

The New Joint Research Programme :

Domestic and Geopolitical Challenges to Energy Security for, China and the European Union

A Joint Research Programme between Energy programme Asia (EPA)-IIAS and the Institute of West Asian and African Studies (IWAAS)-Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in cooperation with the Institute of Industrial Economy-CASS.

The research programme will be supported by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Social Sciences (KNAW) for the duration of three years [September 1 2007-September 1 2010.]

The objectives of this comparative research project are to analyse (a) the geopolitical and (b) domestic aspects of energy security challenges for the European Union (EU) and China and their impact on energy security policy strategies. The geopolitical aspects involve analysing the effects of competition for access to oil and gas resources and the security of energy supply among the main global consumer countries of the EU and China. The domestic aspects involve analysing domestic energy demand and supply, energy efficiency policies, and the deployment of renewable energy resources.

The core research team:

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Forthcoming events:

The First research-oriented meeting, the Institute of West Asia and African Studies-CASS, December 14-15, 2007, Beijing-China

The second research-oriented meeting in the Netherlands, October, 19-20, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands

Activities:

- The First International Conference of the Energy Programme Asia (EPA), 'The Challenges of the post-Soviet Transition in Kazakhstan', International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, 8 April 2005, the Netherlands.
- The Second International Conference of the Energy Programme Asia (EPA) in cooperation with the Clingendael International Energy Programme (CIEP), 'The Security of Energy Supply in China, India, Japan, South Korea, and EU: Opportunities and impediments', International Institute for Asian Studies' and CIEP, The Hague and Leiden 20 – 21 May 2005, The Netherlands.
- The Third International Conference of the Energy Programme Asia (EPA) in cooperation with the Energy Economic Research Centre, Beijing, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China, Global Cooperation Towards Energy Efficiency: Barriers and Opportunities. Beijing 24 – 25 June 2006, China.

For upcoming events see: www.iias.nl/epa

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Energy Programme Asia (EPA)



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The objectives of the EPA-research programme are twofold, to study:

1. Energy supply security and geopolitics
2. Energy efficiency, alternative energy resources and sustainable development.

The EPA was established to study the effects of global geopolitics of energy supply security on the European Union and the main Asian energy-consuming countries. This includes examining national strategies for securing supply; the main suppliers being the states of the Persian Gulf and Caspian Region (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Russia).

Since the end of the Cold War, state and non-state actors have assigned more significance to economic and resource concerns. Conflicts over the control of global oil and gas become

more likely as consumption and imports rise, availability of oil and gas decreases, prices for these commodities increase and environmental conditions deteriorate. Internal conflicts could arise in countries where oil and gas are the main source of income, and where ethnic hostility, economic injustice and political competition add to instability.

Due to the growing energy import of countries such as China and India, but also the European Union and the United States, energy relations will be increasingly politicised. Competition and cooperation among consumer countries for energy supplies are likely to become more intense in the coming decades, while geopolitical events in the Caspian Region and the Gulf will influence developments in the



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oil and gas sector and policy-making in the consumer countries.

Energy supply security is touched by environmental constraints and technological opportunities. Where pollution creates cross-border tensions, new innovations in alternative and renewable resources, alongside efficiency measures, can reduce energy import dependence.