

Challenges of European External Energy Governance with Emerging Powers: Meeting Tiger, Dragon, Lion and Jaguar



Newsletter, December 2012

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

26 researchers and practitioners from 12 different countries have joined forces to tackle key questions of European external energy governance with China, India, Brazil and South Africa. Four main research lines constitute the interdisciplinary research project “Challenges of European External Energy Governance with Emerging Powers: Meeting Tiger, Dragon, Lion and Jaguar” (funded by Volkswagen Stiftung, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and Compagnia di San Paolo):

- First, the effects of the EU multilevel system on external energy cooperation (especially with regard to the (lack of) coordination among member states and the EU institutions)

- Second, the role of private actors in energy governance
- Third, the embeddedness of EU and emerging powers energy relations in the international energy governance architecture
- Fourth, the role of norms including sustainability, competitiveness and security



The project is coordinated by a team of researchers from Technische Universität Darmstadt and benefits from a strong global network between academia and practitioners with Aarhus University, University of Zurich, Peking University, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), University of Rio de Janeiro, Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE), University of Cambridge, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP). We are happy to inform you about our work, latest activities and future events.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

External Images of the EU: The EU as a Normative Energy Player

Our project is exploiting synergies with the large international Jean Monnet Programme funded research project “External Images of the EU: The EU as a Normative Energy Player” (EXIE). The three project leaders are based at University of Canterbury (New Zealand) University of Victoria (Canada) and TU Darmstadt (Germany). The project focuses on, how the EU’s external energy policies are perceived in the BRICS as well as in key member states (Germany, France, UK) by using methods of media analysis and monitoring. EXIE’s kick-off conference with 13 international researchers from the BRICS, France,

Germany, UK and New Zealand was held at TU Darmstadt from Nov. 8th – 12th 2012.

www.euperceptions.canterbury.ac.nz/exie/index.shtml



EXIE Project Leaders
Assoc. Prof. Natalia Chaban
Prof. Martin Holland

Solidarity and EU Energy Governance

The European Community Studies Association (ECSA) Germany, Austria and Switzerland held their 11th annual conference under the heading of “Project Europe – Between Solidarity and Disintegration” at TU Darmstadt on November 15th – 16th. Our project leaders Michèle Knodt and Nadine Piefer

presented on “Solidarity and EU Energy Governance” by taking into account an internal EU and member states perspective as well as focusing on the EU’s external energy relations, for instance with Russia and Eastern European, countries of the Caucasus as well as Central Asian, and emerging powers.

China-EU Energy Security

Zha Daojiong is participating in a High-Level Conference on “Cooperation on Energy Security: China-EU Government and Business Perspectives” hosted by the Europe-China Clean Energy Center (EC2) in Beijing on December 13th 2012. As a Chinese expert on energy issues and China-EU energy relations, Zha Daojiong will contribute to this follow-up event of the first High-Level Meeting on Energy between the EU and China in May 2012. The aim of the conference is to present, discuss and share perspectives for appropriate policy instruments and milestones to enhance energy security by possibly pooling efforts.

<http://www.ec2.org.cn/en/>



Prof. Dr. Michèle Knodt, Nadine Piefer

CONFERENCE REPORT “INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE ROLE OF EMERGING POWERS”, BERLIN; JUNE “21st 2012

Two challenges were central to the project conference which took place on 21st July 2012 at SWP in Berlin: first, the necessity of cooperation in the transition towards renewable energies and

second, the rise of emerging powers that substantially change the power structures in international energy governance. First results of research were discussed with representatives of inter-

national organizations, governments, the private sector, the non-profit sector and the scientific community.

A vision for a global energy transition



Kirsten Westphal is senior researcher at SWP. Her research focuses on international energy governance, German and EU energy policy, EU-Russia energy relations and EU-emerging powers energy cooperation.

Kirsten Westphal (SWP) introduced the central components of the German energy concept which includes the development of renewables, the phasing out of nuclear energy and the areas of energy saving and energy efficiency. When coming to the international dimension she underlined the importance of IRENA and the need to strengthen the coherence of international cooperation with a view to renewables.

Carsten Hoyer-Klick (German Aerospace Center, DLR) emphasized the need to establish a vision of a global energy transition. The following questions are then to be tackled: Which technologies are feasible and marketable? How can major obstacles to investment be resolved? And what economic and political framework is needed to support a comprehensive integration of renewables? He called for international cooperation in gathering additional technological and socio-economic data to determine the potentials of renewables.

Emerging Powers' Renewable Energy Governance

China



Zha Daojiong is a professor of international political economy specializing in such in issues such as energy, food, and water. He is active in consultations with a wide range of government, business, and academic bodies interested in how China relates with the rest of the world on those and related topics.

Zha Daojiong (Peking University, School of International Studies) highlighted the emphasis on renewable energy for China's future energy mix in the white papers “Energy” (2007) and “Climate Change” (2011). Despite reports on massive improvements within the renewables sector, Zha Daojiong pointed to additional potentials to be realized. First, the targets for renewables stated in policy documents should be made compulsory. Second, negative externalities of coal are to be internalized. Third, he proposed to change the focus from

capacity installation to the factual generation of power. In addition to the points he made, he spoke of the importance of competition to foster innovation. With regard to the external dimension of Chinese energy policy he stated that both renewable energies and the idea to consider climate change as a global common are key to China's energy diplomacy. At the same time, China emphasizes its development country status and the need for (renewable energy) technology transfer.

India



Deepti Mahajan is Associate Fellow, Centre for Research on Energy Security, TERI. She is engaged in research on energy

policy, geopolitics and energy trade, and the inter-linkages between energy and climate.

Deepti Mahajan (The Energy and Resources Institute) emphasized the orientation towards energy security in Indian energy policies. In the Indian context, energy security is a question of availability, accessibility; affordability and acceptability of energy and against the backdrop of an increasing strain on conventional energy as well a rationale for renewable energy. To attract investment in renewable energies both generation and capacity based incentives are offered. But fin-

ancial institutions are often not familiar with the structures of the renewable energy business what leads to a non-availability of funds to defray high upfront costs. Indian energy policies rely on decentralized concepts and aim at reducing import dependency. India is member of different international cooperation approaches and interested in technology transfer, resource mapping and assessment of market potential, investment, R&D and capacity development.

Brazil



Roberto Schaeffer is Professor of Energy Economics in the Energy Planning Program (PPE) of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). He is a member of the IPCC and a well-known expert on Brazilian energy and climate policies.

Roberto Schaeffer (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) highlighted the vulnerability of Brazil's energy mix to climate change due to high shares of hydro energy. In consequence, Brazil aims at further diversifying its energy mix and shows strong interest in wind and solar energy. The potential for both is quite high, especially in the North East and other coastal areas as well as in the South for wind energy. These renewables are complementary to hydro power, which already presents almost 90% of Brazilian electricity generation.

Since the 1970s, biofuels have played a major role in Brazilian domestic and external energy policy. Brazil's international energy policy focuses on ethanol exports and South-South cooperation to transfer biofuel technologies, especially to Africa, Central America and the Caribbean. Explaining Brazilian reluctance to join IRENA, Roberto Schaeffer stated that within IRENA hydro energy and biofuels are not sufficiently taken into account.

South Africa



Judy Smith-Höhn is Programme Manager of the "Global Powers and Africa" Programme at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) in Johannesburg.

According to Judy Smith-Höhn (South African Institute of International Affairs) 90 per cent of South Africa's energy production relies on coal. The associated emissions are a cause for concern and foster interest in renewables. Furthermore, energy poverty and access are still major problems which could be tackled by increasing the share of renewables in the national

energy mix. A target of 40% new capacities in renewables, especially wind, photovoltaic and solar energy has been declared in the Integrated Resource Plan 2010-2030. South Africa is interested in international energy cooperation including technology transfer, capacity development and exchange on best practice while underlining the value of international cooperation to its citizens.

Which Role for Emerging Powers?

Francisco Boshell (IRENA) introduced the work of IRENA. On this basis, Sybille Röhrkasten (SWP) illustrated the global renewable energy governance structure with organizations and initiatives like IRENA, REN21, REEEP, GBEP focusing exclusively on renewables; the IEA with a general focus on energy and further international organizations dealing with energy issues from a trade, climate or development aid perspective. Cooperation between the respective organizations should be promoted. In her view, capacity are lying in organizations or clubs that operate from a cross-cutting perspective as the G8 or G20. Her recommendation to IRENA is to direct its activities on knowledge management

and policy advice towards these players. Leaving the conceptual arena, Marion Wilde (European Commission, DG Energy) presented the EU strategic partnerships with emerging powers as an example of political practice of how to integrate emerging powers in international energy governance. The approach of the EU is to foster dialogue on a political, economic as well as scientific level. The aim of the partnerships is to enable access to sustainable energy in emerging economies and spread European policy approaches internationally. Areas of cooperation include clean coal technology, renewable energy, smart grids and energy safety.

Thijs van de Graaf (Ghent Institute of International Studies) subsumed the essence of the conference with the statement, that cooperation with emerging powers is essential for the global spread of renewable energy and the fight against climate change. Emerging powers are among the top producers of renewables and constitute major markets for renewables. In his view severe trade wars in the renewable energy field can be prevented through a strong partnership. However there are challenges and cleavages on the way, including geopolitics, contradictions of green growth and divergent national trajectories.

Imprint

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