



## NTS Bulletin March 2011 (Issue 1)

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### Issues:

- THE NORTH KOREAN FOOD SECURITY CRISIS
- CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS
- ENERGY AND HUMAN SECURITY
- FOOD SECURITY
- HEALTH AND HUMAN SECURITY

**Note:** Please click on the respective titles or headers for the full report.

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## MAIN HIGHLIGHT

### The North Korean Food Security Crisis

Since the end of January 2011, the state of food security in North Korea has been in question.

External factors, particularly the recent spike in global food prices and the suspension of food aid support from major donors such as the US and South Korea between 2008 and 2009, have contributed to this situation. According to some reports, the delayed arrival of food aid from North Korea's northern ally, China, has also aggravated food shortages.

The food crisis is exacerbated by a multitude of internal factors, including reported inequitable distribution of available food aid; foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks reportedly killing thousands of draught oxen, cows and pigs; and the country enduring its coldest winter since 1945, with frigid temperatures adversely affecting agricultural outputs. As a result, North Korean rice prices have hit record highs and the United Nations (UN) has warned that up to 5 million North Koreans are at risk of famine.

In response to this, North Korea has requested that the US resume its food aid programme and has pledged to allow international monitors to oversee food distribution to the public. The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have also begun missions to North Korea to assess the food security situation.

### Additional Info:

- 'Aid Group Says N. Korea Rice Price Hits Record High', *AsiaOne*, 26 January 2011.
- Willacy, Mark, 'Fear of Famine as N Korea Freezes', *ABC News*, 31 January 2011.
- 'N. Korea Asks US "to Restore Food Aid"', *AFP*, 9 February 2011.
- Kang, Hyun-kyung, 'N. Korea Turns to Dialogue under Acute Food Shortage', *The Korea Times*, 9 February 2011.
- 'N. Korea "Importing Animal Feed for Human Consumption"', *The Chosunilbo*, 10 February 2011.
- Barnes, Adriana, 'North Korea Feeling the Strain: Food Shortage Is Getting Serious', *Daily News Pulse*, 10 February 2011.
- 'UN Sends Mission to Probe N. Korea Food Needs', *AFP*, 11 February 2011.
- Lim, Bomi and Sungwoo Park, 'Sick Oxen May Rattle Kim Jong Il Regime as Food Shortages Worsen', *Bloomberg*, 11 February 2011.
- 'Fears of Food Shortages in North Korea', *BBC*, 17 February 2011.
- 'Kim Jong-Il Marks Birthday Amid Food Shortages in North Korea', *The Daily Telegraph*, 17 February 2011.
- Harlan, Chico, 'Starving N. Korea Beggars for Food, but U.S. Has Concerns about Resuming Aid', *The Washington Post*, 22 February 2011.

# CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS



## News & Commentaries

- Satriastanti, Fidelis E., 'Haze Pollution Treaty Would Open Up World of Opportunities, Ministry Insists', *Jakarta Globe*, 25 January 2011.
- Fogarty, David, 'Asia-Pacific at Risk from Climate Migration: Report', *Reuters*, 7 February 2011.
- 'No Slowdown in Global Carbon Emissions, Climate Change Adviser Ross Garnaut Reports', *eco-business.com*, 11 February 2011.
- 'World Bank Seeks Closer Cooperation with the Asian Disaster Reduction Center', *The World Bank*, 16 February 2011.
- Doyle, Alister, 'Curbing Soot Could Slow Climate Change: U.N.', *Scientific American*, 18 February 2011.
- Vastag, Brian, 'Pakistan Floods Highlight Weather-Data Gaps', *The Seattle Times*, 19 February 2011.
- Nichols, Will, 'Sustainable Development Commission Slams "Timid" Green Nudge Policy', *BusinessGreen*, 21 February 2011.
- 'Could Biodiversity Panel Address Global Policy Issues?', *BusinessGreen*, 21 February 2011.
- 'SBY to Open Climate Change Conference', *The Jakarta Post*, 21 February 2011.
- 'Warming May Lead to Spurt in Water-Borne Diseases', *The Times of India*, 21 February 2011.

## Selected Publications

- Hamdi-Cherif, Meriem, Céline Guivarch and Philippe Quirion, 2011, 'Sectoral Targets for Developing Countries: Combining "Common but Differentiated Responsibilities" with "Meaningful Participation"', *Climate Policy*, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 731–51.

This research article provides a macroeconomic assessment of sectoral approaches for developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The result indicates that the electricity generation business, despite some limitations, can provide approximately 80 per cent of the global emissions reductions achieved in the cap-and-trade system.

- Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) Center, 2011, *Breaking Records in 2010: Air Quality, Climate Change and Transport in Asia: A Year in Review*, Pasig City, Philippines.

This report reviews events that took place in some Asian cities in 2010 with regard to air quality, climate change and transportation. It argues that there is an urgent need for policymakers to focus on sustainable development to create liveable Asian cities and provides insights on ways for doing so.

- Ardiansyah, Fitriani and Desak Putu Adhityani Putri, 2011, *Risk and Resilience in Three Southeast Asian Cross-Border Areas: The Greater Mekong Subregion, the Heart of Borneo and the Coral Triangle*, Asia Security Initiative Policy Series: Working Paper No. 11, Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies.

This paper seeks to examine the security impacts of climate change in three Southeast Asian cross-border areas: the Greater Mekong Subregion, the Heart of Borneo and the Coral Triangle. It suggests that sound adaptation strategies are essential to increasing communities' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change.

- Pittock, Jamie and Ming Xu, 2011, *Controlling Yangtze River Floods: A New Approach*, World Resources Report, Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

This paper examines the Chinese government's efforts in focusing on floodplain restoration rather than engineering solutions to manage flooding in the Yangtze River Basin. This change in approach came about particularly after the massive flooding along the Yangtze in 1998. These climate adaptation measures were incorporated into the country's 2007 National Climate Change Programme.

## Events & Announcements

- 'International Seminar on Climate Change 2011: Environment Insight for Climate Change Mitigation', 4–5 March 2011, Solo, Indonesia.
- 'IGES Kansai Research Centre International Symposium 2011 on Research Partnership for the Application of Low Carbon Technology for Sustainable Development', 7 March 2011, Kobe, Japan.
- 'International Workshop on Local Initiatives towards a Low Carbon Asia', 14 March 2011, Fukuoka, Japan.

# ENERGY AND HUMAN SECURITY



## News & Commentaries

- Mills, Robin, 'New Grand Plan Needed for Middle East's Energy Security', *The National*, 1 February 2011.
- Vidal, John, 'WikiLeaks Cables: Saudi Arabia Cannot Pump Enough Oil to Keep a Lid on Prices', *Guardian*, 8 February 2011.
- 'US Embassy Cables: Saudi Arabia Tackles Western Shift towards Energy Independence', *Guardian*, 8 February 2011.
- Kinver, Mark, 'People Power "Overlooked by Energy Policies"', *BBC*, 11 February 2011.
- 'Malaysia Drops Coal Power Plant Scheme', *AFP*, 16 February 2011.
- Maeda, Risa, 'Japan Plans to Ramp Up Renewable Energy Scheme', *Reuters*, 18 February 2011.
- Nerenberg, Jenara, 'Food and Energy Security Go Hand in Hand, Says UN Agency', *Fast Company*, 18 February 2011.
- Harvey, Fiona, 'Green Economy Needs 2% of Every Nation's Income, Says UN', *Guardian*, 21 February 2011.
- Vijian, P., 'Malaysia Keen on India's Wind Technology, Says Dr Maximus', *Bernama*, 21 February 2011.
- 'Rising Energy Prices Impact Australian Businesses and Communities', *International Business Times*, 21 February 2011.

## Selected Publications

- Jiang, Julie, and Jonathan Sinton, 2011, *Overseas Investments by Chinese National Oil Companies: Assessing the Drivers and Impacts*, Information Paper, Paris: International Energy Agency (IEA).

This report studies the growing investments of major Chinese state-owned oil companies overseas, by assessing their motivations and the strategies employed to expand overseas, as well as examining their overseas acquisitions. It looks at the relationship between these oil companies and the Chinese government and also discusses the impact of the expansion of these companies on the region.

- Leary, David and Miguel Esteban, 2011, 'Recent Developments in Offshore Renewable Energy in the Asia-Pacific Region', *Ocean Development and International Law*, Vol. 42, Nos. 1 and 2, pp. 94–119.

This article studies the recent developments in offshore renewable energy, such as offshore wind and ocean energy in the Asia-Pacific region. It examines the respective strengths and weaknesses of China, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand in this emerging energy sector. It also discusses the environmental impact of developing offshore renewable energy and the need to improve legal and regulatory frameworks in this regard.

- Jamil, Sofiah, Jochen Prantl and Mely Caballero-Anthony, *The Hidden Costs and Risks of Nuclear Energy: The Way Forward*, Policy Brief No. 4, Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies.

This policy brief discusses the costs and risks of promoting the use of nuclear energy against the backdrop of a 'nuclear renaissance' in the Asia-Pacific. It identifies five points to be considered for efficient management of nuclear energy. It also puts forward recommendations on how to proceed with nuclear energy plans more safely.

## Events & Announcements

- 'World Sustainable Energy Days 2011', 2–4 March, Wels, Austria.
- 'Energising South East Asia Conference and Exhibition 2011', 23–26 March 2011, Perth, Australia.
- 'International Conference on Energy Law', 31 March – 1 April 2011, Poznan, Poland.

[^ To the top](#)

# FOOD SECURITY



## News & Commentaries

- Bellman, Eric and Alex Frangos, 'Emerging Nations Tackle Food Costs', *The Wall Street Journal*, 25 January 2011.
- Fraser, Evan and Andrew Rimas, 'The Psychology of Food Riots: When Do Price Spikes Lead to Unrest?', *Foreign Affairs*, 30 January 2011.
- Thomson, Peter, 'High Food Prices in Egypt and Climate Change', *The World*, 3 February 2011.
- Krugman, Paul, 'Droughts, Floods and Food', *The New York Times*, 6 February 2011.

- Cottle, David, 'Commodity Speculation Too Easy a Target', *The Wall Street Journal*, 7 February 2011.
- Harvey, Fiona, 'Failure to Act on Crop Shortages Fuelling Political Instability, Experts Warn', *Guardian*, 7 February 2011.
- Richardson, Michael, 'Fish Farming Promises Abundance for Food Security', *Wild Singapore*, 7 February 2011.
- Ramady, Mohamed A., 'Food Security: Ignore It at Your Peril...', *Arab News*, 8 February 2011.
- Roy, Amit, 'Food Security and Poverty World's Greatest Challenges', *Farm Chemicals International*, 8 February 2011.
- Kanitra, Paul, 'Visionary Alternatives to Boost Food Security', *The National*, 8 February 2011.
- 'Rice Producers Urged to Go Slow on Exports', *VietNamNet*, 17 February 2011.
- Dapice, David, 'Extreme Weather, Economic Forces of Rising Demand and Speculation Threaten Global Food Security', *YaleGlobal Online*, 18 February 2011.
- Sheridan, Kerry, 'Fewer Big Fish in the Sea, Scientists Say', *Herald Sun*, 19 February 2011.
- Vidal, John, 'What Does the Arab World Do When Its Water Runs Out?', *Guardian*, 20 February 2011.

### **Selected Publications**

- Bogdanski, Anne, Olivier Dubois, Craig Jamieson et al., 2010, *Making Integrated Food-Energy Systems Work for People and Climate – An Overview*, Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The report studies the farming systems in Africa, Asia and Latin America and argues that integrated food-energy systems (IFES) in which farmers simultaneously produce food and fuel could help boost food and energy security while reducing poverty. It seeks to demonstrate how barriers to integrating food and energy crop production can be overcome in order to promote such farming systems.

- Paarlberg, Robert, 2010, *Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The book attempts to examine and expound on a wide range of issues affecting today's global food landscape, including food prices, chronic hunger and famine, obesity, population growth, farming technologies, food aid, environmentalism and other aspects of food production and distribution in order to explore the debates surrounding the politics of food. The author argues that the application of new productive technologies is vital in addressing widespread food insecurity in vulnerable regions.

- Foresight, 2011, *The Future of Food and Farming: Challenges and Choices for Global Sustainability*, Final Project Report, London: The Government Office for Science.

The Foresight 'Global Food and Farming Futures' project released this report which argues that the pressures on the global food system will intensify over the next 40 years and would present significant challenges to food security. As a result, it is crucial to address those pressures by making radical changes to the food system, spreading existing technology to the developing world to increase production yields and investing in research to come up with creative solutions in order to create a sustainable global food system for the future and to tackle hunger.

- *Food Security Expert Group Meeting on 'Food First: Ensuring Food and Nutrition for Urbanites'*, 2011, Conference Report, RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies, 4–5 August 2010, Singapore.

The report is a summation of the presentations and discussions that took place at the Food Security Expert Group Meeting organised by the RSIS Centre for NTS Studies on 4–5 August 2010. The report analyses the challenges to food security and offers policy recommendations to address them. It also seeks to underline ways to strengthen and enhance urban food security and explores how food security information systems can contribute to securing food systems in Southeast Asia.

### **Events & Announcements**

- 'International Conference on the Impact of Climate Change on Food Security', 3–5 March 2011, Kerala, India.
- 'Ministerial Conference on Biodiversity, Food Security and Climate Change', 11 March 2011, Bali, Indonesia.
- 'The 1st EnvironmentAsia International Conference on "Environmental Supporting in Food and Energy Security: Crisis and Opportunity"', 22–25 March 2011, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 'Following The Foresight Project on Global Food and Farming Futures – Next Steps for Policy', 31 March 2011, London, UK.

# HEALTH AND HUMAN SECURITY



## News & Commentaries

- O'Brien, Rachel, 'Southeast Asia Facing New "Health Crisis"', *AFP*, 24 January 2011.
- Olivier, Christian, 'UN Warns on Asian Spread of Foot-and-Mouth', *Financial Times*, 2 February 2011.
- 'South Asian Countries Facing "Health Crisis": World Bank', *The Hindu*, 9 February 2011.
- Park, Sungwoo and Bomi Lim, 'Kim Jong Il's Dependence on Oxen Increases Foot-and-Mouth Risks', *Bloomberg*, 11 February 2011.
- Wesangula, Daniel, 'Fresh Round of Lobbying for Return of DDT in Fight Against Malaria', *Daily Nation*, 12 February 2011.
- 'China's Cabinet Orders Stepped-Up Efforts to Contain HIV/AIDS', *Xinhua*, 16 February 2011.
- 'Bangladesh to Hold Massive Cholera Vaccine Trial', *AFP*, 16 February 2011.
- 'Swine Flu Kills 12 in Hong Kong in under a Month', *AFP*, 17 February 2011.
- 'US Researchers Hopeful for Dengue Vaccine', *AFP*, 17 February 2011.
- Mukherjee, Arpan, 'Bird Flu Outbreak in India', *The Wall Street Journal*, 18 February 2011.
- 'Aussie Researchers a Step Closer to Flu Vaccine Nasal Spray', *Bernama*, 20 February 2011.
- 'Andhra Poultry Farmers on Bird Flu Alert', *The Times of India*, 21 February 2011.
- Kirby, Michael, 'Speaking in Tongues on AIDS', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 February 2011.

## Selected Publications

- Oshitani, Hitoshi, 2010, 'Influenza Surveillance and Control in the Western Pacific Region', *Western Pacific Surveillance and Response Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 1.

This editorial examines the influenza surveillance and control efforts and developments in the Western Pacific region. It assesses the region's potential for being both an avian influenza source and an outbreak location and offers suggestions for how to better control, manage and respond to the pandemic influenza threat in the region.

- Peters, Anny J.T.P., Maja Micevska Scharf, Francien T.M. van Driel et al., 2010, 'Where Does Public Funding for HIV Prevention Go to? The Case of Condoms versus Microbicides and Vaccines', *Globalization and Health*, Vol. 6, No. 23.

This study analyses public donors' priorities in the US and the European Union (EU) in funding HIV prevention in the period between 2000 and 2008. It concludes that the relative share of public funding for integrated condom programming dropped significantly, while that for research on vaccines and microbicides increased. Both parties were also found to have invested progressively more in research on vaccines and microbicides rather than addressing the shortage of condoms and improving access to integrated condom programming in developing countries.

- Phua, Kai-Lit, 2011, 'Can We Learn from History? Policy Responses and Strategies to Meet Health Care Needs in Times of Severe Economic Crisis', *The Open Public Health Journal*, Vol. 4, pp. 1–5.

This article explores the relationship between economic crises and health by examining evolving trends in changes in patterns of health risk, differential impacts of an economic crisis on the health of more vulnerable social groups and changes in demand for health services during different periods of an economic crisis. The article also formulates and suggests appropriate policy responses and strategies to mitigate an economic downturn's negative impact on the health of populations.

- World Health Organization (WHO), 2011, 'Influenza A(H1N1) 2009 Virus: Current Situation and Post-Pandemic Recommendations', *Weekly Epidemiological Record*, Vol. 86, No. 8, pp. 61–72.

This article provides an update on the global influenza A (H1N1) situation in the aftermath of the 2009 outbreak. It also outlines the WHO's recommendations in the areas of surveillance, laboratory and virology procedures, vaccination, and clinical management in the post-pandemic period.

- Li, Hongyan and Bill Durodié, 2011, 'Exploring the Relationship between Health and Development: The Case of China', *NTS Alert*, February (Issue 1), Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies.

This NTS Alert takes a closer look at the relationship between development and health by reviewing the case of China, a nation which has witnessed great changes both in its economy and the health of its population in the decades since the Second World War. China's experience shows that solid infrastructure, better nutrition and rising hygiene and sanitation standards are the foundation stones of improved health.

## Events & Announcements

- 'World Water Day', 22 March 2011, Worldwide.
- 'World TB Day', 24 March 2011, Worldwide.
- 'Seminar on Health in Fragile States', 28 March 2011, Solna, Sweden.

[^ To the top](#)

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### **About the Centre:**

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies was inaugurated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan in May 2008. The Centre maintains research in the fields of Food Security, Climate Change, Energy Security, Health Security as well as Internal and Cross-Border Conflict. It produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The Centre also provides a platform for scholars and policymakers within and outside Asia to discuss and analyse NTS issues in the region.

In 2009, the Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative, to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific.

The Centre is also a founding member and the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia). More information on the Centre can be found at [www.rsis.edu.sg/nts](http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts).