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NTS VIEWPOINT

NIMBY becoming the rule post-Fukushima?

A year after the nuclear crisis in Fukushima, managing Japan's energy policies continues to be an uphill task. NIMBY (not in my backyard) dominates domestic opinions on nuclear energy, even as the country grapples with an ailing economy and rising energy-import bills. It is not surprising, then, that Japan's progress on revising its nuclear energy structures and plans (let alone implementing them) has been slow.

Several interlinked factors contribute to the difficulties in energy-policy formulation post-Fukushima. At the domestic level, anti-nuclear sentiments continue to gain ground. The number of mass protests and calls for local referendums to shut down nuclear power plants has increased. In response to the perceived lack of transparency from top-down information sources, ground-up alternatives have come into existence, further strengthening the anti-nuclear lobby. These voices call for the diversification of Japan's energy mix.

However, developments at the international level have hampered the country's ability to fully meet the demands of those who want the country to cease using nuclear energy. The price of imported energy, required by the country to meet the shortfall of energy caused by the decommissioning of its nuclear power plants, has been rising. The price of a key import, liquefied natural gas (LNG), increased sharply in the second half of 2011. The hike in energy prices has placed additional

stress on Japan's already ailing economy. With the Japanese Yen expected to depreciate further in the months to come, the problem seems set to worsen.

In the face of calls to abandon nuclear energy in the country, it may seem ironic that one of the lifelines for Japan's economy is the development of nuclear energy elsewhere. The demand for Japanese nuclear technology and training from countries keen to develop their own nuclear energy facilities (such as Vietnam, Russia and Indonesia) is a small but important source of income for Japan. Thus, while the anti-nuclear lobby has the upper hand in Japan, anti-nuclear groups in the wider East Asian region are likely to face greater challenges.

Contributed by Sofiah Jamil.

Additional Info:

- Araki, Laura, 'Fukushima one year later: An interview with Daniel Aldrich', *The National Bureau of Asian Research*, 6 March 2012.
- Haswidi, Andi, 'Japan's new energy mix policy poses challenges for RI', *The Jakarta Post*, 20 March 2012.
- Jamil, Sofiah, 2011, 'Falling from grace: Nuclear energy in Japan post-Fukushima', *NTS Alert*, November (Issue 1), Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies for NTS-Asia.
- The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ), 2011, *Japan Energy Brief*, No. 14, July.
- The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ), 2012, *Japan Energy Brief*, No. 18, March.

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS



News & Commentaries

- 'Lynas sees Malaysia rare earths plant timeline intact', *Reuters*, 8 March 2012.
- 'Japan quake: Loss and recovery in numbers', *BBC News*, 11 March 2012.
- Samsamak, Pongphon, "\$40 bn needed yearly" in Asia to help climate', *The Nation*, 13 March 2012.
- Zabarenko, Deborah, 'Follow the money to catch illegal loggers: World Bank', *Reuters*, 20 March 2012.
- Evans, Lisa, 'World water day: Which countries have improved access to safe drinking water?', *Guardian*, 22 March 2012.
- Xu, Jingxi, 'Cities to receive river deadlines', *China Daily*, 24 March 2012.
- Hornby, Lucy and Jim Bai, 'China to flood nature reserve with latest Yangtze dam', *Reuters*, 29 March 2012.
- Roussac, Craig, 'Real energy savings dim Earth Hour's shine', *ABC*, 29 March 2012.

Selected Publications

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2012, *OECD Environmental outlook to 2050: The consequences of inaction*, Paris.

This report presents the latest projections of socioeconomic trends over the next four decades, and their implications in terms of climate change, biodiversity, water and the health impacts of environmental pollution. Based on a joint modelling effort by the OECD and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), the report looks to ascertain the demographic and economic implications for the environment if more ambitious policies to manage natural assets sustainably fail to be introduced.

- Kabaya, Kei, 2012, *Key issues on green economy at Rio+20*, IGES discussion paper EE-2011-01, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, February.

This paper outlines the key green-economy issues that will be discussed at the Rio+20 using the following categories: principles of a green economy, policy tools for the transition towards green economies, and international cooperation. The analysis is based on current trends seen in discussions on the green economy as identified from the Zero Draft published in January 2012 and the views and opinions expressed by the G20 countries during the Rio+20 process meetings.

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), 2012, *Forest management and climate change: A literature review*, Forests and Climate Change Working Paper No. 10, Rome.

This document, based on a literature review and a survey of forest managers, finds that, worldwide, a number of forest managers have already implemented interesting strategies. Unfortunately, there is a lack of proper monitoring systems to assess the measures' effectiveness and their social and environmental impacts. Another noteworthy finding is that the impetus for designing strategies to address climate change tends to be perceived risk of climate change impacts rather than incentive schemes.

Events & Announcements

- Job opening: Sr. National Policy & Communications Officer (for Mangrove Capital Project), Wetlands International, Indonesia. Deadline: 15 April 2012.
- '2012 International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability', 5–8 June 2012, Shanghai, China.

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ENERGY AND HUMAN SECURITY



News & Commentaries

- Zhou, Yun, 'China's nuclear energy industry, one year after Fukushima', *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs*, 5 March 2012.
- Fackler, Martin, 'Japan's nuclear energy industry nears shutdown, at least for now', *The New York Times*, 8 March 2012.
- Fang, Nicholas, and Aaron Choo, 'Despite Fukushima, South-east Asia still eyes nuclear energy', *Today*, 9 March 2012.
- Weng, Lawi, 'Talk of restarting Myitson project worries activists', *The Irrawaddy*, 14 March 2012.
- 'Myanmar still not open on oil, gas wealth – activists', *Reuters*, 22 March 2012.
- 'Aid policy: Will pressure make Chinese aid more transparent?', *IRIN*, 26 March 2012.
- 'Vietnam active in international efforts for nuclear security', *VietNamNet*, 28 March 2012.

- Xu, Yi-chong, 2012, 'Nuclear power in China: How it really works', *Global Asia*, Vol. 7, No. 1.

Selected Publications

- Von Hippel, David, Peter Hayes, Jungmin Kang et al., 2011, 'Future regional nuclear fuel cycle cooperation in East Asia: Energy security costs and benefits', *Energy Policy*, Vol. 39, No. 1, pp. 6867–81.

This article examines the development of nuclear energy in East Asia. While rapid economic growth in the region has spurred the need for energy diversification, nuclear proliferation and environmental risks have been major concerns. The paper suggests that regional cooperation in nuclear fuel cycle management is helpful in addressing these threats. The paper discusses four scenarios in relation to nuclear fuel cycle management.

- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), 2012, *Green growth, resources and resilience: Environmental sustainability in Asia and the Pacific*, Bangkok: UN and ADB.

This report focuses on the nexus of economic development, resource use and climate change in the Asia-Pacific. It examines resource consumption trends and governance challenges with regard to sustainable development. It then outlines strategies to promote resilience in societies and economies in the region.

Events & Announcements

- 'The Asian Conference on Sustainability, Energy and the Environment', 3–6 May 2012, Osaka, Japan.
- 'Asia Clean Energy Forum 2012', 4–8 June 2012, Manila, Philippines.

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FOOD AND HEALTH SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- 'WFP and USA explore new ways of fighting malnutrition in Lao PDR', *World Food Programme (WFP)*, 7 March 2012.
- Ford, Liz, 'Yemen crisis leaves 5 million people in need of emergency food aid, says WFP', *Guardian*, 14 March 2012.
- Anand, Geeta, 'Food Security Bill looking wobbly', *The Wall Street Journal*, 16 March 2012.
- 'New FAO Statistical Yearbook links figures to trends', *Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)*, 20 March 2012.
- Fritschel, Heidi, 'In search of a chain reaction', *Insights*, 22 March 2012.
- 'ASEAN project strengthens food security', *Philippine Information Agency*, 29 March 2012.
- Osama, Bothina, 'Leading scientists launch action plan on food security', *SciDev.Net*, 29 March 2012.
- "Race against time" for Sahel famine', *UPI*, 29 March 2012.



Selected Publications

- Breisinger, Clemens, Olivier Ecker, Perrihan Al-Riffai et al., 2012, *Beyond the Arab Awakening: Policies and investments for poverty reduction and food security*, Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

This report focuses on the policy measures required to address poverty and food insecurity after the Arab Awakening. Given the report's findings that the situation in the region is worse than official figures indicate, a new welfare measure identifying five risk groups is introduced. The report recommends three key policy measures and argues that cohesive economic development strategies need to be designed and implemented.

- Trethewie, Sally, 2012, *In search of food security: Addressing opacity and price volatility in ASEAN's rice sector*, Policy Brief No. 15, Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional (NTS) Security Studies.

The lack of transparency in Southeast Asia's rice sector leads to participants in regional markets acting with limited information. This opacity has significant effects on rice price formation, particularly during periods of price shocks and volatility. This policy brief identifies linkages between rice sector opacity and price volatility, and recommends four measures for improving transparency.

Events & Announcements

- 'The 2nd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change', 7–11 May 2012, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- 'Global Gateways and Local Connections: Cities, Agriculture, and the Future of Food Systems', 20–24 June 2012, New York City, NY, US.

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INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT



News & Commentaries

- Fuller, Thomas, 'Election puts pressure on Myanmar dissident', *The New York Times*, 7 March 2012.
- Thottam, Jyoti, 'Why Sri Lanka remains defiant against new allegations of war crimes', *Time*, 16 March 2012.
- 'Judge quits Cambodian UN-backed Khmer Rouge trial', *BBC*, 19 March 2012.
- 'ASEAN community may ease South Thailand conflict', *philstar.com*, 22 March 2012.
- 'Displaced people still struggle to rebuild lives', *The Jakarta Post*, 25 March 2012.
- 'Myanmar: UN convoy reaches Kachin displaced', *IRIN*, 25 March 2012.
- 'Second war tribunal hears maiden petition', *The Daily Star*, 26 March 2012.
- Gladstone, Rick, 'Asylum claims rose 20 percent last year, U.N. refugee agency says', *The New York Times*, 27 March 2012.

Selected Publications

- Caballero-Anthony, Mely, 2012, 'The Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia: Opening up spaces for advancing human security', *The Pacific Review*, Vol. 25, No. 1, pp. 113–34.

This article argues that the principle of Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) is relevant to Southeast Asia, given the high incidence of internal conflicts and the need for protection of civilians (POC) in the region. However, as a majority of countries in the region still hold reservations regarding, and suspicion towards, the RtoP, the inclusion of the principle into the broader POC approach is conducive to advancing it in the region.

- Gong, Lina, 2012, 'Regional implications of national reconciliation in Myanmar', *NTS Alert*, March, Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies for NTS-Asia.

This NTS Alert examines the implications of Myanmar's recent reforms for its neighbours, China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh. The internal conflict in Myanmar has led to various non-traditional insecurities in these neighbouring countries. The recent moves towards democracy and national reconciliation in Myanmar are expected to help alleviate those insecurities.

Events & Announcements

- 'Narratives by, about, and around Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons', 20–21 April 2012, Toronto, Canada.
- 'International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers', 29 May 2012.

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TRANSNATIONAL CRIME



News & Commentaries

- Russo, Christina M., 'How China is driving the grim rise in illegal ivory', *Guardian*, 23 January 2012.
- Valdmanis, Richard and Simon Akam, 'Illegal fishing plunders and strains West Africa', *Reuters*, 15 March 2012.
- Zabarenko, Deborah, 'Follow the money to catch illegal loggers: World Bank', *Reuters*, 20 March 2012.
- Gooch, Liz, 'Malaysian mosque is also a methadone clinic', *The New York Times*, 28 March 2012.
- Pearson, Erica, 'Deportation fear stops trafficking victims from reporting crimes', *The New York Daily News*, 28 March 2012.
- Johnson, Stanley, 'Interpol demands crackdown on "serious and organised" eco crime', *Guardian*, 29 March 2012.
- Morris, Harvey, 'Europe cracks down on cybercrime', *The New York Times*, 29 March 2012.
- Ismail, Saifulbahri, 'Research is key to understanding human trafficking in S'pore', *Channel NewsAsia*, 1 April 2012.
- Harvey, Fiona, 'Multinationals vow to boycott APP after outcry over illegal logging', *Guardian*, 2 April 2012.

Selected Publications

- World Health Organization (WHO), 2011, *Global status report on alcohol and health*, Geneva.

This is a comprehensive survey of global, regional and country consumption of alcohol, patterns of drinking, health consequences and policy responses. It represents a continuing effort by the WHO to support member states by collecting information that would help them in their efforts to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, and address its health and social consequences. The report contains over 100 individual country profiles.

- Goncalves, Marilyne Pereira, Melissa Panjer, Theodore S. Greenberg et al., 2012, *Justice for forests: Improving criminal justice efforts to combat illegal logging*, Washington, DC: World Bank.

It is estimated that illegal logging generates approximately USD10–15 billion annually. This report argues that, by following the money trail, and using tools developed to go after 'dirty money', the justice system can pursue criminal organisations engaged in large-scale illegal logging and confiscate the ill-gotten gains. The report emphasises that, for such initiatives to be effective, law enforcement needs to look past low-level criminals, to where the large part of the profits from illegal logging go.

Events & Announcements

- '9th Annual International Human Trafficking, Prostitution & Sex Work Conference', 27–28 September 2012, Toledo, OH, US.
- 'ABA/ABA Money Laundering Enforcement Conference for AML and Fraud Risk Professionals', 11–13 November 2012, Washington, DC, US.

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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.