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Issues:

- LESSONS FROM THE JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI
- CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS
- ENERGY AND HUMAN SECURITY
- FOOD SECURITY
- HEALTH AND HUMAN SECURITY

Note: Please click on the respective titles or headers for the full report.

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MAIN HIGHLIGHT

Lessons from the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

On the 11th of March, Japan was hit by one of the most severe earthquakes in recorded history. The earthquake, and the tsunami that followed it, led to thousands of deaths and tremendous infrastructure losses. At the same time, however, the impact of the disaster on Japan (relative to the impacts of disasters on other countries) demonstrated that the best defence against the forces of nature is sound economic and technological progress combined with strong community values. A much weaker earthquake in 2010 in Haiti led to many more deaths and a near complete annihilation of the country's infrastructure. Japan's advanced level of development has been made possible, partially at least, by Japan's access to large quantities of energy, much of which comes from nuclear power plants.

Given the global need for energy to support development, the disaster – and the damage it caused to Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant – offers at least two lessons on nuclear power. The first lesson is that nuclear power remains a surprisingly safe source of energy. In Japan, a poorly designed old plant with arguably inadequate safety measures was hit by a powerful earthquake and tsunami. Yet, no one has died as result of radiation. At the same time, at least 14 people have died indirectly, due to the *fear* of radiation leading to hospitals being ordered to evacuate their elderly patients. While evacuation efforts in Japan have mostly been based on rational considerations, the fear has spread far beyond both Japanese territory and reason. That leads to the second lesson, which is that the disaster has proven that many remain very afraid of everything that has anything to do with nuclear power and radiation. It is this phobia, and not the actual threat, that sustains renewed debates about nuclear energy in places so distant from Japan as Poland or Germany.

Additional Info:

- Durodie, Bill, 'Disaster Hacks Should Stick to the Facts', *Today*, 18 March 2011.
- Fogarty, Philippa, 'How Japan Tackles Its Quake Challenge', *BBC*, 11 March 2011.
- Kelly, Jon, 'The Fear of Nuclear', *BBC*, 15 March 2011.
- Lyons, Rob, 'Five Lessons from Fukushima', *spiked*, 16 March 2011.
- Monbiot, George, 'Why Fukushima Made Me Stop Worrying and Love Nuclear Power', *Guardian*, 21 March 2011.
- Pile, Ben, 'Making Mountains Out of Meltdowns', *spiked*, 14 March 2011.

[^ To the top](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

News & Commentaries

- Daggett, Christina, 'Carrying Capacity: Should We Be Aiming to Survive or Flourish?', *The New Security Beat*, blog, 3 March 2011.
- 'Vietnam Ranks Climate Change as High Priority', *VietNamNet Bridge*, 6 March 2011.
- 'Legarda Urges ASEAN Leaders to Prioritize Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation', *Philippine Information Agency*, 7 March 2011.



- 'Developing Countries Most Vulnerable to Climate Change – McGill Study', *PreventionWeb*, 10 March 2011.
- Schneider, Keith and Nadya Ivanova, 'China Responds to Explosive Growth, Pollution, and Water Scarcity in Latest Five-Year Plan', *Circle of Blue*, 15 March 2011.
- Woheck, Leena, 'Bridging the Gap: The Role for Business in Climate Change Adaptation', *CSR Asia*, 16 March 2011.
- Knight, Erick, 'Is There a Right Time to Put a Price on Carbon', *ABC*, 17 March 2011.
- 'Emerging Asia Pledges Carbon Emission Reduction Goals', *2point6billion*, 22 March 2011.
- 'Experts Discuss How Prevention Pays: Saving Lives and Minimizing Destruction in Natural Disasters', *The World Bank*, 22 March 2011.
- Schearf, Daniel, 'Asian Nations Hail Disaster Prevention Efforts', *Voice of America*, 23 March 2011.

Selected Publications

- Vivekananda, Janani, 2010, *Climate Change, Governance and Fragility: Rethinking Adaptation – Lessons from Nepal*, Brussels: Initiative for Peacebuilding / International Alert.

This paper provides reflective analyses on the impacts of climate change that challenge local community resilience in eastern Nepal. It not only highlights the complexities of the perceptions and realities related to climate change, but also suggests that there is a need to rethink the process of building resilience and climate adaptation in politically unstable societies.

- Alexander, Kim S., Anthony Ryan and Thomas G. Measham, 2011, *Managed Retreat of Coastal Communities: Understanding Responses to Projected Sea Level Rise*, Working Paper Series 2010-06, Canberra: CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences.

Climate adaptation literature highlights three options – accommodation, protection and retreat. This paper focuses on the attitudes of coastal communities towards the retreat option. With the risk of sea level rise, retreat is argued to be a viable option and the most cost-effective approach. An interesting point is that the findings suggest the need for public debate on how to respond to sea level rise as well as develop an optimal, socially acceptable and morally appropriate response.

- Brown, Jessica and Leo Peskett, 2011, *Climate Finance in Indonesia: Lessons for the Future of Public Finance for Climate Change Mitigation*, Working Paper No. 11, Bonn: Overseas Development Institute.

This paper highlights the development of climate finance in Indonesia and presents some lessons drawn from examining international financial aid to climate change programmes at the national level. It emphasises that aid effectiveness will depend on understanding the different financing needs and recognising issues such as coordination and competition between climate initiatives.

- Bodansky, Daniel, 2011, *A Tale of Two Architectures: The Once and Future U.N. Climate Change Regime*, Working Paper, Arizona: Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

This paper sheds light on two approaches to the implementation of climate change policies. It compares top-down and bottom-up approaches, and examines the implications of these approaches for defining a way forward for the UN in governing the climate change regime.

Events & Announcements

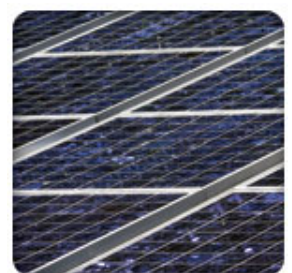
- 'Workshop 3 on Green Economy Pathways', 19 April 2011, New York, US.
- 'Reaching the Masses: Building Critical Public Awareness of Climate Change Adaptation', 27 April 2011, Bangkok, Thailand.

[^ To the top](#)

ENERGY AND HUMAN SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Bradsher, Keith, 'China Reportedly Plans Strict Goals to Save Energy', *The New York Times*, 4 March 2011.
- Tabuchi, Hiroko and Matthew L. Wald, 'Japanese Scramble to Avert Meltdowns as Nuclear Crisis Deepens after Quake', *The New York Times*, 12 March 2011.
- Lean, Geoffrey, 'Japan Earthquake: Nuclear Power under Fire', *The Telegraph*, 14 March 2011.
- 'Lighting Homes, Empowering Lives in Lao PDR', *The World Bank*, 15 March 2011.
- 'Philippines: Hydro Power Injects Diversity into Sibuyan Island's Economy', *The World Bank*, 18 March 2011.
- Ryder, Katherine, 'Why Asia's Nuclear Tigers Can't Stop Building Reactors', *Fortune*, 18 March 2011.
- Watts, Himangshu and Soma Banerjee, 'Japan Nuclear Disaster to Change Global Energy Market', *The Economic Times*, 23 March 2011.



2011.

- Walet, Leonora and Tessa Dunlop, 'Analysis: Can Geothermal Help Japan in Crisis?', *Reuters*, 24 March 2011.
- 'Nepal's Government Declares Energy Emergency, Plans to Build New Power Plants', *AP*, 24 March 2011.

Selected Publications

- Yoshimatsu, Hidetaka, 2011, *Sino-Japanese Relations and Cooperative Institutions in Energy*, Working Paper Series Vol. 2011-07, Kitakyushu: The International Centre for the Study of East Asian Development.

This paper examines Sino-Japanese relations in the energy sector. It argues that the dynamics of this bilateral relationship has promoted institutional developments in the region. These developments are the result of, in particular, both countries perceiving that increased cooperation through regional and bilateral institutions benefits their economic development, in the light of surging energy demand in East Asia.

- Ramakrishna, Seeram, 2011, 'Singapore's Perspective on Energy and Future Cities', in Takeshi Yao (ed.) *Zero-Carbon Energy Kyoto 2010*, Green Energy and Technology, Tokyo: Springer Japan.

Given Singapore's lack of natural resources and high dependency on fossil fuels, this paper argues that improving energy efficiency and utilising clean energy are the only feasible options for the country. In addition, it suggests that Singapore's geographic location makes solar energy a possible primary energy source.

Events & Announcements

- '4th International Exhibition of Renewable Energy and Environment in Africa', 27–30 April 2011, Dakar, Senegal.
- '1st International Nuclear Energy Congress', 23–24 May 2011, Warsaw, Poland.
- '17th International Energy and Environment Fair and Conference', 15–17 June 2011, Istanbul, Turkey.

[^ To the top](#)

FOOD SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Barta, Patrick, 'Inflation Prompts a Flurry of Subsidies', *The Wall Street Journal*, 1 March 2011.
- Chay, Felda, 'Singapore: Local Farming Promoted for Food Security', *The Business Times*, 4 March 2011.
- Abbugao, Martin, 'Asia Rice Output Threatened by Pesticide Overuse', *AFP*, 5 March 2011.
- Sia, Andrew, 'Food, Food, Everywhere and Not Enough to Eat', *The Star*, 6 March 2011.
- 'Closing the Gender Gap in Agriculture', Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 7 March 2011.
- Oktavianus, Evan, 'Indonesia, France Food Security Engagement', *The Jakarta Post*, 8 March 2011.
- Nurhayati, Desy, 'Plant Genetic Resources Key to Food Security', *The Jakarta Post*, 12 March 2011.
- Ives, Mike, 'Insect Farming Aims to End Food Insecurity in Laos', *Scidev.Net*, 15 March 2011.
- Aguiba, Melody M., 'PH to Play Critical Role in Global Food Security with 2013 Golden Rice Launch', *Manila Bulletin*, 19 March 2011.
- Muller, Anders Riel, 'South Korea's Global Food Ambitions: Rural Farming and Land Grabs', *Conducive Magazine*, 19 March 2011.
- 'Greater Efficiency in Water Management Will Reduce Risk for Half of the Global Economy', *PR Newswire*, 21 March 2011.
- Joshi, Harsh, 'India Can't Get the Food Right Wrong', *The Wall Street Journal*, 22 March 2011.
- 'Agricultural Production and Food Security', *The Financial Express*, 23 March 2011.



Selected Publications

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2011, *The State of Food and Agriculture – Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development*, Rome.

This report highlights the need to address gender issues in agriculture and rural employment. It provides evidence of gender gaps present in the sector and argues that there are significant potential gains which could be achieved if those gaps are closed. It analyses evidence from countries with gender and development policies and offers insights on proven means of promoting gender equality and empowering women.

- International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), 2011, 'Bread and Protests: The Return of High Food Prices', *IISS Strategic Comments*, Vol. 17, No. 9.

This commentary examines the link between rising food prices and the Arab uprisings. While food price is just one of the factors contributing to the unrest in the Middle East, in the global context, rising commodity prices are a major concern. The article examines various reasons for the structural shifts in the trade, production, supply and consumption of food, and their impacts on food prices.

- Mathur, Arpita, 2011, 'Women and Food Security: A Comparison of South Asia and Southeast Asia', MacArthur Asia Security Initiative Policy Series No. 12, Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies.

In this paper, it is argued that women are susceptible to food insecurity despite being primary actors in the food chain. The paper explores the reasons for such vulnerability and the consequences on women and children, through a comparative analysis of South Asia and Southeast Asia. The analysis suggests that the overall situation in South Asia is worse than Southeast Asia.

Events & Announcements

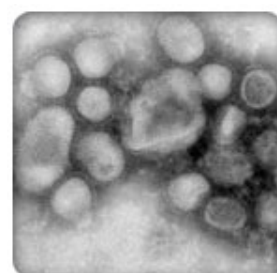
- '6th International CIGR Technical Symposium – Towards a Sustainable Food Chain', 18–20 April 2011, Nantes, France.
- 'Climate Change, Price Volatility, and Food Security', 20 April 2011, Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 'Krishi-Dhan 2011 – Green to Evergreen', 28–30 April 2011, Mumbai, India.

[^ To the top](#)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- 'Non-communicable Diseases Threaten Southeast Asian Economies: WHO', *Sify News*, 28 February 2011.
- 'Indonesia Warned on Rising Degenerative Diseases', *Xinhua*, 3 March 2011.
- 'Avian Flu Resurgence Raises Concern in Asia, Middle East', *The World Bank*, 10 March 2011.
- Marchione, Marilyn, 'Fears of Health Risks Rise in Japan', *The Huffington Post*, 15 March 2011.
- '75 Percent of Infectious Diseases in Humans Originates from Animals – Report', *Bernama*, 16 March 2011.
- Tirrell, Meg, 'Virus Identified in Rural China Kills 30% of Victims, May Be Tick-Borne', *Bloomberg*, 17 March 2011.
- Dawson, Chester, 'Mental Health No Afterthought in Tsunami's Aftermath', *The Wall Street Journal*, 21 March 2011.
- 'Japan's Medical System Unprepared for Health Crisis', *CBS*, 22 March 2011.
- 'Health Care a Heavy Burden for 250,000 Pinoy Families', *ABS-CBN*, 23 March 2011.
- 'How Damaged Nuclear Plant's Radiation Gets into Food, Water', *CNN*, 23 March 2011.
- 'Lessons Learned from High Pathogenic H5N1 in SE Asia', *World Poultry*, 23 March 2011.
- 'One Child Dies Every Minute in Pakistan', *The News International*, 23 March 2011.
- 'WHO Experts Warn of Yellow Fever Virus Hitting India, S.E. Asia', *Sify News*, 23 March 2011.
- 'WHO Urges Stepped Up Battle against Drug-Resistant TB', *AFP*, 23 March 2011.
- Fujimura, Naoko, Kathleen Chu and Frederik Balfour, 'Tokyo Says Infants Face Health Risk from Radiation in Tap Water', *Bloomberg*, 23 March 2011.



Selected Publications

- Parry, Jane and Cui Weiyuan, 2011, 'Looming Dementia Epidemic in Asia', *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, Vol. 89, pp. 166–7.

In this article, the authors examine the rise of dementia cases in Asia, noting that the disease is beginning to receive greater regional recognition. It is argued that greater grassroots-level responses have contributed significantly to raising the profile of dementia and to alerting governments on the importance of programmes and schemes to support dementia sufferers and their families.

- Wu, Zunyou, Yu Wang, Yurong Mao et al., 2011, 'The Integration of Multiple HIV/AIDS Projects into a Coordinated National Programme in China', *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, Vol. 89, pp. 227–33.

This article discusses the increasing number of HIV/AIDS cases in China and the various problems associated with foreign HIV/AIDS projects, such as coordination, integration, data management and resource allocation. The authors identify and assess the successes of six platforms that have been integrated into a national programme: surveillance, laboratory networks, primary prevention, free training programmes, testing and counselling, and case management.

- Viergever, Roderik F., 2011, 'Aid Alignment for Global Health Research: The Role of HIROs', *Health Research Policy and Systems*, Vol. 9, No. 12, pp. 1–9.

This article argues that the best way to align financial flows for global health research with public health priorities is via collaborative groups of health research funders. To achieve this goal, the author suggests greater involvement, engagement and proactive effort from the heads of international research organisations (HIROs). Given the enormous potential of this group to help bridge the gap between global health research needs and investments into such research, greater transparency on the objectives and current work of HIROs would be needed.

Events & Announcements

- 'World Vaccine Congress 2011', 11–14 April 2011, Washington, DC, US.
- 'The Unite for Sight Global Health & Innovation 2011 Conference', 16–17 April 2011, New Haven, CT, US.
- 'International Pandemic Preparedness and Response Conference: "Finding the Balance between Vigilance, Warning and Action & Lessons from Disaster Management"', 18–19 April 2011, Singapore.
- 'First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Noncommunicable Disease Control', 28–29 April 2011, Moscow, Russia.

[^ To the top](#)

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About the Centre:

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies was inaugurated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan in May 2008. The Centre maintains research in the fields of Food Security, Climate Change, Energy Security, Health Security as well as Internal and Cross-Border Conflict. It produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The Centre also provides a platform for scholars and policymakers within and outside Asia to discuss and analyse NTS issues in the region.

In 2009, the Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative, to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific.

The Centre is also a founding member and the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia). More information on the Centre can be found at www.rsis.edu.sg/nts.