

For immediate release  
August 16, 2010

Contact: Sarah Snyder  
Phone: (202) 347-9767  
Email: [media@nbr.org](mailto:media@nbr.org)

**\* Maritime Energy Resources in Asia \***

Washington, DC – On August 5–7, 2010, The National Bureau of Asian Research in partnership with the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam hosted a private workshop in Ho Chi Minh City on maritime energy resources in Asia with senior researchers, rising scholars from around the region, and key stakeholders.

**Outstanding maritime sovereignty disputes are among the greatest potential threats to security in Asia.** Given the complexity of the political, historic, legal, economic, and strategic factors at play, resolution of these boundary disputes has eluded claimant states. These complexities are compounded by mounting pressure to develop energy resources in the region as global demand soars. Pending final resolution of competing claims, however, there are areas where functional cooperation could help to alleviate tension and better safeguard marine resources.

In order to address these issues, participants discussed draft papers written by experts from the region which will be published in 2011 and which look at rising energy security concerns, evolving international legal issues in the East China Sea and in the South China Sea, and challenges and opportunities moving forward. Discussion focused on the opportunities for joint development of energy resources.

Maritime Energy Resources in Asia is supported by the MacArthur Foundation's Asia Security Initiative, which seeks to help Asian policy research institutions and next generation leaders strengthen their capacity to work with their counterparts to develop new ideas for fostering peace and security. The workshop is part of a three-year research project on the opportunities for joint development of energy resources in the South China Sea, East China Sea, and Gulf of Thailand, and seeks to strengthen regional networks and develop capacity building mechanisms.

Dr. Clive Schofield, Director of Research and QEII Research Fellow at the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, serves as the principal investigator. Senior advisors include Ambassador Hasjim Djalal, Indonesian Ambassador at-Large for the Law of the Sea and Maritime Affairs; Dr. Ji Guoxing, Director, Institute of International Strategic Studies, Shanghai; and Professor Ian Townsend-Gault, University of British Columbia.

Further information on the project can be accessed on NBR's website: [www.nbr.org](http://www.nbr.org). To request an interview with the authors please contact [media@nbr.org](mailto:media@nbr.org).

*Founded in 1989 with a major grant from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, NBR is an independent, nonpartisan research institution committed to informing and strengthening policy. NBR also helps train the next generation of scholars who concentrate on Asia. [www.nbr.org](http://www.nbr.org)*

# # #