

Preface

The three papers on energy security and climate change contained in this report were delivered to the Trilateral Commission by their authors on March 18, 2007. Taken together, they lay out the physical constraints and political circumstances that govern national choices for improving energy security and address the daunting challenge of mitigating global climate change.

What is perhaps not surprising about the three presentations—one by a former leading U.S. policymaker, the second by the leader of a major international nuclear company, and the third by the head of business planning for a large national oil company—is that they agree on the key facts and circumstances affecting the world’s energy future. What is most striking to the reader is that they disagree so little in describing the limited policy choices available to Trilateral countries for managing extremely complex and interconnected energy problems facing both developed and emerging economies.

Although the structure of the report is three individual papers encompassing both global and regional views, there is surprising congruence. The first, by principal author John Deutch, former U.S. director of central intelligence and under secretary of energy, offers a tour d’horizon of global energy issues and climate change that also provides analysis of U.S. domestic energy politics. The second, by Anne Lauvergeon, chief executive officer of Areva, the French nuclear company, offers the European viewpoint on these issues and makes a detailed and forceful case for ambitious nuclear power development within an enhanced nonproliferation framework. The last, by Widhyawan Prawiraatmadja, the head of corporate planning and business development for the Indonesian national oil company, PT Pertamina, proposes mechanisms for increasing regional energy security that take into consideration Pacific Asia’s broad geography, fast-paced development, and infrastructure requirements.

The singular contribution of the Trilateral Commission and of the high-level task forces it has created over the years to address thorny megaproblems is once again demonstrated in this report. What is most useful about its approach is both a concentration on careful analysis of

global remedies and an appreciation of the different regional approaches that can be devised to meet common challenges.

Thus, we see in the United States a slow pace in adopting sustained policy measures that address the challenge of limiting greenhouse gas emissions and embarking on the long process of making a transition from a petroleum-based economy. In Europe, different political forces have combined to produce greater commitment to energy pricing mechanisms and greenhouse gas mitigation, but also great interest and appreciation of the need for concerted international cooperation to address widespread solutions, that is, those involving participation by the United States and rapidly developing economies. In Pacific Asia, the supply concerns of rapidly expanding economies such as China's demonstrate the difficulties of consistent market protections as well as the problems the Trilateral countries face in finding solutions that will effectively address climate change without disrupting economic activity in both the developed and developing worlds.

All three authors see the concept of energy security as a process of managing rather than eliminating or even drastically reducing the risk inherent in dependence on imported energy supplies. What is most hopeful, given their clear appreciation and analysis of regional pressures that affect each of the Trilateral regions, is their unambiguous appreciation that both energy security and some successful mitigation of greenhouse gas emission growth can be achieved, provided they are addressed with a global outlook and effective international solutions. Each nation-state continues to reserve to itself key decisions affecting itself, but no one who has read this report can doubt that a comprehensive, cooperative, and worldwide approach to the latter is the only hopeful path that can lead to needed control of climate-changing emissions stemming from human activity.

This report is being published in advance on the eve of the 2007 Group of Eight summit in Germany as a contribution to the debate on energy security and climate change and with the hope that it will find a place high on the summit agenda.