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MAIN HIGHLIGHT

An Asia Prepared for the Monsoon Season?

Several Asian countries have experienced flooding in recent weeks. While the monsoon rains – amplified by the La Nina effect – have been taking place as expected from the second to the third quarter of the year, the extent of the damage has in some instances been greater than projected.

In South Asia, floods in the Indian state of Orissa are said to be the state's worst floods in the past three decades. In Pakistan, some reports have suggested that about 8.2 million people across the country have been affected by floods since early August. Providing relief to flood victims has remained an uphill task, with government coordinated responses being limited and an emergency appeal for international aid of as high as USD357 million being launched.

In contrast, in East Asia, greater preparedness has led to effective responses to the floods. Continuous rainfall has inundated several provinces in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. In a bid to save rice crops from flood damage, farmers have harvested their crops early, which may result in lower yields. Typhoons also struck the Philippines and Japan, which have largely been prepared for the rains given their experiences with previous and more intense typhoons.

While the total costs and damage from the floods have yet to be determined, it is certain that, based on the experiences of Asian countries, well-coordinated disaster preparedness mechanisms, coupled with flood-resistant social infrastructures, will ultimately minimise losses and ensure a relatively smoother recovery process.

Additional Info:

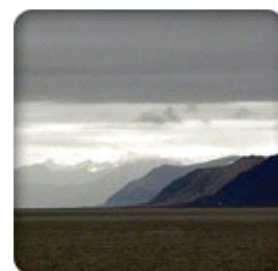
- Gaulter, Steff, 'Typhoon Lashes Eastern Philippines', *Al Jazeera*, 27 September 2011.
- 'India Floods Situation Worsens in UP, Bihar and Orissa', *BBC*, 26 September 2011.
- 'Floods Kill 158 in Thailand, 61 in Cambodia', *Reuters*, 26 September 2011.
- 'Choppers Rescue Tourists Caught by Cambodian Flood', *AP*, 23 September 2011.
- 'Japan Typhoon Kills 11, Spares Nuclear Plant', *AFP*, 20 September 2011.
- Abbot, Sebastian, 'UN Needs \$357 Million to Cope with Pakistan Floods', *AP*, 19 September 2011.
- 'Snake Bites, Hunger and Little Government Aid Haunt Pakistani Flood Victims', *The Washington Post*, 19 September 2011.
- 'Flood Furies 412 Die, 8.2m Affectees', *Pakistan Observer*, 26 September 2011.

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CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

News & Commentaries

- 'Chief Scientist Issues Call Over Climate', *Brisbane Times*, 26 September 2011.
- Winther, Mikael Hemniti, 'A New Agenda to Push Global Green Growth', *Bangkok Post*, 20 September 2011.
- Kouchakji, Katie, '2015 Climate Deal Deadline "Realistic"', *Environmental Finance*, 22 September 2011.
- 'Launch of the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative: Commission Promotes Scheme to Identify the Costs of Land Degradation Worldwide', Press Release, *European Commission*, 21 September 2011.



- Deng, Shasha, 'China to Launch Carbon Emissions Trading Pilot Project', *Xinhua*, 17 September 2011.
- 'Small Island States Sound Alarm at UN over Their Vulnerability to Climate Change', *UN News Centre*, 24 September 2011.
- 'Steep Increase in Global CO2 Emissions Despite Reductions by Industrialized Countries with Binding Kyoto Targets', *Science Daily*, 22 September 2011.
- 'UNEP Pays Tribute to Professor Wangari Maathai', *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) News Centre*, 26 September 2011.
- Yue Jones, Terril, 'China to Invest 2 Trillion Yuan in Low-Carbon Economy', *Reuters*, 25 September 2011.

Selected Publications

- Asian Development Bank (ADB), 2011, *Greening Growth in Asia and the Pacific*, Philippines.

This report aims to present a snapshot of ADB's support of environmentally sustainable growth in the region. It outlines emerging environment challenges including: increasing resource-intensive industries, pollution, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; increasing need for urban infrastructure and services; projected scarcities in food, water and non-renewable resources; vulnerability to climate change; and weak environmental governance.

- Ciplet, D., J. Timmons Roberts, Martin Stadelmann et al., 2011, *Scoring Fast-start Climate Finance: Leaders and Laggards in Transparency*, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Briefing Paper, UK: IIED.

In 2009, developed countries pledged USD30 billion of 'fast-start climate finance'. Transparent reporting on climate finance is essential for governments to plan mitigation and adaptation activities and for civil society to hold contributors and recipients to account for how climate funds are spent. This briefing presents a new scorecard based on the extent to which developed countries meet a set of common-sense criteria in their climate finance reports to the UN. It reveals that the global community has a long way to go in making climate finance transparent and that it urgently needs an international registry of funds that provides comprehensive, detailed, consistent and transparent accounting and reporting measures at the project level.

- Otzelberger, Agnes, 2011, *Gender-responsive Strategies on Climate Change: Recent Progress and Ways Forward for Donors*, UK: BRIDGE-Institute of Development Studies (IDS).

This report is the product of a qualitative evidence-gathering process and enquiry into donor agencies' experiences of integrating gender into their climate change policies and programmes. It provides insights into what has hindered and enabled such integration processes from a donor perspective. It also provides an update on the status of gender in global and national policy response to climate change, and offers a set of principles and ways forward for a range of donors.

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2011, *Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, FCCC/CP/2011/7, Germany.

This report, prepared for the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17), describes the achievements of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) over its twenty-year history, provides the insights into GEF programming, as well as summarises Convention guidance to the GEF, the GEF response to the COP 16 and conclusions of the 34th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Asia and Pacific, 2011, *At the Crossroads: Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific*, Thailand.

This report provides a snapshot of how disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) are undertaken and integrated, if at all, in the Asia-Pacific region. It does so by taking stock of past and ongoing regional initiatives and by looking into the role of certain organisations in the implementation process. It also discusses key developments in three areas – political, policy and institutional – which are instrumental in facilitating the integration of DRR and CCA agendas in the region. Concluding remarks and next steps to push the integration forward are presented in the last section.

Events & Announcements

- 'Second International Workshop on Biomass & Carbon Capture and Storage (Bio-CCS)', 25–26 October 2011, Cardiff, Wales.
- 'Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week: New Challenges – New Opportunities', 7–11 November 2011, Beijing, China.
- 'Climate Change and Migration in the Asia-Pacific: Legal and Policy Responses', 10–11 November 2011, Sydney, Australia.

ENERGY AND HUMAN SECURITY



News & Commentaries

- McGregor, Tom, 'China's Push for Shale Gas', *CRI English*, 1 September 2011.
- 'Two Reasons Why Asia's Still Thirsty for Crude Oil', *The Economic Times*, 6 September 2011.
- Shiryayevskaya, Anna, 'Putin Starts Pacific Gas Link in Bid to Build Asia Energy Hub', *Bloomberg*, 8 September 2011.
- Tan, Valarie, 'ASEAN Eyes Japan Nuclear Restart since Quake', *Channel NewsAsia*, 13 September 2011.
- 'Japan PM Pledges to Reduce Nuclear Dependency', *Channel NewsAsia*, 13 September 2011.
- 'Alternative Energy Heats Up in Asia-Pacific with Geothermal Power Market According to Marketsensus', *San Francisco Chronicle*, 14 September 2011.
- 'New Nuclear Security Plan Tops IAEA Talks Agenda', *The Economic Times*, 19 September 2011.
- 'ASEAN News: Asean to Accelerate Energy Connectivity', *Philippine Information Agency (PIA)*, 21 September 2011.
- Ng, Esther, 'Singapore Wins Big at Energy Awards', *Today*, 21 September 2011.

Selected Publications

- Durodie, Bill, 2011, 'Reconciling Growing Energy Demand with Climate Change Management', *Global Change, Peace & Security*, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp.271–82.

This article discusses the discord between developed and developing countries with regard to their growing demands for energy and their respective responsibility for managing climate change. It points out some misleading tendencies in the energy and climate change discourse, and concludes that it is important to reach a balance between development and climate change management rather than over-emphasising reduction in energy consumption.

- Collins, Gabe, Andrew S. Erickson, Yufan Hao et al., 2011, *Asia's Rising Energy and Resource Nationalism: Implications for the United States, China, and the Asia-Pacific Region*, The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) Special Report No. 31, Seattle: NBR.

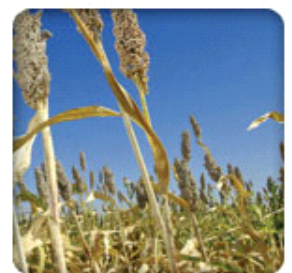
This report provides an overview of a wide range of issues related to rising energy and resource nationalism in the Asia-Pacific region, including nationalism revolving around specific resources such as maritime energy and rare earth minerals. It concludes by examining the implications of energy nationalism in Asia for the US. It argues that energy cooperation is in the interest of all countries and this requires strong leadership and inclusiveness.

Events & Announcements

- 'World Renewable Energy Congress – Indonesia: The International Conference and Exhibition on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency', 17–19 October 2011, Bali, Indonesia.
- '4th International Conference on Sustainable Energy and Environment (SEE 2011): A Paradigm Shift to Low-carbon Society', 23–25 November 2011, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 'Shale Gas World Europe', 29 November – 1 December 2011, Warsaw, Poland.

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FOOD SECURITY



News & Commentaries

- 'FAO: \$18.9m Needed to Help Farmers Affected by Pakistan Floods', *Asian Scientist*, 26 September 2011.
- Gamolo, Nora O., 'Media Coverage Boosts Biotech in the Philippines', *Science and Development Network*, 16 September 2011.
- Gilbert, Michael, 'Will Patenting Crops Help Feed the Hungry?', *The Conversation*, 27 September 2011.
- Hancock, Tom, 'China Unveils Record-breaking "Super Rice"', *Asian Correspondent*, 21 September 2011.
- Khan, Iftikhar A., 'UN Warns of Food Crisis in Flood-hit Areas', *Dawn*, 25 September 2011.
- Moloney, Anastasia, 'Q&A: We Need Better Ways to Measure the World's Hungry', *AlertNet*, 19 September 2011.
- Sharma, Yojana, 'G20 Nations Turn to Agricultural Research for Food Security', *Dawn*, 18 September 2011.
- W., Pratchaya, 'Plant Breeders Force Rethink of Thai Seed Law', *Science and Development Network*, 12 September 2011.
- 'Investing in Ecosystem Services Can Boost Food Security, Raise Incomes – UN', *UN News Centre*, 22 August 2011.
- Zilberman, David, 'AgBiotech and Combating Climate Change', *Checkbiotech*, 15 August 2011.

Selected Publications

- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 2011, *World Disasters Report: Focus on Hunger and Nutrition*, Switzerland.

The 2011 *World Disasters Report* focuses on the growing crisis of hunger and malnutrition. It highlights that the issues of global food security, hunger and malnutrition go to the core of virtually all the major components and functions of the international system – from international trade to climate change, from water scarcity to scientific innovation.

- Mahandra Dev, S., 2011, *Climate Change, Rural Livelihoods and Agriculture (Focus on Food Security) in Asia-Pacific Region*, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) Working Paper, Mumbai: IGIDR.

This working paper aims to identify climate-change-related threats and vulnerabilities associated with agriculture as a sector and agriculture as people's livelihoods. The paper analyses the connections between the nature of human action as drivers of threats as well as opportunities for sustainable agriculture and better human development outcomes. Broadly, it examines the impact of climate change on rural livelihoods, agriculture and food security. It discusses the options for adaptation and mitigation, and the requirements for implementation at local, national and international levels.

- Shiferaw, Bekele, Boddupalli M. Prasanna, Jonathan Hellin et al., 2011, 'Crops That Feed the World 6. Past Successes and Future Challenges to the Role Played by Maize in Global Food Security', *Food Security*, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp. 307–27.

This article reviews the research challenges of ensuring global food security in maize, particularly in the context of climate change. It summarises the importance of maize for food, nutrition and livelihood security; details the historical productivity of maize and consumption patterns and future trends; and shows how crop breeding to overcome biotic and abiotic stresses will play a key role in meeting future maize demand.

Events & Announcements

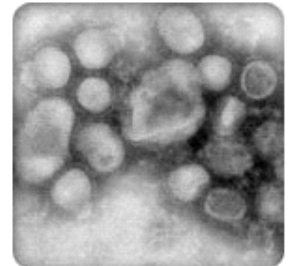
- 'World Food Day', 16 October 2011, Worldwide.
- 'Committee on World Food Security', 17–22 October 2011, Rome, Italy.

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Gallagher, James, 'Tuberculosis Relative Could Be New Vaccine', *BBC*, 4 September 2011.
- Ijaz, Tayyaba, 'The Epidemic of Dengue Fever – An Overview', *The Nation*, 16 September 2011.
- 'Doubts Raised for UN Progress at Disease Summit', *CBS News*, 18 September 2011.
- 'UNICEF: Child Mortality in East Asia Down by Two Thirds since 1990', *Asian Scientist*, 19 September 2011.
- Williams, Matthias, 'New Bird Flu Outbreak Reported in India', *Reuters*, 20 September 2011.
- Florcruz, Jaime and Haolan Hong, 'New Polio Outbreak Hits China', *CNN*, 21 September 2011.
- 'Global Health Fund "Needs Substantial Overhaul"', *Science and Development Network*, 22 September 2011.
- Lomborg, Bjorn and Peter Piot, 'Rethinking the Fight against AIDS', *The Wall Street Journal*, 27 September 2011.
- Patel, Anushka, 'Lots of Talk, Little Action from Crucial UN Summit on Deadly Diseases', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 September 2011.
- Piotrowski, Jan, 'Malaria Deaths Could Vanish in Ten Years, Claims Report', *Science and Development Network*, 22 September 2011.
- Smith, Lewis, 'Europe's First Stem Cell Trials to Start', *The Independent*, 23 September 2011.
- 'Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease Shuts Vietnam Schools', *Boston Globe*, 26 September 2011.



Selected Publications

- Inglesby, Thomas V., 2011, 'Progress in Disaster Planning and Preparedness since 2001', *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 8 September.

This article outlines disaster planning and preparedness (DPP) developments in the last decade on the health front. It observes three notable developments: the participation of medical and public health professionals in the disaster preparedness community, the US

government's increased investment in DPP and the growing involvement of community participants in the health aspect of DPP. It adds, however, that there remains much progress to be made in preparing for larger-scale catastrophes such as nuclear detonation. Also, new technologies in disaster response remain unharnessed and further commitments to stable investment in DPP need to be made.

- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), 2011, 'Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases', 16 September.

This declaration is a draft resolution which outlines the UNGA's concerns regarding the socioeconomic impacts of non-communicable diseases worldwide. It also makes a number of pledges, including advancing the implementation of multisectoral, cost-effective, population-wide interventions to reduce risk factors, and accelerating the implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, and the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol.

Events & Announcements

- 'World Mental Health Day', 10 October 2011.
- 'World Sight Day', 13 October 2011.
- 'The 7th World Alliance for Risk Factor Surveillance (WARFS) Global Conference', 16–19 October 2011, Toronto, Canada.
- 'World Conference on Social Determinants of Health', 19–21 October 2011, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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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.