknowledge the importance of utilizing energy security's characteristics of interdependence and greater connectivity as assets to benchmark our energy use and outputs. On the macro level, defined measurements such as energy use per capita GDP and carbon emission per unit of income allow enlightened comparisons between regions and industries in terms of responsibilities and efficiencies. On the micro level, when one family can benchmark their energy use against the communal average, or one town centre against another, competition and peer pressure begin to take effect.

In setting the stage for the following panels and discussions, Assoc Prof Mely Caballero Anthony (Head, RSIS Centre for NTS Studies), Dr Chang Youngho (Assistant Professor (RSIS Centre for NTS Studies) and Prof James Tang (University of Hong Kong), provided a conceptual overview of Energy and Non-Traditional Security. It was noted that new emerging challenges has brought a new energy security paradigm, which straddles beyond economics and revolves around energy, environment and security. In light of this, energy security is more than a price and supply issues, as it has geopolitical ramifications – such as the emergence of new players like China and India - where national and international security concerns are tightly interwoven. This therefore raises questions as to what extent should energy security be re-conceptualized in view of the emergent NTS issues? Would this entail revisiting old energy security issues or uncovering new energy security issues? More importantly, can a framework for rethinking ES be explored?

Upcoming Events

UN International Day of Peace and Ceasefire
21st of September, 2008

Peace is the dream dreamt by everyone, but in more vivid colours by people caught in conflict. The ultimate objective of peace-workers is to help create a world where everyday is a 'day of peace'. Peace is hard work. Until we inhabit a different world the International Day of Peace must be embraced as an opportunity to reflect on what's happening around us, how far we have come and how much further we have to go.

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Colombo, Sri Lanka is the South Asian Regional Initiator for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). GPPAC is a world-wide civil society-led network aiming to build a new international consensus on peace building and the prevention of violent conflict. GPPAC works extensively around the globe to bring people around one rallying point - the International Day of Peace and Ceasefire. This year GPPAC South Asia identified the need for raising awareness about conflict prevention within the region. Media is an industry, an art and a strong opinion maker. The media, in the modern era, is indisputably an instrument of war and what is focussed here is transforming this as a vehicle for peace.With this in mind as a commemoration of the Peace day, GPPAC South Asia coordinated and organized Conflict Sensitive Journalism Training Workshops in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh. In Sri Lanka, GPPAC will be releasing a musical CD aiming at youth and will host a two day multi-ethnic youth camp in the Trincomalee District.

Seminar on the Identity of Long Established Australian-Born Chinese
29 Sept 2008, 5.30pm
Centre for Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong

2nd NTS-Asia Annual Convention, Beijing
10-11 Nov 2008 - IAPS, CASS, Bejing
Organised by: IAPS, CASS

Conference on "Non-Traditional Security—the World and China"
November,2008.
NTS-PD, Zhejiang University

High Level Seminar on Non-Traditional Security
Mid- November 2008
NTS-PD, Zhejiang University

Recent Publications

Peacebuilding in Afghanistan: Revisiting the Global War on Terrorism
Saira Yamin
RCSS Policy Studies # 43

Indo-US Nuclear Cooperation: Altering Strategic Positioning and Shifting Balance of Power in South Asia
Sadia Tasleem
RCSS Policy Studies # 44

Conflict Transformation from Ethnic Movement to Terrorist Movement: Case Studies of Tamils in Sri Lanka and Mohajirs in Pakistan
Arshi Saleem Hashmi
RCSS Policy Studies # 45

Articles from the Journal of World Economics and Politics, No.8, 2008 (IWEP, China)

Post-Kyoto International Climate Governance and China's Strategic Options
Zhuang Guiyang

International climate debates have always been companied with the evolution of the international climate regime. From the scientific basis of climate change to the assessment on economic interests, and to the formation of political will, the struggles for economic interests and the geopolitics behind climate change bargaining constitute the context of international climate governance. With a growing influence in the world political and economic arena, China is playing a pivotal role in the formation and future development of international climate regime. China's climate change position and the possible change have aroused wide concerns in the international community. The article first

summarized China's awareness of the climate change issues along with the evolution of the international climate regime, then analyzed the decision-making process of climate change and the reasons for changing position, finally put forward the strategic priorities and the long-term strategic choices in the post-Kyoto international climate governance.

Global Climate Change Institutions and China Soft Capacity Building: A Survey Analysis
Yu Hongyuan

Imposed by climate change domestic-international linkage, soft capacity building has three independent variables: interest coordination, institution building and norm localization. The impacts of international institutions on the soft capacity for climate change can be shown in empirical studies as follows: First, policy autonomy whose indicators are the interests and norms in climate change; Second, strategic consensus with indicators of information exchanges, reciprocal trust and final decision-making; Third, policy coordination institution building whose indicators are the level of coordination institutionalization, coordinator. Through a comprehensive survey and discussions, the author concludes that international climate change regimes influences the decision-making environment and shapes climate change soft capacity building, meanwhile, China's soft capacity can also contribute to the development of climate change institution building.

China-EU Interdependence on Energy and Climate Security / "China-EU Interdependence on Energy and Climate Security" Group

This article attempts to analyze the common interests of EU and China in energy and climate security as well as the strategic opportunities for collaboration. The combined economic might of the EU, the world's largest single market, and China, the fastest-growing economy, can provide unprecedented opportunities and generate benefits of scale which will lower the costs of climate-friendly goods and services globally. The effective collaboration between China and Europe could become the de facto engine of global low-carbon transformation and contribute to the mitigation of the worldwide global warming process. The EU-China interdependence on both climate and energy security have laid a foundation for future cooperation. Based on an in-depth analysis of EU-China collaboration in various sectors such as electricity, buildings, transport, trade and investment, the author provides a blueprint that both China and EU develop into a low-carbon economy and offers relevant policy suggestions.

Rudd Kevin Government's Climate Change and Energy Policy
Zhou Jian & He Jiankun

Based on Rudd Kevin's campaign manifesto, policies of the new government and Garnaut's Climate Change Review Interim Report, this article summarizes the climate change and energy policies of Rudd Kevin government and analyzes the reasons for changes. First, Australia has turned to make a balance between the U.S. and EU from simply following the U.S.; Second, it adheres to the "limited distinction" and cooperation policy with the developing countries; Third, it still follows Howard government's policy in many aspects because both of them aims to maximize the national interests. Given such new trends, measures are recommended to the Chinese policy makers.

China Hedges its Energy Security Bets
Ystein Tunsj

This article seeks to establish a new theoretical framework that encapsulates some of the complexity that is lost in the void between traditional "strategic" and/or "market" approaches to China's energy security policy, by introducing the concept of hedging and the theory of risk management. The analysis applies the concept of hedging as a reflexive and contingent strategy that combines elements of cooperation, rivalry, friction and potential conflict simultaneously and which aims to minimise risk and insure against a state of emergency. The article first explores the "strategic" and the "market" approach and links this framework to the debate between neorealism and neoliberalism within International Relations theory. It is then argued that we need to transcend these traditional approaches, and the article examines the usefulness of the securitization framework for understanding China's energy security policy. Aiming to go beyond criticism of the neorealist and neoliberalist debate and pointing out that the securitisation framework remains insufficient in explaining China's energy security policy, the final section explores how the concept of hedging and the theory of risk management can provide a more nuanced understanding of China's energy security policy.

China's Energy Security: Challenges and Responses
Yang Zewei

The viewpoints on China's energy security has undergone a process from "self-sufficiency" to "supply-oriented" and to current "broadening supply and conservation". Now, China's energy security is facing structural and institutional crisis. Chinese government should take a series of countermeasures to address these challenges by taking part in multilateral cooperation, joining the International Energy Agency, and promoting to establish the energy community in Northeast Asia.

Climate, Food and the New North-South Divide
Rajesh M Basrur, RSIS Commentaries 90/2008 – [Available online]

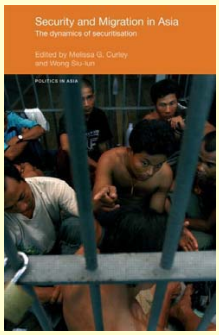
Security and Migration in Asia : The Dynamics of Securitization
Ed. Melissa Curley and Siu-lun Wong, July 2008

Security and Migration in Asia explores how various forms of unregulated and illegal forms of human movement within Asia and beyond the region have come to be treated as 'security' issues, and whether and how a 'securitization' framework enables a more effective response to them. The process and theory of 'securitization' and 'desecuritization' have been developed within the international relations literature by the so-call Copenhagen school scholars, including Barry Buzan and Ole Waever among others.

The topics explored in this well- presented and engaging book cover geographic areas of China, Northeast Asia, Central Asia, the Russian Far East, Southeast Asia, and the Hong Kong SAR, and includes research on:

- human trafficking and people smuggling
- financing illegal migration and links to transnational organized crime
- regulated and unregulated labour migration
- the 'securitization' of illegal migration in sending, transit and receiving countries.

This book provides compelling insights into contemporary forms of illegal migration, under conditions of globalization, and makes a contribution to the literature in international relations and migration studies.



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