

In-House Seminar with Foreign Scholar

FUTURE OF ENERGY IN PAKISTAN AND ITS VIABLE OPTIONS



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Compiled by: Shahzadi Tooba Hussain Syed

STRATEGIC VISION INSTITUTE (SVI), ISLAMABAD

Future of Energy in Pakistan and its Viable Options

Strategic Vision Institute organized an In-House Seminar on “Future of Energy in Pakistan and its Viable Options”, held on April 2, 2014. The US Energy Attaché in Pakistan, Kara De Castro graced the seminar with her presence as Guest Speaker. Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema chaired the session and welcomed the audience in the Seminar.

Discussion

The energy deficit/crisis in Pakistan has topped in major issues and challenges to Pakistan and is now being placed as national security issue of the country. The total mounted capacity for power generation by public and private sector is not enough even for the running time period. Pakistan’s current power supply capacity cannot catch up with the power demands that continue to increase years after years. These circumstances made the public to accept the scheduled and un-scheduled power outages for un-limited hours. It is not only immense loss of industrial sector but is also causing un-employment and inflation.

The In-House Seminar was actually aimed to put light upon various options for energy generation and its implications on security sector. Dr. Cheema started discussion with the strategic importance for Pakistan’s energy security cooperation with the US. He put forward the option of civil nuclear energy which is vital to drop off the energy crisis. Due to the advance and recycling capacity of civil nuclear technology, it is a most viable energy resource especially for a nuclear country. Ms. Castro believed that, concerns about energy security are now at the forefront of many current debates on energy policy, profoundly influencing the way decision-makers think about a range of issues from national and economic security to international diplomacy.

In-house discussion framed a point that the tightening of global energy markets in recent years has led energy consuming nations to realize how dependent they are on energy exporting nations that may not share their security concerns. This sense of uncertainty is deepened by the knowledge that many of exporters are acutely vulnerable to

a variety of disruptions beyond their control. Pakistan is concerned to have civil nuclear deal with America as it has happened before in South Asia. There are two main points that emerge, first is the nuclear energy security mechanism, and second is the delicate relationship between energy importing nations and energy exporting nations. Ms. Castro agreed that, as far as Pakistan is concerned, Pakistan's nuclear command and control system is most powerful mechanism of the world, and relationship between importing and exporting states have assumed an increasingly important role in international relations. Therefore, stability of supply and demands has become issue of national security for both the parties involved in such kind of relationship. It was also discussed that Pakistan's national security imperative encompasses a broader range of concerns than just defence. In conclusion, Pakistan has aimed to improve its resilience to threats and short fall of energy resources by all means.

VOTE OF THANKS BY DR. ZAFAR IQBAL CHEEMA

At the end, Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema profoundly thanked the entire august audience present in the house and said that their presence is valuable for the events organized by SVI. He paid special thanks to the Guest Speaker and Discussants for their precious inputs that enlightened the audience. He extended his gratitude towards the research and secretarial staff of the SVI for their hard work and dedication towards the SVI.