

# Preface

This volume is a compilation of selected papers presented at a conference on *Energy and Non-Traditional Security*. The conference, held in August 2008 in Singapore, was organised by the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

The volume was first conceptualised against the backdrop of the world oil crisis of 2007–2009 and the impacts of the steep price rises on human collectivities. Since the convening of the conference, many significant global events have occurred, reinforcing further the salience of understanding the implications of NTS. The Arab Spring revolutions and the Fukushima nuclear disaster of 2011, for instance, have only increased awareness among the security community and policymakers of the scale of NTS challenges, as well as the multiplicity and cross-cutting implications of the threats, and the pressing need to address them.

Mely Caballero-Anthony and Nur Azha Putra introduce the volume with “Energy and Non-Traditional Security (NTS)—Understanding Security from Below”. This chapter introduces the concept of NTS, and provides the conceptual framework which acts as the theoretical foundation for this volume and its companion, *Rethinking Energy Security: A Non-Traditional View of Human Security*. The NTS framework seeks to expand the notion of energy security, from one anchored to a traditional, state-centric approach, to one based on human security or the security of human collectivities. This chapter unpacks the basic principles of energy security and reconstructs it through the NTS framework. In doing so, the authors open up the space for analyses of energy policies that are informed by various NTS themes and perspectives.

Youngho Chang and Swee Lean Collin Koh in “Rethinking Market Governance and Energy Security” discuss how the market, reinforced with good governance, regulate and normalise the impact of rising global oil prices on the public. For instance, they argue that good market governance, which promotes transparency, accountability and respect for competitive policies, would attract potential investors to fund long-term solutions (such as alternative energy technologies) to energy security problems. Hence, in this chapter, Chang and Koh stretch the notion of energy security to include market governance issues.

In “Energy Security and Climate Change in ASEAN: Implications and Policies”, Youngho Chang and Lixia Yao present a quantifiable definition of energy security and illustrate how to measure energy security. The authors apply the quantifiable definition to Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, evaluating the policies and activities of these countries as they attempt to ensure energy security. Key policies and activities discussed are infrastructure building and hydropower exploitation in the region. They also discuss current efforts to enhance energy security and mitigate climate change, noting that the latter has profound impacts on the former. The authors also suggest how to address issues related to energy security and climate change in the region.

Maria Nimfa F. Mendoza in “The Socioeconomic Impact of Energy Security in Southeast Asia” examines the impact of rising energy prices in the global market on the various economies and communities in Southeast Asia. She also surveys the energy policies of Southeast Asian states and their attempts to mitigate rising fuel and energy prices, and how various communities have adapted to the higher costs of living. She concludes by arguing that the general tendency among states to aim for energy self-sufficiency and independence (in response to the spike in the global oil prices) may not, in the long run, actually lead to energy security for states in the region. Instead, she observes that energy security for Southeast Asian states may be best achieved through regional cooperation and interdependence.

In “An Environmental Perspective on Energy Development in Indonesia”, Fitrian Ardiansyah, Neil Gunningham and Peter Drahos discuss the impact of Indonesia’s energy security policy on its environment and economic activities, with particular reference to its shift towards coal and biofuels. For instance, they argue that the development of biofuels, particularly from palm oil, would lead to the rapid clearing of tropical forests, and this would affect forest-dependent people and wildlife. Therefore, they call for a more sustainable approach to the development of biofuels, suggesting, for instance, the harvesting of non-forested and abandoned lands, which can actually mitigate climate change and enhance economic development.

This volume on *Energy and Non-Traditional Security in Asia*, together with its accompanying volume, *Rethinking Energy Security: A Non-Traditional View of Human Security*, aims to widen the debate on energy security beyond the conventional views of what energy security means to the security and well-being of states and societies. We hope that the two volumes would encourage a more robust debate and lead to a more comprehensive approach to dealing with energy security challenges. We also hope that in advancing an NTS perspective to this complex security challenge, we can meaningfully contribute to the promotion of human security in Asia and beyond.

Mely Caballero-Anthony

NTS      Non-traditional security  
 ASEAN   Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Energy and Non-Traditional Security (NTS) in Asia

Caballero-Anthony, M.; Chang, Y.; Putra, N.A. (Eds.)

2012, IX, 121 p. 15 illus., 14 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-29705-2