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International Energy Security – Energy Co-operation, Energy Governance and Geopolitics of Energy

Energy is at the heart of foreign policy of many countries because it is the driving force of their economic development and/or geopolitical strategies. Certainly, it is increasingly proving to be a motivating factor for many major emerging-economy countries' scrambling for energy resources around the world for energy supply security for their stable and sustainable economic growth. With the recent US shale revolution (or the so-called "shale oil boom") the dynamics of security of demand for many traditional energy producers are heading for a paradigm shift. Thus, from the consumer and producer countries' perspectives the notion of international energy security is in a flux lately. Along the energy security issues come other related ones such as global energy governance, energy co-operation and geopolitics of energy.

The present global energy governance framework is outdated in many respects, for when it was initiated in the past decades many of the current major emerging-economy countries were not part of the process, hence little reflection of their aspirations and expectations in it. Now the time has come to take into account their concerns in the global energy governance framework for it to be fit for purpose in the 21st Century. More countries are participating as transit countries in cross-border pipeline networks and power grids. The concern of this increasingly emerging group of countries (other than the producer and consumer countries) for the security of energy transit is getting conflated into the notion of international energy security.

It is time that in the governance framework their interests are also represented. Co-operation for sustainable energy development complying with the environmental protection and climate compliant requirements is appearing as a pressing need of our time. The aforementioned aspects such as international energy security, global energy governance, energy co-operation could be impacted by the forces of geopolitics of energy on the national, regional and international levels.

The purpose of this symposium will be to explore some of these aspects and issues of great importance in the present-day world. This will be of interest to governments, international oil companies, business people, government policy makers, foreign policy makers, the oil and gas industry, energy infrastructure companies, lawyers and academics.

Biography

A F M Maniruzzaman is Chair in International Law and International Business Law, University of Portsmouth, U.K. (since 2004) and a member of its Centre for European and International Studies Research, an interdisciplinary centre of international excellence. He is a Professorial Honorary Fellow at the Centre of Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee (since 2005) and Visiting Professor of International Law (2012 -), Faculty of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing. He has been a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Western Ontario, Canada (2007-8) and has also held honorary visiting academic positions at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Kent, and London. He is a Council Member of the ICC Institute of World Business Law, Paris; Academic Council Member of the Institute of Transnational Arbitration (ITA), USA; member of ILA International Committee on International Commercial Arbitration, London; International Arbitration Institute, Paris and International Council for Commercial Arbitration, The Hague. He is a founding Member of THE IDR GROUP® (international dispute resolution specialists) based at the Lamb Chambers, London and a member of the Legal Advisory Task Force of the Energy Charter Treaty, EC Secretariat, Brussels (2014)

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