

ENERGY SECURITY ISSUES' COVERAGE IN ASIAN MEDIA

**Study of newspapers' coverage in 8 Asian
countries**

20-22 October, 2009



**Namrata Bansal
Kalinga Seneviratne**

Asian Media Information and Communication Research Centre

Introduction

- Asia Pacific Research Centre (2007) defines Energy Security....

“as an ability of an economy to guarantee the availability of energy resource supply in a sustainable and timely manner with the energy price being at a level that will not adversely affect the economic performance of the country.”

Various energy security issues

- Difference in supply demand;
- Safety concerns when countries explore nuclear energy;
- Haze due to forest clearing of palm oil production;
- Dwindling water supplies;
- Impact on food production;
- Impact on communities on gas exploration.

Aim

How is media covering the energy security issues in eight Asian countries- China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand ?

What are the various voices projecting in the newspapers?

Methodology

Two stages

- Quantitative- Content Analysis
- Qualitative - Interviews

Content Analysis

Leading Newspapers in 8 countries

- China Beijing Daily (Chinese)
- India The Times of India, Delhi edition (English)
- Indonesia Republika (Bhasha)
- Japan Asahi Shimbun (Japanese)
- Malaysia The Star (English)
- Philippines Philippines Daily Inquirer (English)
- Singapore Straits Times (English)
- Thailand Thai Rath (Thai)

Content Analysis

- Unit of analysis is a single piece of news article that is covering energy security issues including 'Nuclear Energy', 'Bio-energy (including Palm oil)', 'Dams', 'Gas Exploration and Pipelines', 'Coal Mining' and 'Domestic fuel (such as fuel wood and kerosene).
- Six months from 1st July 2008 to 30 September 2008 and 1st March to 31st May 2009.

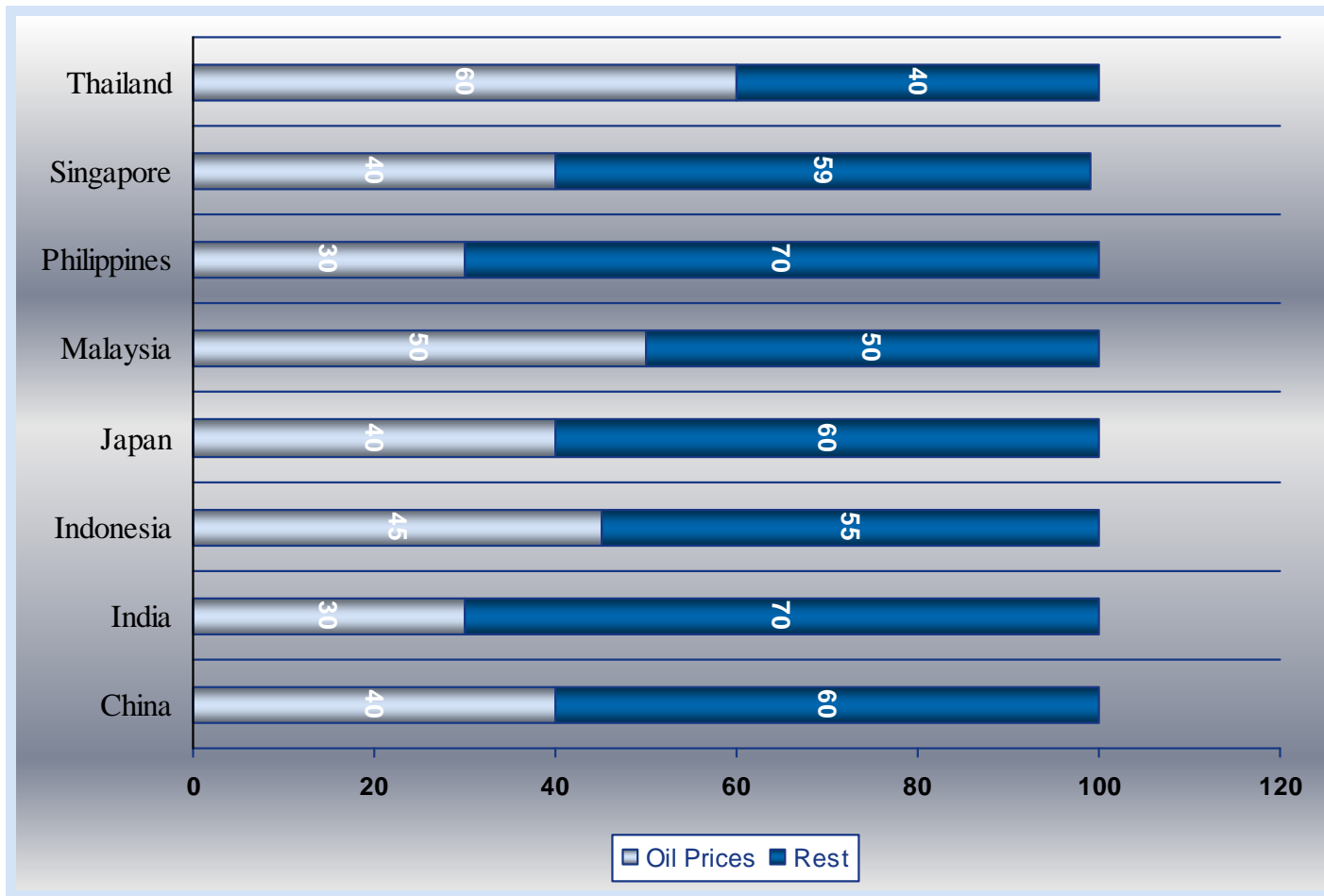
Qualitative Methodology

- Interviews (Telephonic and e-mail)
 - Editors of the newspapers
 - 8 newspapers
 - 37.5 percent response
 - Civil Society and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).
 - 25 Civil Society & NGOs
 - 48 percent response.

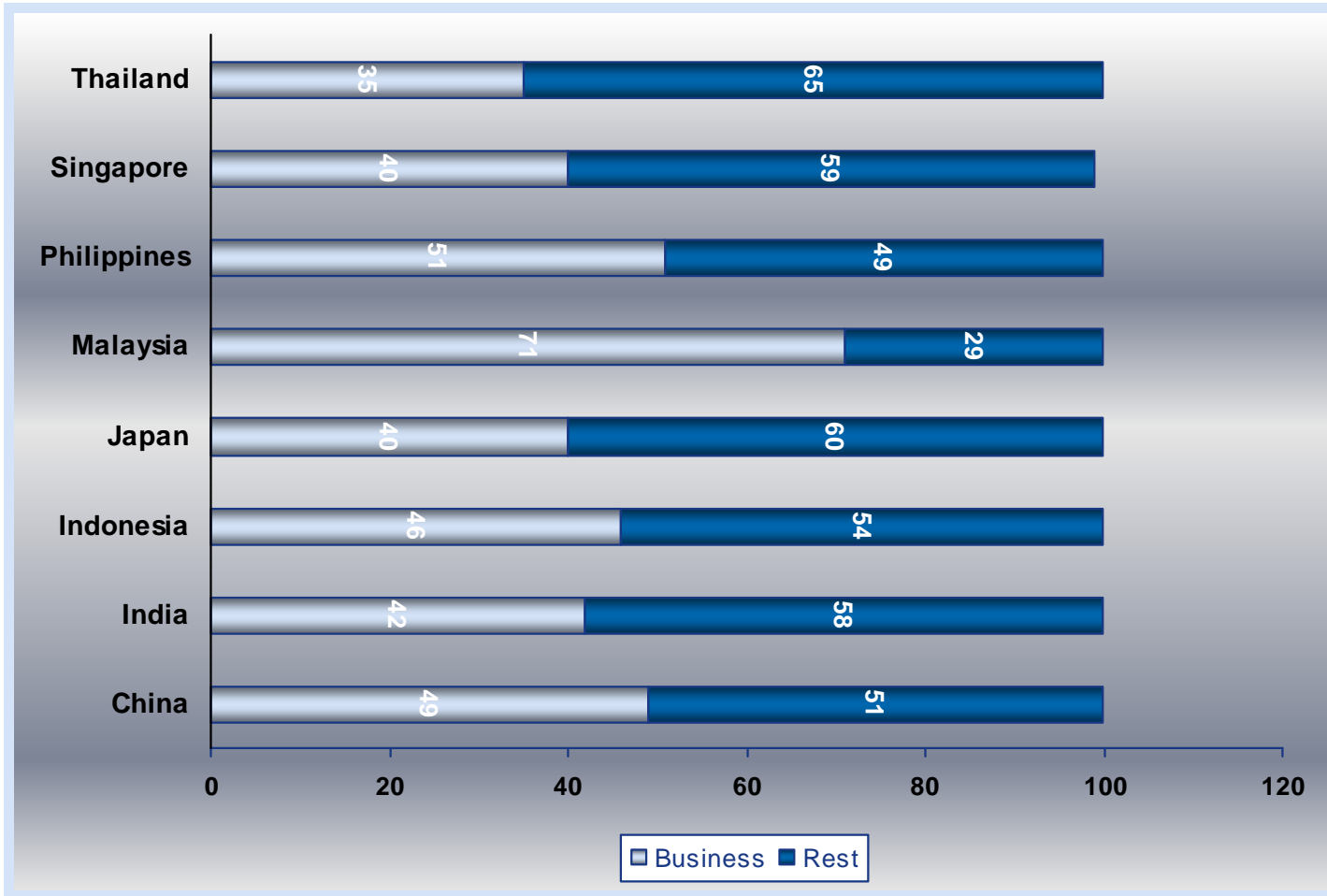
Analysis

- Total stories 2340 in all the newspapers.
Commonalities in all the newspapers
 - Fluctuation in energy prices
 - Business News
 - National News
 - News on Alternative source of energy
 - Social News
 - Environmental News

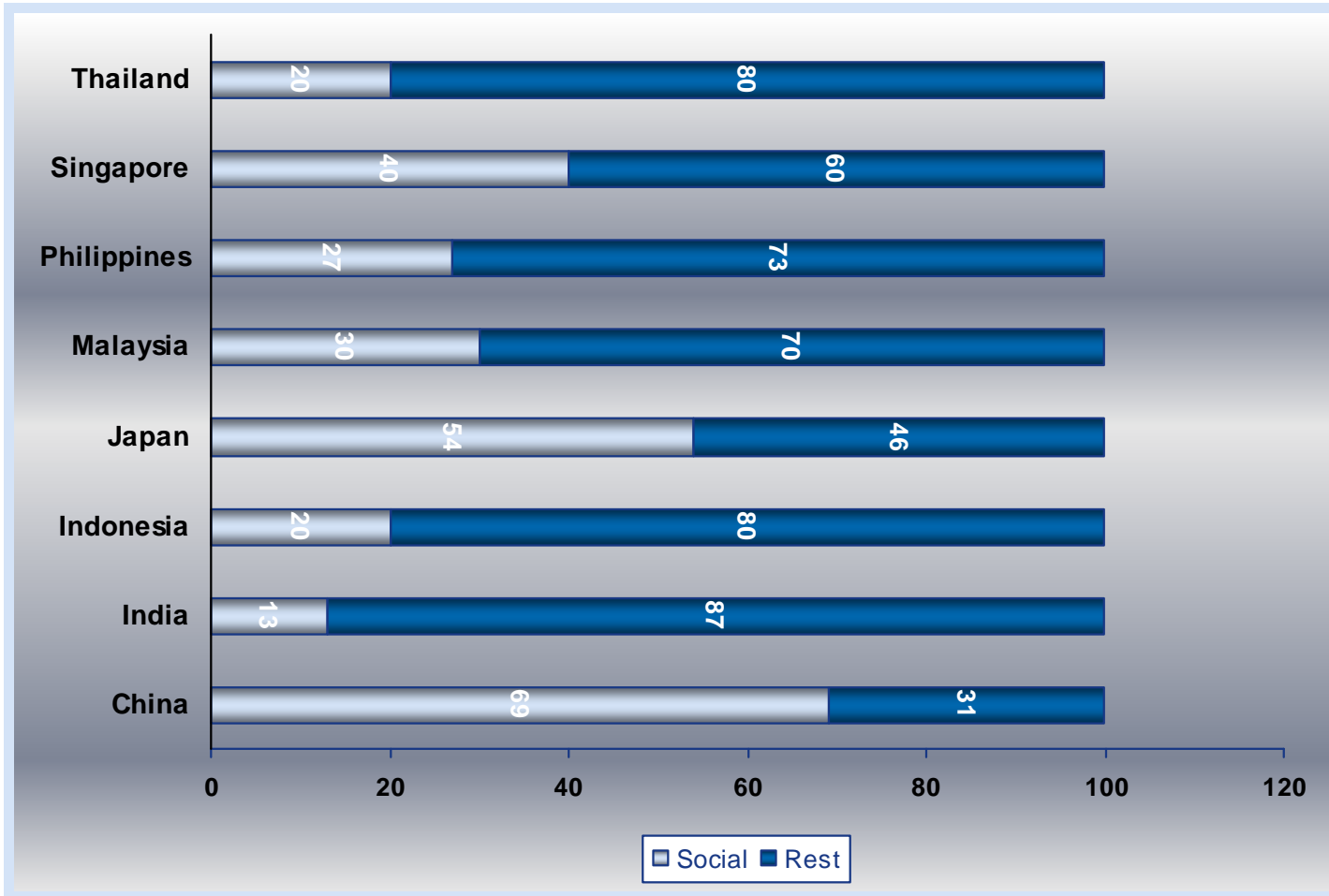
Fluctuation in Energy Prices



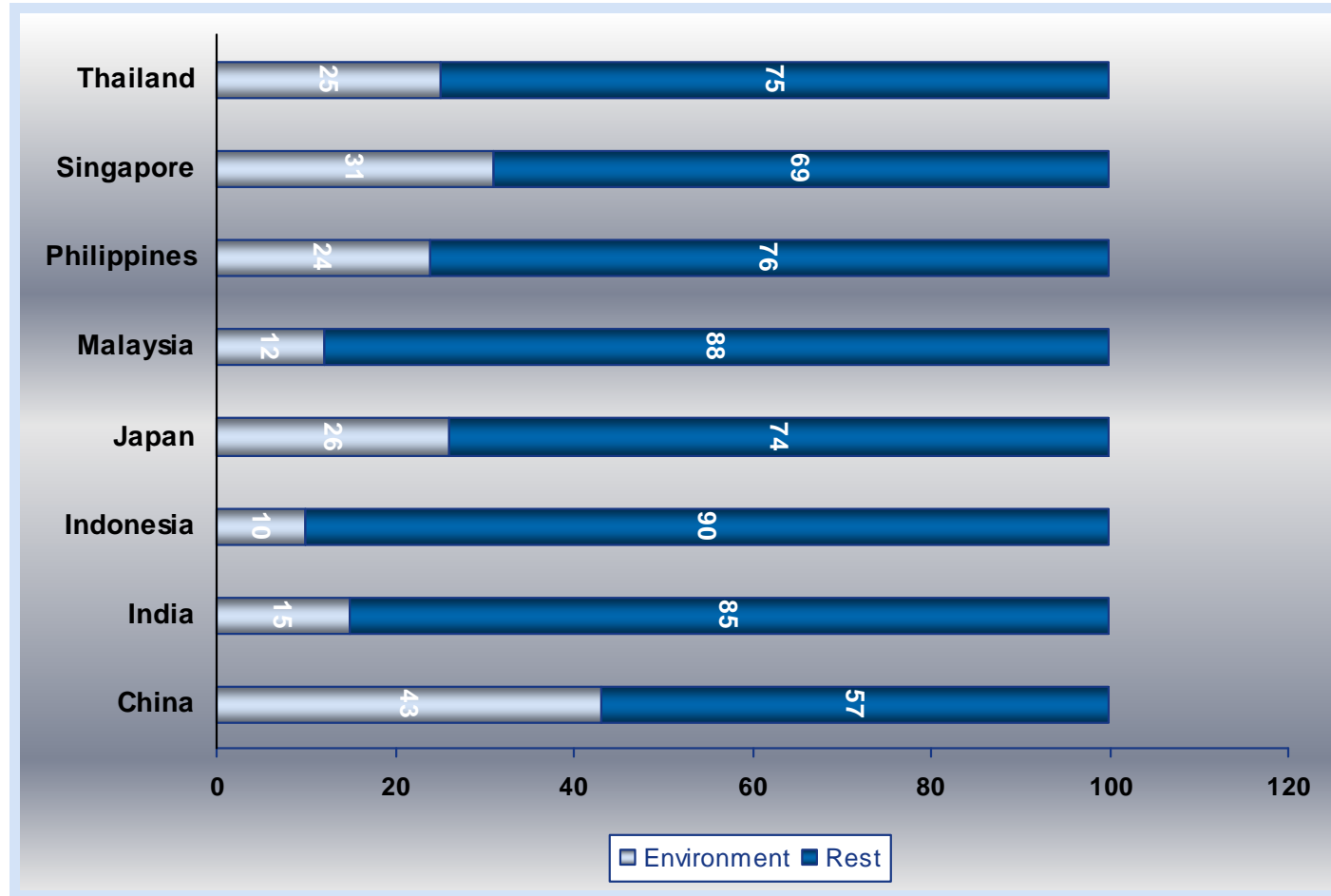
Business News



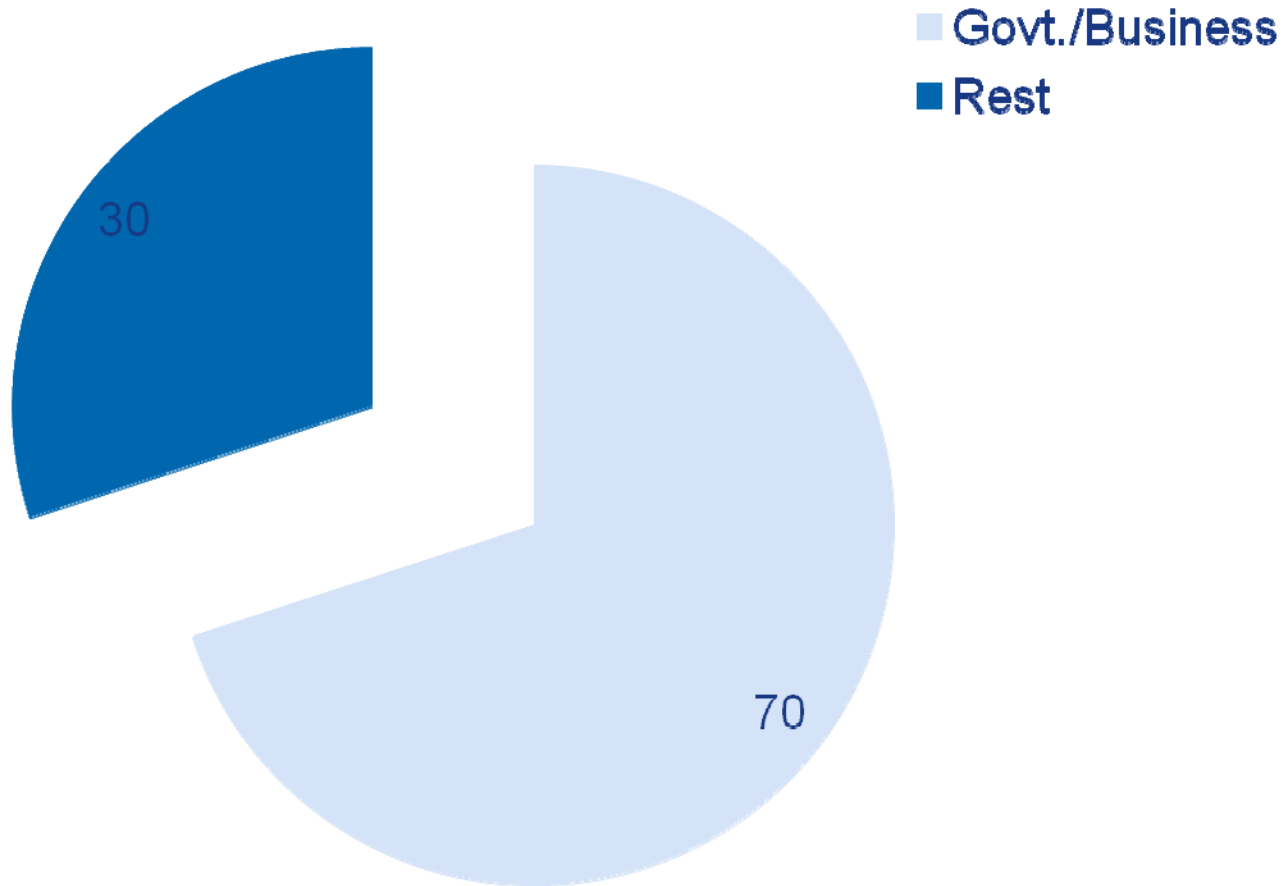
Social News



Environmental News



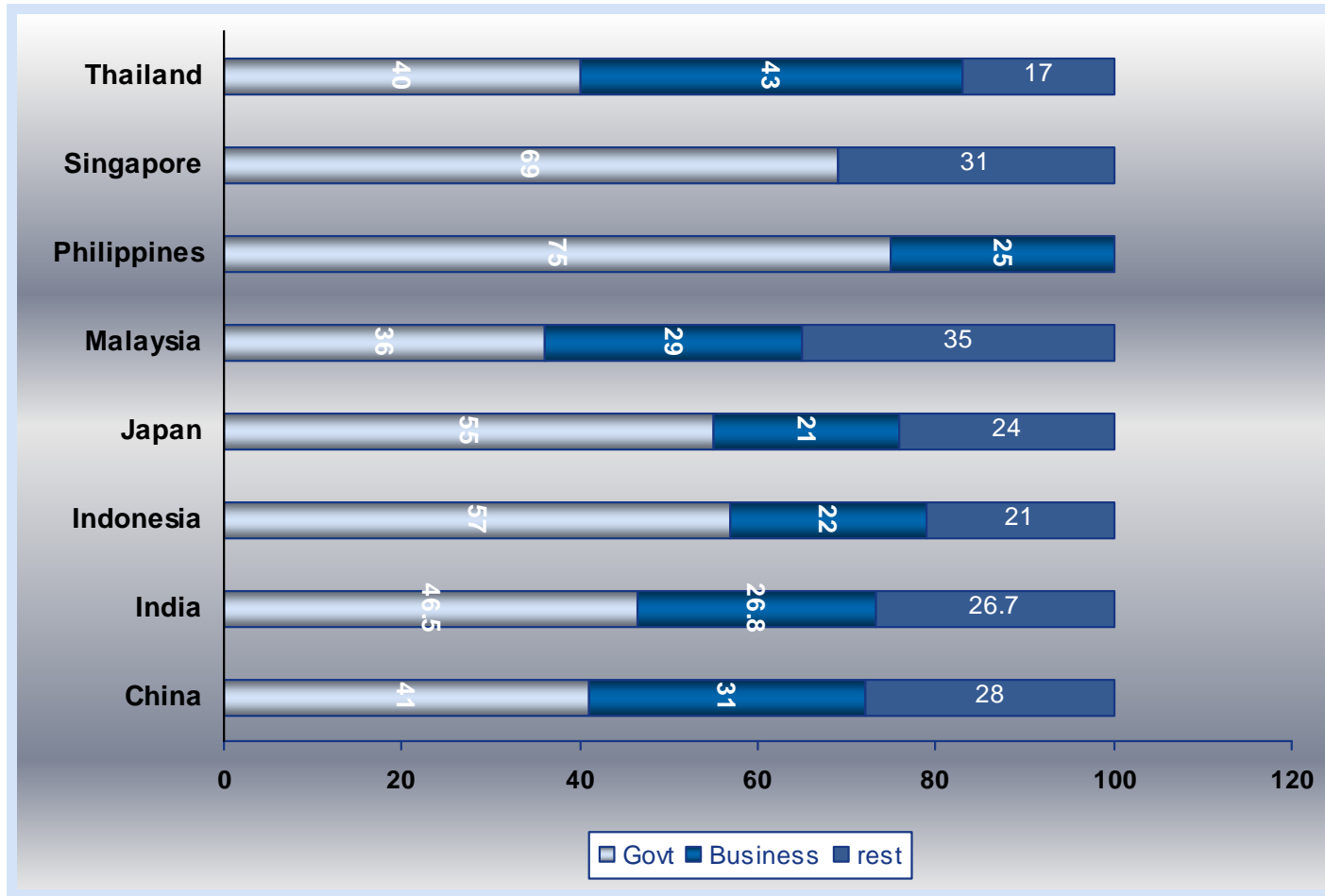
Perspective



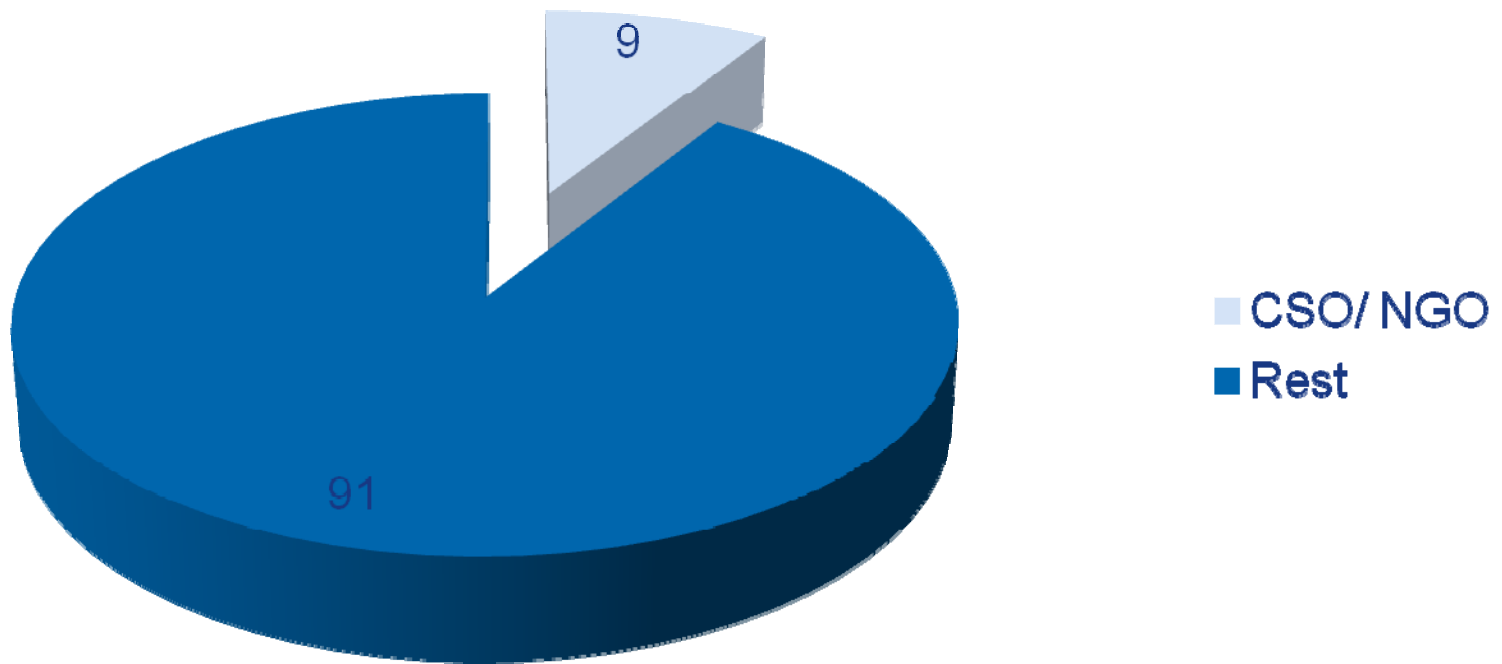
Civil Society and NGOs

Role of civil society is to “**serve as advocates for environmental protection, ‘watchdogs’ over government policies as well as raising awareness in supporting or rejecting government initiatives**” (Anthony-Caballero, M. & Koh, C., 2008).

Voices Represented



Voice of Civil Society and NGOs



CSO's & NGOs views

- **AER**

‘Very little attention to the negative side of the energy related laws passed by the government.’

- **CETDEM**

‘Hardly, prominence to the Govt and corporate perspectives.’

- **CSIS**

‘NGO voice is placed only in quotation.’

- **CNIC**

‘Media contacts them for comments and some publishes their views but the overall coverage is far from balanced.’

- **‘REEEP**

‘Very few articles emphasized on the detailing of the new energy policies and their implications in the region and country.’

Editor's views

- **The Star**

'Not enough NGOs in Malaysia that raise concerns on energy security issues.'

- **Republika**

Mail player in the energy sector is the government, as a result government is the main source.

Analysis

PM and the Oil Minister or Petroleum Minister is the most quoted followed by the Business houses and corporate or the state owned energy companies.

Common people and civil society got the space when the newspapers talked about the critical conditions but they tend to be left behind when media covered big or strategic energy issues.

No discussion on any issues or government policies.

Environmental and social news also had government and business angle.

Suggestions for better coverage

- **Expand coverage beyond business desk.**
- **Enhancing skills in journalists.**
- **Media support of government on these issues?**
- **Avoiding restrictive and repetitive news.**
- **Encouraging In-depth and varied voices.**
- **Publishing research findings.**
- **Positioning of news articles.**

Acknowledgment

Funding	FES, Singapore
Researchers	Sun Jing (China); Wenny Pahlemy (Indonesia); Asst Prof. Muneo Kaigo & Matsuri Uchiyama (Japan); Dr. Palphol Rodloytuk (Thailand).

Acknowledgment

- Editors of the newspapers
 - The Star
 - Philippines Daily Inquirer
 - Republika

CSOs and NGOs

China

- China Dialogue
- Friends of Nature
- Global Environmental Institute
- Global Village of Beijing
- Joint US-China Collaboration on Clean Energy (JUCCCE)

Japan

- Citizens' Nuclear Information Center
- Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies
- Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)
- Japan for Sustainability
- Mekong

India

- Centre for Science and Environment
- Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association
- Mitradham
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership

Indonesia

- Centre for Strategic and International Studies
- Institute for Essential Services Return
- Indonesian Institute for Energy Economics

Malaysia

- Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (FOMCA)
- MENGO/ CETDEM

Philippines

- Action for Economic Reforms (AER)
- Empower Consumers' Coalition
- Philippines Business Environment

Thailand

- Energy for Environment Foundation
- Palang Thai
- The Thailand Environment Foundation

Singapore

- Singapore Environment Council
- Singapore Institute of International Affairs
- Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore

Sunday November 2, 2008

Rice cheaper with lower fuel price

Shipping firms raise fares on soaring fuel costs

First posted 19:18:20 (Mla time) July 23, 2008

Jhunnex Napallacan

Visayas Bureau

中海油南海油田群成功试产

US will pilot India's case at NSG

Publication: Times Of India Delhi; Date:2008 Aug 03; Section:Times Nation; Page Number: 11

NEWS ANALYSIS

US will pilot India's case at NSG

Bataan board opposes nuke plant revival

First posted 08:16:53 (Mla time) March 04, 2009

Tonette Orejas

Central Luzon Desk

Saturday November 1, 2008

Fuel 15 sen cheaper following dip in global oil prices

Govt to dump fuel price hike suggestion

Publication: Times Of India Delhi; Date:2008 Aug 19; Section:Times Business; Page Number: 21

NO ADDITIONAL BURDEN

Govt to dump fuel price hike suggestion

RP motor show to highlight green cars, fuel efficiency

First posted 14:55:08 (Mla time) July 22, 2008

Ma. Salve Duplito

INQUIRER.net



世界石油大会商讨遏制高油价



Energy for today and tomorrow

First posted 07:54:32 (Mla time) September 01, 2008

Queenia Lee-Chua

Philippine Daily Inquirer