

# IIAS Research Programmes, Networks & Initiatives

## > Programmes

### Socio-Genetic Marginalization in Asia

The development and application of new biomedical and genetic technologies have important socio-political implications. This NWO/ASSR/IIAS research programme aims to gain insight into the ways in which the use of and monopoly over genetic information shape and influence population policies, environmental ethics and biomedical and agricultural practices in various Asian religious and secular cultures and across national boundaries.

**Coordinator:** Margaret Sleebloom-Faulkner

### Energy Programme Asia (EPA)

This programme focuses on the impact of East and South East Asian Energy Supply strategies on the Caspian region (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Russia) and the Persian Gulf. The objective is to study the effects of the global geopolitics of energy security supply on the main energy consuming countries of East and Southeast Asia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea, and their national strategies of securing supply from the Caspian region and the Persian Gulf. The programme is institutionally supported by IIAS and the Clingendael International Energy Programme (CIEP), The Hague.

**Coordinator:** Mehdi Parvizi Amineh

### The Syntax of the Languages of Southern China

This project aims to achieve a detailed description and in depth analysis of a limited number of syntactic phenomena in six languages, both Sinitic and non-Sinitic, spoken in the area south of the Yangtze River. The project will systematically com-

pare these descriptions and analyses to contribute to the development of the theory of language and human language capacity, through the study of non-Western languages.

**Coordinator:** Rint Sybesma

### Islam in Indonesia: The Dissemination of Religious Authority in the Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Centuries

Forms and transformations of religious authority among the Indonesian Muslim community are the focus of this research programme. The term authority relates both to persons and books as well as various other forms of written and non-written references. Special attention is paid to the production, reproduction, and dissemination of religious authority in the fields of four sub-programmes: *ulama* (religious scholars) and *fatwas*; *tarekat* (mystical orders); *dakwah* (propagation of the faith); and education.

**Coordinator:** Nico Kaptein

### Indonesianisasi and Nationalization

From the 1930s to the early 1960s, the Indonesian economy transformed from a 'colonial' economy, dominated by the Dutch, to a 'national' one in which indigenous business assumed control. Shifts in command and management of the economy are closely related to economic structure and political alignment. This NIOD project explores this transformation, studying the late-colonial era as well as the Japanese occupation, the Revolution and the Sukarno period. Two issues are given special attention: *Indonesianisasi* (increased opportunities for indigenous Indonesians in the economy) and nationalization, in particular the expropriation of Dutch cor-

porate assets in Indonesia in 1957-58.

**Coordinator:** J. Thomas Lindblad

### Trans-Himalayan database development: China and the Subcontinent (Phase I)

The project's main goal is to combine the database of cognate words in Tibeto-Burman languages, maintained by the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) since 1998 with language data of the George van Driem Himalayan Languages Project (Leiden University) in order to create a joint, online database of Tibeto-Burman languages with a mirror-site in Leiden. The second objective of the project is to continue documentation of endangered Tibeto-Burman languages in China in cooperation with the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology.

**Coordinator:** Katia Chirkova

## > Networks

### ABIA South and Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology Index

The ABIA Index online database covers publications on prehistory, archaeology, and art history, material culture, epigraphy, paleography, numismatics, and sigillography of South and Southeast Asia. IIAS is the centre for regions outside Asia, with support from the Gonda Foundation. Between 2002 and 2006 the project is coordinated by PGIAR, Colombo, with support from the Central Cultural Fund. Offices have also been opened at the IGNCA, New Delhi, and the Research Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences, Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta. *ABIA Index* volume 1 is available at IIAS. Volume 2 is available at [www.brill.nl](http://www.brill.nl)

**Coordinator:** Ellen Raven  
[www.abia.net](http://www.abia.net)

### Changing Labour Relations in Asia (CLARA)

Labour relations in different parts of Asia are undergoing diverse historical processes and experiences in terms of their national economies, their links with international markets and the nature of state intervention. This programme aims to understand these changes comparatively and historically, focusing on five overlapping themes: the labour process, labour mobility, labour consciousness, gendered labour and labour laws and labour movements.

**Coordinator:** Ratna Saptari

### Transnational Society, Media, and Citizenship

This multidisciplinary network studies the complex nature of contemporary cultural identities and the impact of the globalization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) on the (re)construction of these identities. Although the programme is based in the Netherlands, the projects are carried out at numerous fieldwork sites.

**Coordinator:** Peter van der Veer

## > IIAS Initiatives

### The Development of Space Technology in Asia

The space age has dramatically impacted on all nations. In Asia, the 'space-faring nations' - India, China and Japan - have achieved considerable success in building indigenous space technologies and applications. Other Asian nations have readily adopted these applications, including satellites for telecommunications, for gathering data on the weather, and environmental and earth resources. IIAS is launching this new research initiative and

has initiated a series of workshops on the topic (see announcement p.36).

**Coordinator:** David Soo

### Piracy and Robbery on the Asian Seas

Acts of piracy loom particularly large in Asian waters, with the bulk of all officially reported incidents of maritime piracy occurring in Southeast Asia during the 1990s. This is of serious concern to international shipping, as the sea-lanes between East Asia, the Middle East, and Europe pass through Southeast Asia. IIAS and the Centre for Maritime Research (MARE) are currently identifying issues and concerns, and are delineating core elements of an interdisciplinary research programme on piracy and robbery at sea in Asia.

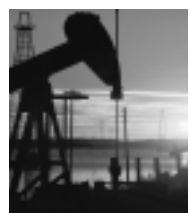
**Coordinators:** Wim Stokhof (IIAS) and John Kleinen (MARE)

### Care of the Aged: Gender, Institutional Provisions and Social Security in India, Netherlands and Sri Lanka

This IDPAD/IIAS research project addresses the implications of population aging for the social security and health care of elderly people. As the experience of ageing is highly gendered and can vary according to class, caste, and religion, the project seeks to capture the dimensions, characteristics and trends related to aging among different social and economic groups, with an emphasis on women. This comparative study of the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, and India draws on diverse experiences of development to contextualize the aging process.

**Coordinator:** Carla Risseuw

**For more information on IIAS Research:**  
[www.iias.nl](http://www.iias.nl)



## Energy Programme Asia (EPA)

**Global energy consumption depends largely on fossil fuels: coal, oil and natural gas. Growing consumption in rapidly industrializing East and Southeast Asia and industrializing countries elsewhere causes a steep increase in demand while large scale oil consumption in industrialized countries continues (the US consumes 25 percent of the world's oil production).**

Mehdi Parvizi Amineh

According to the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) global oil consumption will rise from 82 million barrels per day (bbl/d) in 2004 to 100 million bbl/d in 2015, further increasing to 120 million bbl/d by 2025. Resources of operating oil fields are decreasing while resources in newly discovered oil and gas fields are disappointing and the price for a barrel of oil goes up. Global oil production will not be able to meet this rapidly rising demand. Major oil consumers will have to follow more aggressive policies to satisfy their oil needs, and military intervention to safeguard oil production and export will become more likely, as has been the case in Iraq as part and parcel of the US' larger strategy to democratise the 'Greater Middle East.'

In 2004 IIAS initiated Energy Program Asia (EPA) in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Coby van der Linde from the Clingendael International Energy Program (CIEP), Prof. Dr. Kurt Radtke from Waseda University, Tokyo, Prof. Dr. Yu

Shibutani at Energy Geopolitics Ltd. of Japan, and Dr. Shi Dan of the Energy Economic Research Centre of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. EPA analyses the impact of energy supply strategies of East and Southeast Asia's main consuming countries (China, India, Japan and South Korea) as well as the European Union (EU) on the Caspian Region (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Russia) and the Persian Gulf (Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait).

The research will shed new light on the urgency to develop new policies and strategies to promote international cooperation in energy issues and avoid conflict scenarios. Additionally, the program's research contributes to the ongoing debate about environmental sustainability and energy efficiency policies (in both consumer and producer countries).

In the mid-term future China and India particularly will become major competitors of the EU and the US for scarce resources. The fact that oil production in China and India has peaked or is

about to peak will lead to increased reliance on oil imports from a limited number of exporting countries and regions. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), in 2001 some 57.9% of oil consumed in the East and Southeast Asian region was imported, 62.2% from the Persian Gulf. In 2020 it is expected East and Southeast Asian countries will import 73.3% of their oil needs, 76.5% from Persian Gulf countries. This region, as well as the Caspian region, is politically and economically fragile, and suffers from increasing instability due to regional and domestic tensions. Political stability in these regions is therefore a top priority for consuming countries and consequently part and parcel of their foreign policy strategies.

The mere survival of a country and its society, economic dynamisms and technological innovation depends on oil and gas. The traditional approach to energy security focuses on the ability to employ domestic energy assets, technical and operational factors, transportation and import facilities, the investment climate

and the availability of foreign oil and gas supplies. Future global energy consumption, particularly growing energy import dependency, will increasingly politicize energy relations and escalate competition and cooperation among consumer regions and countries. This calls for a shift in traditional thinking about energy policies, and a need to place foreign and security policies at the center of the debate.

In addition to examining geopolitical issues, EPA studies the effects of national energy efficiency situations in both producer and consumer countries. For example, Iran (as one of the main producer countries) is troubled with increasing inefficiency in its domestic energy use. If this continues, there is a fair chance Iran will export considerably less oil (instead of considerably more) in 2015 as it does today. This will have great effects not only on the oil export dependent economy of Iran, but also on oil and gas consumer countries who will have to find alternative resources. Another example is the response of China and India to international environmental claims (Kyoto). If China and India gradually turn from coal-driven to oil-driven economies, efficiency is increased, but their already assertive oil and gas supply strategies will further intensify.

EPA addresses the following main questions:

- What are the effects of geopolitical competition between and among enterprises and governments of consuming countries for access to fossil energy supplies?
- What energy efficiency policies are in place in the four East and Southeast Asian consuming countries under study, the US, the European Union and producing countries?
- In addition to the ongoing debate about environmental sustainability, how urgent is the quest for alternative energy resources for global energy supply in the next two decades?

The researchers of the institutions mentioned above will draft individual sections of the study by working closely with small international and multidisciplinary teams of experts. For details on the project's past and future activities, see: [www.iias.nl](http://www.iias.nl).

**Mehdi Parvizi Amineh** is Senior Research Fellow at IIAS and manages Energy Programme Asia. He is leading researcher in the areas of security of energy supply and geopolitics; additionally energy efficiency and sustainable development in the regions / countries under study.