



NTS Bulletin July 2012

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NTS VIEWPOINT

Managing water: From technological advances to political solutions

Water summits and forums are increasingly becoming fashionable. Global water forums, such as World Water Week (organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute) and the recently concluded Singapore International Water Week, are being held with increasing frequency. However, such water meetings have tended to focus on technological solutions, with political solutions having been given relatively little attention.

Water security is a definite concern today. World population is predicted to grow from 6.9 billion in 2010 to 9.1 billion in 2050. Consequently, food demand is predicted to increase by 70 per cent while energy demand will rise by 60 per cent. This will substantially increase water demand and could lead to greater competition for water between different economic sectors and also between states. Thus, finding solutions to present and projected water scarcity constitutes one of key challenges of the 21st century.

While technological advances may be integral to the resolution of water issues, the world has more than 200 transboundary river basins, which underlines the importance of also looking at political solutions – especially with growing predictions that transboundary rivers could serve as triggers for inter-state conflicts in the 21st century, in much the same manner as oil did in the past century.

A case in point is the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region. The area, which includes the Himalayan mountain range and the Tibetan Plateau, is the source of 10 huge Asian river systems, namely, the Tarim, Amu Darya, Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong, Yangtze and Yellow.

Growing competition over the use of waters, the lack of robust frameworks for cooperation, and deep-seated mistrust heighten the risks of conflict over the shared rivers in the region. Mistrust among the region's riparian countries is fuelled by long-standing territorial disputes, such as those between Pakistan and India over Kashmir, India and China over Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh, and the Central Asian states over the fertile and water-rich Fergana Valley.

Countries of the HKH region do have some existing frameworks, such as the Indus Waters Treaty, the Ganges Treaty and the Mekong River Commission. However, these treaties are river-centric, and focus narrowly on socioeconomic-related issues such as water allocation, navigation, hydroelectric dams and fisheries.

In order to sustainably manage shared rivers, it is important to also include entire river ecosystems. For instance, there is a need to take glaciers into account as they are extremely vulnerable to climate change. There are an estimated 15,000 glaciers atop the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau. Seventy per cent of these glaciers, which feed the rivers of the HKH region, could be gone by the end of the century.

A framework for cooperation that balances socioeconomic needs with protection of river ecosystems is therefore essential. And such an arrangement could only be achieved through enhanced political dialogue between and among the riparian states sharing a transboundary river system.

Contributed by Pau Khan Khup Hangzo.

Additional Info:

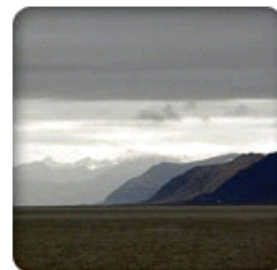
- Schneider, Keith, '70 percent of Himalayan glaciers could be gone by next century, studies say', *Circle of Blue*, 29 June 2010.
- 'Ethiopia PM warns of Nile war', *Al Jazeera*, 24 November 2010.
- Walton, Brett, 'Pakistan and India in dam building race – Interpreting the Indus Waters Treaty', *Circle of Blue*, 30 November

2010.

- 'New handbook for integrated water resources management in the basins of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers', *Global Water Partnership*, 24 February 2012.
- 'Iraq's PM warns Arab states may face "water war"', *BBC*, 30 May 2012.
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2012, *The humanitarian impact of the takeover of Palestinian water springs by Israeli settlers*, Fact sheet, March.

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CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS



News & Commentaries

- 'Scientists can play a key role in wetland diplomacy', *SciDev.Net*, 23 May 2012.
- Lockwood, Matthew, 'Sustainability hinges on local policies, not global goals', *SciDev.Net*, 5 June 2012.
- 'Indonesia: Mangrove loss threatens community resilience', *IRIN*, 14 June 2012.
- Hussain, Zakir, 'Haze fears grow as Sumatra hot spots double', *The Jakarta Post*, 18 June 2012.
- 'Thailand: How to move floodwater through Bangkok', *IRIN*, 19 June 2012.
- 'Statement: Rio+20 wraps up with "more of a whimper than a roar"', *World Resources Institute*, 22 June 2012.
- Smadja, Claude, 'Rio+20 = almost zero', *Business Standard*, 28 June 2012.
- 'VN urges ASEAN nations to save forests', *Vietnam News*, 29 June 2012.

Selected Publications

- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) Reporting Services, 2012, 'Daily Rio+20/ENB web coverage', *Linkages*.

This online resource presents daily reports from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. The reports also cover the Rio+20 side events; the Sustainable Development Dialogue; the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability; the Business Action for Sustainable Development 2012 Business Day and the Second High-level Round Table on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

- Lütken, Søren E., 2012, 'Penny wise, pound foolish? Is the original intention of cost efficient emissions reduction through the CDM being fulfilled?', UNEP Risø Working Paper Series No. 1, Roskilde: UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

This paper asserts that while the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is perhaps the most cost-efficient and effective means of reducing carbon emissions from industrial gases, the most prevalent investments in CDM are in wind and hydro power projects, and these are highly cost inefficient. This paper therefore highlights the inconsistencies in the CDM operations where the CDM may promote emissions reduction in developing countries, but does not necessarily reduce the global cost of reduction. Rather, it reflects a shift in the burden of investment.

- Global Canopy Programme, 2012, *Community-powered monitoring of REDD+: Open Source technology boosts community forest monitoring*, Canopy Viewpoint: Forests and Wellbeing, June.

This paper highlights advances in community monitoring of REDD+ projects, such as the use of smartphone applications for the gathering and reporting of data. The authors seem to suggest that enhancing the links between communities and national monitoring processes will serve to strengthen REDD+ implementation at the local level, particularly with respect to ensuring the social and environmental integrity of the system.

Events & Announcements

- 'ASEAN Environment Year and ASEAN Eco-schools Award 2012', 17–18 July 2012, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 'Job Opening: International Consultant for Drafting the PMFM Information Report, Mekong River Commission'. Deadline: 18 July 2012.
- 'Course: Negotiating Climate Change: From Durban and Beyond', 24 September – 16 November 2012, Web-based.

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ENERGY AND HUMAN SECURITY



News & Commentaries

- Hook, Leslie, 'China to restart nuclear power programme', *Financial Times*, 1 June 2012.
- 'Burma "has given up nuclear power research" – Minister', *BBC*, 2 June 2012.
- Pennington, Matthew, 'US, India see progress on nuclear cooperation; Clinton urges growth in trade and investment', *AP*, 13 June 2012.
- Arun S., 'Petro trade talks deadlock: Pak pushing for better price, says India', *The Hindu*, 14 June 2012.
- 'Coal stockpiles rise as economy dips', *Xinhua*, 16 June 2012.
- 'Japan approves 2 reactor re-starts, more seen ahead', *The Straits Times*, 16 June 2012.
- 'China looks forward to Rio+20 summit with six-point proposal', *Xinhua*, 17 June 2012.
- 'APEC ministerial meeting to address energy security, efficiency', *Xinhua*, 25 June 2012.
- Levin, Dan, 'In Mongolia, a new, penned-in wealth', *The New York Times*, 26 June 2012.

Selected Publications

- EU Centre in Singapore, 2012, *Workshop on Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Safety (20 April 2012)*, Workshop Report, Singapore.

This report summarises the discussions among nuclear energy experts from industry and international and regional agencies as well as policymakers and researchers. The workshop is set against the backdrop of the Fukushima Daiichi disaster, and focuses on developments and debates surrounding nuclear energy in Asia and Europe. The report is organised according to the following themes: the debate on nuclear energy, different dimensions of nuclear safety, and the nuclear energy regulatory environment.

- Caballero-Anthony, Mely, Youngho Chang and Nur Azha Putra (eds), 2012, *Energy and non-traditional security (NTS) in Asia*, Heidelberg: Springer.

This volume represents the perspectives of scholars from across Asia. They discuss diverse aspects of energy security through an NTS lens. Their analyses of the region's energy policies encompass issues related to the development and governance of energy markets, as well as the socioeconomic and environmental implications of efforts to achieve energy security through diversification into sources such as hydropower, biofuels, coal and nuclear energy.

- Caballero-Anthony, Mely, Youngho Chang and Nur Azha Putra (eds), 2012, *Rethinking energy security in Asia: A non-traditional view of human security*, Heidelberg: Springer.

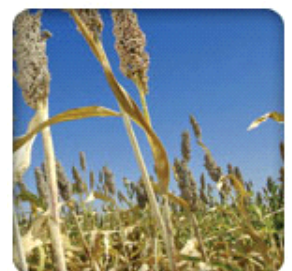
This volume looks at energy security using the non-traditional security (NTS) lens, with a focus on the ways that governments and other actors have approached energy security challenges in some of Asia's fastest-growing states, namely, Indonesia, Singapore, India and China. The cases presented in this volume highlight the complex issues surrounding energy security, with environmental concerns and socioeconomic development inextricably linked to questions of energy sustainability and vulnerability.

Events & Announcements

- '5th Asia LNG Forum 2012', 18–19 July 2012, Xi'an, China.
- 'REaction 2012: Action Oriented Renewable Energy Meet', 26–27 July 2012, Chennai, India.

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FOOD AND HEALTH SECURITY



News & Commentaries

- Lo, Wei, 'Supermarkets dumping 29 tonnes of food a day', *South China Morning Post*, 28 May 2012.
- Ruitenberg, Rudy, 'Hunger seen easing in 2012 by FAO as food prices decline', *Bloomberg*, 11 June 2012.
- 'WFP, UNICEF WHO and FAO hail REACH initiative on child undernutrition as foundation for sustainable development goals', *UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)*, 20 June 2012.
- Addy, Rod, 'Oxfam slams G20's stance on food security', *FoodNavigator.com*, 21 June 2012.
- 'Thailand's next rice mortgage scheme to begin August 1', *Oryza News*, 25 June 2012.
- Feilden, Tom, 'Time for a re-think on GM crops?', *BBC*, 26 June 2012.
- 'High Level Task Force on Global Food Security to focus on "zero hunger challenge" objectives', *UN News Centre*, 27 June 2012.
- Khor, Martin, 'Food issues in the spotlight', *The Star*, 2 July 2012.

Selected Publications

- UN Environment Programme (UNEP), 2012, *Avoiding future famines: Strengthening the ecological foundation of food security through sustainable food systems*, UNEP Synthesis Report, Nairobi.

This report addresses the world's prevailing food security challenges, providing comprehensive recommendations that factors in the ecological foundation of food production and agricultural systems. Its analysis of the global food situation takes natural resources and ecosystem services into account. The report is a collaboration of 12 leading scientists and experts on food security.

- Binswanger-Mkhize, Hans P., 2012, *India 1960–2010: Structural change, the rural non-farm sector, and the prospects for agriculture*, Stanford Symposium Series on Global Food Policy and Food Security in the 21st Century, Stanford, CA: Stanford Center on Food Security and the Environment.

Agricultural growth in India has not kept pace with the rapid expansion since the late 1980s of India's overall economy. In this context, this paper looks at the prospects for a reduction in India's rural poverty and for growth in the agricultural sector, taking several factors into account, including rural-urban migration and labour opportunities. The rural non-farm labour sector has grown significantly, in part a result of limited urban labour opportunities, but this dynamism is likely to be stunted without accelerated growth in the agricultural sector.

Events & Announcements

- 'Food Industry Summit: A Shared Vision for the Food Industry in ASEAN', 6 September 2012, Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 'Feeding the World: Asia's Prospect of Plenty', 27 September 2012, Hong Kong.

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WATER SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Cunningham, Erin, 'Could Egypt run out of water by 2025?', *GlobalPost*, 9 April 2012.
- White, Chris, 'Understanding water scarcity: Definitions and measurements', *Global Water Forum*, 7 May 2012.
- Nichols, Will, 'WWF: We will need two Earths by 2030', *BusinessGreen*, 15 May 2012.
- Yeager-Kozacek, Codi, 'Water as a weapon – Weapons for water', *Circle of Blue*, 21 May 2012.
- 'Syrian refugees flood into Jordan's dry northern region', *Circle of Blue*, 8 June 2012.
- Yeager-Kozacek, Codi, 'Global gold rush: The price of mining pursuits on the water supply', *Circle of Blue*, 15 June 2012.
- 'Significant sea-level rise in a two-degree warmer world', *ScienceDaily*, 24 June 2012.
- 'Britain's urban rivers bounce back', *ScienceDaily*, 29 June 2012.
- 'Xayaburi dam constructors defy moratorium', *The Irrawaddy*, 2 July 2012.



Selected Publications

- Frontier Economics, 2012, *Exploring the links between water and economic growth*, London: HSBC, June.

This report observes that the ten most populous river basins, nine of which are in developing countries, are expected to produce a quarter of global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2050, up from 10 per cent today. This growth is however under threat from unsustainable water consumption. If there is no change in management processes, the boom is predicted to result in significant to severe scarcity in seven of the highlighted river basins by the middle of the century.

- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO), 2012, *Progress on drinking water and sanitation: 2012 update*, New York, NY, and Geneva.

This report examines progress towards the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets for drinking water and sanitation. Between 1990 and 2010, over 2 billion people gained access to improved water sources, meeting the MDG drinking-water target ahead of schedule. However, just 1.8 billion people gained access to improved sanitation over the same period, and the MDG sanitation target is unlikely to be met. The report thus calls for an acceleration of efforts before the MDG deadline.

Events & Announcements

- 'Call for papers: The Securitization of Water Discourse, 17–18 December 2012, Jerusalem, Israel'. Deadline (abstract): 15 July 2012.
- '15th International Riversymposium', 8–11 October 2012, Melbourne, Australia.
- '4th International Conference on Sustainable Irrigation and Drainage: Management, Technologies and Policies', 11–13 December 2012, Adelaide, Australia.

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INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT

News & Commentaries

- Ives, Mike, 'Land conflicts stunt Vietnam urban planning dreams', *AP*, 24 May 2012.
- Fuller, Thomas, 'Hints of a rift between Myanmar's political reformers', *The New York Times*, 3 June 2012.
- Kassim, Yang Razali, 'Syria & Responsibility to Protect: Time for a middle ground', *RSIS Commentaries*, 7 June 2012.
- Afrida, Nani, 'Indonesia to send peacekeeping battalion to Darfur', *The Jakarta Post*, 8 June 2012.
- Hinshelwood, Colin, 'Sustainable peace before IDPs return: Shan CBOs', *The Irrawaddy*, 12 June 2012.
- 'Burma unrest: UN envoy visits Rakhine state', *BBC*, 13 June 2012.
- Fujitani, Takeshi, 'In Cambodia, growing social unrest over forced evictions', *The Asahi Shimbun*, 17 June 2012.
- 'UN responds to humanitarian needs in Myanmar following recent violence', *UN News Centre*, 19 June 2012.
- 'Australia asylum bill voted down', *BBC*, 28 June 2012.



Selected Publications

- Gong, Lina, 2012, 'Governance – Defusing or fuelling land disputes in China?', *NTS Alert*, June, Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies for NTS-Asia.

This article examines the role of governance in land disputes in China. It argues that governance weaknesses have exacerbated the land management problems in China, and that these land disputes are increasingly threatening social stability. The paper provides an analysis of governance weaknesses in terms of policy/legislation, policy implementation, inclusiveness of decision-making, and corruption.

- Destradi, Sandra, 2012, 'India and Sri Lanka's civil war: The failure of regional conflict management in South Asia', *Asian Survey*, Vol. 52, No. 3, pp. 595–616.

This article explores why India as the major regional power in South Asia had not played a constructive role in preventing the escalation of violence in its immediate neighbour – Sri Lanka. The push and pull effects of historical and domestic factors had resulted in indecisiveness in India's policies between 1991 and 2006 on the civil conflict in Sri Lanka. Further, the diplomatic efforts of the Sri Lankan government and Sino-Indo competition for influence in Sri Lanka had led to India's siding with the Sri Lankan government.

Events & Announcements

- 'Call for Papers: MsM Annual Research Conference 2012 – Our Youth: Conflict or Prosperity? Management and Entrepreneurship: Challenges for Social Sustainability, 4 September 2012, Maastricht, Netherlands'. Deadline (paper): 21 July 2012.
- '2012 National Refugee and Immigrant Conference: Issues and Innovations', 18–19 October 2012, Chicago, IL, USA.

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TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

News & Commentaries

- 'New ILO global estimate of forced labour: 20.9 million victims', *International Labour Organization*, 1 June 2012.
- Ezell, Allen and John Bear, 'Does your doctor have a fake degree? The billion-dollar industry that has sold over a million fake diplomas', *AlterNet*, 13 June 2012.
- Keefe, Patrick Radden, 'Cocaine Incorporated', *The New York Times Magazine*, 15 June 2012.



- Johnston, Ian, '42,000 modern-day slaves rescued but millions in bondage, trafficking report says', *msnbc.com*, 20 June 2012.
- Emmanuel, Chidi, 'Underground "flesh market" booming in "staid" Kuwait – Prostitutes, pimps change style amid police crackdown', *Kuwait Times*, 21 June 2012.
- Guarascio, Francesco, 'EU exec sets steps to tax 2.4 trillion euro shadow economy', *Reuters*, 25 June 2012.
- 'Thailand remains major centre for human trafficking', *AsiaOne*, 28 June 2012.
- Melik, James, 'Russia's growth stifled by corruption', *BBC*, 28 June 2012.
- Bilefsky, Dan, 'Blackmarket organ trade spreads among Europe's poor', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 July 2012.

Selected Publications

- International Labour Organization (ILO), 2012, *ILO global estimate of forced labour: Results and methodology*, Geneva: International Labour Office, June.

The ILO estimated in 2005 that at least 12.3 million people were victims of forced labour worldwide. This included men, women and children who were trapped in jobs into which they were coerced or deceived and which they could not leave. The ILO's new estimate puts the number at 20.9 million. This estimate uses the same basic statistical approach as in 2005, but with the methodology revised and improved.

- US Department of State, 2012, *Trafficking in persons report 2012*, Washington, DC, June.

The US Department of State recently released the latest edition of its annual report on trafficking in persons, in which it estimates the number of trafficked victims in 2011 at 42,000. Its latest ranking places 20 countries on a higher tier, meaning that their governments have implemented the right measures. Twenty-three countries are found to have failed to meet minimum international standards, up from 13 in 2010. Another 41 countries have been placed on a watch list and could face sanctions unless they improve their performance.

- UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2012, *World drug report 2012*, New York, NY.

This report observes that illicit drugs continue to fuel crime and insecurity, undermine human rights and pose significant public health risks. It analyses trends in the production, trafficking and consumption of drugs and the consequences of illicit drug use. It notes that developments that would have policy implications include the continued shift from developed to developing countries in terms of drug use and the likely rise in the use of synthetic drugs.

Events & Announcements

- '2012 International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property (IP) Crime Conference', 11–13 September 2012, Panama City, Panama.
- 'Human Trafficking, Prostitution & Sex Work Conference', 27–28 September 2012, Toledo, OH, USA.

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About the Centre:

The Centre for NTS Studies, based in the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), 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 Climate Change, Food Security, 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.

The Centre is the Coordinator of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership (2012–2015) supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. It also serves as the Secretariat of the initiative.

In 2009, the Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for its three-year Asia Security Initiative (2009–2012), to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific. It 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.

