

**Infrastructure Protection,  
Natural Disasters and  
Terrorist Threats  
(November 23 Session)**

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# ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, NATURAL DISASTERS AND TERRORIST THREATS

- What impact would disrupted energy supply have on national security, domestic services, and economic vitality?
- What characteristics of energy infrastructure make it especially prone to natural disasters and terrorist threats?
- Why do both Cornell (2009) and Perl (2008) think that privatization and deregulation of energy infrastructure make it harder to protect energy infrastructure? What do you think of their call for public-private cooperation in this aspect?
- What do you think of other measures suggested the authors, such as investment in infrastructure maintenance, enhancing refining capacity, diversification of supplies, and improvement in information exchanges?

# INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

- How is the world energy market intertwined with international politics? Give a few examples that illustrate behaviors of exporting countries and importing countries, and changes in world oil market.
- What are some of the key international and regional organizations mandated with coordinating energy policies? How effective do you think they are? What other critical countries or actors should be included?

# DECISION MAKING

- Yergin (2006) pointed out that in the United States, the lines of responsibility for energy security are far from clear.
- Liberthal and Herberg (2006) said China's energy security policies are more a collection of ad hoc initiatives.
- What do these observations tell you about the decision-making regarding energy in individual countries? How does that pose further challenges to international coordination?

# CHINA'S SEARCH FOR ENERGY SECURITY

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To view the table with information regarding Chinese petroleum companies, go to page 15 of “China’s Search for Energy Security: Implications for U.S. Policy” by Mikkal E. Herberg and Kenneth Lieberthal, in NBR Analysis, Vol. 17, No. 1.

[nbr.org/publications/issue.aspx?id=103](http://nbr.org/publications/issue.aspx?id=103)

# INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT OR COOPERATION?

- Different countries may have different understandings of energy security and interpret the intentions of other major players in the world oil market differently.
- What are the divergences and what are the common interests among countries?
- What measures can be taken to promote understanding and cooperation?
- Are there fundamental conflicts that cannot be mitigated?

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