ABSTRACT

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CHINA’S ENDEAVOR TO ACHIEVE ENERGY SECURITY IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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The combination of limited energy resources, limited productivity, high economic growth, and high energy demand have prompted China to consider about its energy security situation in relation to its economic development. Given that China has already needed to import most of its oil and natural gas consumption, China’s rapid economic development have incur the question whether it has the fuel to maintain such growth. This research aimed to explain the potential threats posed by China’s lack of energy security towards its economic development and to provide a description on the strategies that China employed in response to such condition, both in the fossil fuels sector as well as in the renewable energy sources.

This research is based on the perspective of neo-liberalism. The concepts used are: liberal institutionalism, complex interdependence, diplomacy and soft power, traditional security vs. non-traditional security, energy security, and economic development. Analysis in this research is done through qualitative research method and historical comparative method specifically. Data used in this research are secondary data gained from literature study, media, statistical reports, Internet sites, and documentation.

This research shows that China realized its vulnerability in terms of its energy security. The government also realizes that in times of heightened uncertainty, an aggressive approach to secure energy sources is critical to support its vigorous economy. The government along with numerous of its state-owned companies then employed several measures to enhance China’s energy security. This includes securing fossil fuels supply from external sources, optimizing domestic resources, increasing the country’s energy efficiency, develop alternative energy sources, and establishing strategic petroleum reserves. The government had also set some ambitious targets in several of its 5-year-plans in order to reduce its vulnerability regarding energy security. Finally, in recent years China has also shown its willingness to work collaboratively with a number of international institutions working in the global energy security issues.

Reference: 21 books (1996-2010); 100 Internet sites; 11 statistical reports.