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Conceptualizing and measuring energy security: A synthesized approach

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ABSTRACT

This article provides a synthesized, workable framework for analyzing national energy security policies and performance. Drawn from research interviews, survey results, a focused workshop, and an extensive literature review, this article proposes that energy security ought to be comprised of five dimensions related to availability, affordability, technology development, sustainability, and regulation. We then break these five dimensions down into 20 components related to security of supply and production, dependency, and diversification for availability; price stability, access and equity, decentralization, and low prices for affordability; innovation and research, safety and reliability, resilience, energy efficiency, and investment for technology development; land use, water, climate change, and air pollution for sustainability; and governance, trade, competition, and knowledge for sound regulation. Further still, our synthesis lists 320 simple indicators and 52 complex indicators that policymakers and scholars can use to analyze, measure, track, and compare national performance on energy security. The article concludes by offering implications for energy policy more broadly.

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1. Introduction

With energy services key to both modern economies and post-modern lifestyles, energy security is paramount to human security. Coal, oil, natural gas, and uranium are currently needed to energize our vehicles, light schools and workplaces, produce food, manufacture goods, and cool and warm our residences. The late economist E.F. Schumacher once mused that energy was "not just another commodity, but the precondition of all commodities, a basic factor equal with air, water, and earth" [1]. Yet because of its ubiquitous nature, the benefits of improved energy security are often nonrivalrous and non-excludable, similar to other public goods like national defense or clean air. As Bielecki [2] has written, "energy security is a public good which is not properly valued by the market and the benefits of which are available equally to those who pay for it and to those who do not. Consequently, the market may tend to produce a level of energy security that is less than optimal".

Thus a paradox arises: energy security is integral to modern society, yet its very ubiquity makes it prone to market failure and under-distribution. Moreover, the notions of energy security can either be so narrow that they neglect the comprehensiveness of energy challenges, or so broad that they lack precision and coherence. Trying to measure energy security by using contemporary methods in isolation — such as energy intensity or electricity

consumption per capita — is akin to trying to drive a car with only a fuel gauge, or to seeing a doctor who only checks your cholesterol [3]. Though considerable effort has been dedicated by the United Nations and other multilateral groups to the development of composite indicators of transportation productivity, environmental quality, and industrial efficiency, there are no standard metrics to evaluate energy security. Or, as Vivoda recently surmised, "with increasingly global, diverse energy markets and increasingly transnational problems resulting from energy transformation and use, old energy security rationales are less salient, and other issues, including climate change and other environmental, economic and international considerations are becoming increasingly important. As a consequence, a more comprehensive operating definition of 'energy security' is necessary, along with a workable framework for analysis of energy security policy" [4].

In this article, we attempt to propose such a workable framework. Utilizing a mixed methods approach, the article suggests that energy security ought to encompass five dimensions related to availability, affordability, technology development, sustainability, and regulation. It breaks these five dimensions down into 20 components related to security of supply and production, dependency, and diversification for availability; price stability, access and equity, decentralization, and low prices for affordability; innovation and research, safety and reliability, resilience, energy efficiency, and investment for technology development; land use, water, climate change, and air pollution for sustainability; and governance, trade, competition, and knowledge for sound regulation. It then

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categorizes 320 simple indicators and 52 complex indicators that policymakers and scholars can use to analyze, measure, track, and compare national performance on energy security. The article concludes by offering implications for energy policy more broadly.

The importance of our study is twofold. First, it provides clarity and focus to the often ambiguous concept of energy security. Rather than emphasizing a fuel-based definition of energy security (such as "oil security" or "coal security"), or limiting energy security dimensions to geopolitics, or to the supply or demand side of energy, the study argues that energy security is a complex goal involving questions about how to equitably provide available, affordable, reliable, efficient, environmentally benign, properly governed and socially acceptable energy services.

Second, an impressive and growing number of studies attempting to measure and quantify energy security have surfaced in the past few years. Collectively considered, they reveal distinct areas of overlapping emphases, but also make some notable shortcomings apparent. Such literature, for example, commonly expresses the energy security concerns of industrialized countries belonging to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, and centers on aspects of energy security such as electricity supply, nuclear power, and gasoline powered automobiles. They are thus not applicable to developing or least developed countries that have patchy and incomplete electricity networks, limited nuclear power units, and non-motorized forms of transport, something we address by collecting data from scholars in the developing world (predominantly through our research interviews). Furthermore, such studies often rely on only a handful of dimensions or metrics (such as per capita commercial energy consumption, share of commercial energy in total final energy use, share of population with access to electricity, and energy intensity) that are sectoral in focus, i.e. investigating only electricity, or energy efficiency, or household energy consumption. In response, this study synthesizes this vast literature into a condensable and usable number of dimensions and metrics looking at multiple sectors and concerns simultaneously.

2. Research methods

To better understand the concept of energy security and propose workable indicators and metrics, we relied on a four phase methodological process entailing research interviews, a survey, a focused workshop, and a review of the academic literature.

We began by conducting semi-structured research interviews with global energy security experts using a "modified Delphi method" [5,6] that involved asking key scholars a series of open ended questions. The lead author conducted 68 semi-structured research interviews over the course of February 2009 to November 2010, including visits to the International Energy Agency, U.S. Department of Energy, United Nations Environment Program, Energy Information Administration, World Bank Group, Nuclear Energy Agency, and International Atomic Energy Agency. Participants at these institutions were asked three questions:

- 1. Which dimensions of energy security are most important?
- 2. What metrics best capture these dimensions?
- 3. How might these metrics be used to create a common index or scorecard to measure national performance on energy security?

Responses were sometimes captured with a digital audio recorder and always transcribed before being coded manually and synthesized. To adhere to Institutional Review Board guidelines followed at the authors' university, particular responses must be listed anonymously to protect confidentiality. However, for reference purposes, Appendix 1 provides a complete list of all

institutions visited. This article is the first that we know of to utilize such a qualitative method of appraising energy security, since most energy policy articles rely on quantitative methods.

To supplement qualitative research interviews that are difficult to code, a quantitative survey instrument was used, asking experts to list important energy security dimensions and metrics. In most cases these were distributed during the interviews. The lead author distributed 74 printed copies of the survey to energy experts working in 15 countries at 35 institutions in Asia, Europe, and North America. We received 70 completed surveys back (for a response rate of 95%). This unusually high response rate is largely attributed to the collegial relationship between the authors and respondents, as well as some incessant nagging. Since energy experts were purposively targeted, Fig. 1 shows that the sample of respondents does have some notable biases: almost 90 percent have a postgraduate education, most are between the ages of 36—55, respondents were predominately male, and worked in academia.

Third, a focused, intensive, three day workshop was convened in Singapore in November 2009. This workshop hosted 37 participants from 17 countries, and was centered on discussing the same three questions as the interviews. The workshop consisted of nine formal sessions — with topics ranging from energy security indicators in use at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), to metrics for affordability, diversification, and energy efficiency — and was structured around intensive 2 h discussions among all participants on each topic. To encourage candor the workshop was conducted under the Chatham House Rule, though Appendix 2 lists the participants.

Lastly, respondents from the interviews, survey respondents, and workshop were asked to recommend any studies or relevant academic literature published on the topic of energy security metrics and indicators in the past ten years. An independent literature review was then conducted looking for the key phrases "energy security", "security of supply", or "energy" and "security" in the titles and abstracts of articles published in *Energy Policy, Energy, Electricity Journal*, and *The Energy Journal* in the past five years. These articles were perused for those devising energy security metrics and indicators. The most relevant of these works are depicted in references [3,4,6–34].

Taken together, these efforts constitute a unique mixed methods approach unlike most other assessments of energy security which rely on individual methods in isolation. That said, the research interviews, essentially, are the "heart" of the paper. The bulk of data presented below comes from them, rather than the survey or the literature review, primarily because the amount and value of information collected from them was significant. Although the survey consisted of mostly closed ended questions, meaning responses never exceeded 4 pages in length, some of the interviews took more than 3 h, and the average interview lasted 70 min and produced seven single spaced pages of comments. The transcribed interviews (about 500 pages) also dwarfed the length, and specificity, of the literature review; the authors found about a dozen excellent peer-reviewed articles, most of which the study cites below, but these total less than 200 pages in combined length, and not every article was entirely about energy security, whereas every interview delved deeply into the specific subject matter.

The use of such a mixed methods approach has strengths and weaknesses. One strength is its ability to synthesize qualitative data "rich" in description and analytical power along with quantitative data, something only a few other studies have done so far [see [2,4] for examples]. Another strength is the incorporation of viewpoints from a broad range of stakeholders, including those in Asia and from emerging economies. However, some shortcomings to this

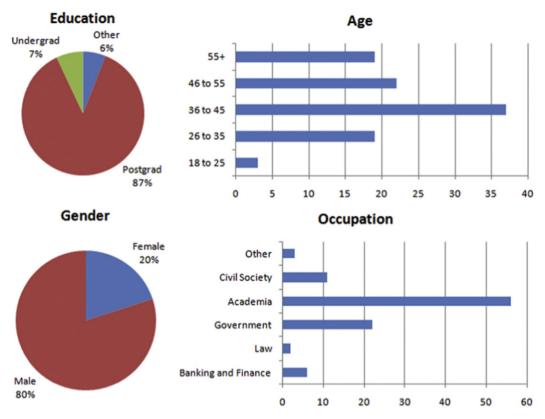


Fig. 1. Demographic details of the Energy Security Survey (n = 70).

approach include the somewhat subjective nature of coding qualitative data, the limited sample size of respondents and articles (the author searched only major energy studies journals with articles written in English), and the messiness of trying to find patterns in such as vast amount of data.

3. The multidimensional nature of energy security

There appears to be an expansive range of definitions of energy security in the policy and scholarly literature, with one recent review identifying 45 distinct definitions of the concept in practice [35].

Table 1 Energy security dimensions, values, and components.

Dimension	Explanation	Underlying Values	Components
Availability	Having sufficient supplies of energy. Being energy independent. Promoting a diversified collection of different energy technologies. Harnessing domestically available fuels and energy resources. Ensuring prudent reserve to production ratios	Self sufficiency, resource availability, security of supply, independence, imports, variety, balance, disparity	Security of Supply and Production Dependency Diversification
Affordability	Producing energy services at the lowest cost, having predictable prices for energy fuels and services, and enabling equitable access to energy services.	Cost, stability, predictability, equity, justice, reducing energy poverty	Price Stability Access and Equity Decentralization Affordability
Technology Development and Efficiency	Capacity to adapt and respond to the challenges from disruptions, researching and developing new and innovative energy technologies, making proper investments in infrastructure and maintenance. Delivering high quality and reliable energy services.	Investment, employment, technology development and diffusion, energy efficiency, stockholding, safety and quality	Innovation and Research Safety and Reliability Resilience Efficiency and Energy Intensity Investment and Employment
Environmental and Social Sustainability	Minimizing deforestation and land degradation, possessing sufficient quantity and suitable quality of water, minimizing ambient and indoor pollution, mitigating GHG emissions associated with climate change, adapting to climate change.	Stewardship, aesthetics, natural habitat conservation, water quality and availability, human health, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation.	Land Use Water Climate Change Pollution
Regulation and Governance	Having stable, transparent, and participatory modes of energy policymaking, competitive markets, promoting trade of energy technology and fuels, enhancing social and community knowledge about education and energy issues	Transparency, accountability, legitimacy, integrity, stability, resource curse, geopolitics, free trade, competition, profitability, interconnectedness, security of demand, exports	Governance Trade and Regional Interconnectivity Competition and markets Knowledge and Access to Information

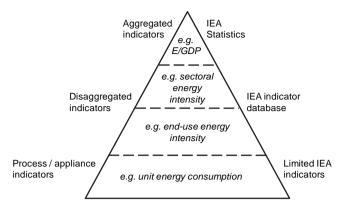


Fig. 2. The International Energy Agency "Pyramid" of Energy Indicators.

Whether it is the 'five Ss' [36], the 'four As' [37], or the 'four Rs' [38] of energy security, this multitude of definitions serves some strategic value: it enables policy actors to advance very different notions to justify their actions and policies on energy security grounds. One resulting implication is that the concept has become diffuse and often incoherent. Some authors, including those of this article, have yet to define it consistently in their own work. Or, as illustrated by one participant, "energy security is like a Rorschach inkblot test — you can see whatever you want to see in it".

Yet a holistic notion of energy security is needed in order to capture the complexity of the concept. As one respondent noted, "to focus only on energy security as revolving around coal or oil misses key relationships between fuels and also the entire spectrum of broader social, political, and economic issues that truly matter to energy users and countries". Another remarked that "an ecosystem is characterized not only by individual components, but by the interactions among all of those parts; because of this similar complexity with energy security, it is inappropriate to take a fragmented view by concentrating on an isolated piece of the system". Another commented that "any definition of energy security worth its salt needs to include at least the three prisms of poverty, economy, and environment, measuring things ranging from energy equity and access and energy intensity and industrial energy use to destruction of the environment and use of water". Put another way, the ideal of energy security is more than the sum of its parts; it is a synergistic concept that rests on multiple interconnected dimensions, akin to a complex ecosystem that is comprised of individual species and their interactions. Similar sentiments in favor of a broad, multidimensional definition of energy security have been advanced by [3,22,23,39,40].

Drawing predominately from the research interviews, we identify five key dimensions to energy security. *Availability* includes having sufficient energy resources, stockpiles, and fuels, as well as the appropriate infrastructure to transform these reserves into energy services. *Affordability* includes equitably enabling access to energy services at the lowest cost with stable prices. *Technology development* includes adapting to and recovering from interruptions in supply, investing in new research as well as proper maintenance, and ensuring reliability. *Sustainability* includes minimizing energy-related degradation to forests, land, water, air-sheds and the global climatic system. *Regulation* includes having legitimate and participatory modes of energy policymaking, competitive markets, and well informed energy consumers. Table 1 shows how each of these dimensions corresponds with a set of underlying values as well as twenty separate components in aggregate.

4. Towards an integrated metric framework

Summarizing the various dimensions and components of energy security is helpful in identifying major themes. However, more useful still is correlating these dimensions with usable metrics and indicators that can be utilized to assess national energy security policies and performance. Numerous studies on energy policy have noted that having comparative indicators is a prerequisite for setting energy targets as well as for evaluating future scenarios [3,10,21,30,41]. These studies have also concluded that measurement can enhance policymaking by condensing large amounts of complex data into recognizable patterns that can then enable regulators and analysts to find the best energy solutions in a menu of available options. It then becomes possible to highlight comparisons between classes of countries, elucidate best practices, and better understand how dimensions of energy security improve or worsen over time. This makes it possible for analysts and scholars to assess the interrelationship between energy security and major events such as military conflicts, environmental calamities, trade embargoes, or the introduction new transformational energy policies or technologies. Similarly, having focused metrics for energy security enables one to identify tradeoffs within the different dimensions of energy security and also highlight areas in need of improvement.

Frequently, metrics are divided into simple and complex. The IEA, for example, visually arranges energy indicators according to a pyramid depicted in Fig. 2. Aggregated indicators that form the basis of IEA statistics fall at the top, disaggregated indicators the middle, process indicators at the bottom.

Table 2Simple, Intermediate, and Complex Indicators for Energy Security.

Aspect of Energy Security	Quantity (Simple)	Quality (Intermediate)	Context (Complex)
Energy Imports	Share of imported energy in total energy balance, or made more specific by type of fuel (e.g., oil, coal, natural gas, uranium)	Nature of energy imports (type of imported energy and mode of import)	Specific context of energy imports for particular country or community
Energy Production and Infrastructure	Diversity of primary energy supply in domestic production	Domestic energy resources, reserve-to-production ratios	Country specific energy production and infrastructure challenges
Energy Production and Infrastructure	National power generation capacity (total or per capita)	Domestic energy infrastructure investments	Mitigation readiness and capacity
Vulnerability to Disruption Vulnerability to Disruption Vulnerability to Disruption	Energy consumption per capita Energy intensity of GDP Fuel Economy	Costs of imports versus export earnings GDP intensity by type of energy or sector Fuel economy for on-road passenger vehicles. or new vehicles	Sectoral vulnerability for transport, residential, industry, tertiary, agriculture
Equity and Access to Energy Services	Percentage of households with a reliable connection to the electricity grid	Share of household income spent on energy services	GINI coefficient of energy use
Diversification	Renewable share of energy fuel mix	Diversify of primary energy supply	Hirshman and Shannon indices of diversity
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Total greenhouse gas emissions or per capita greenhouse gas emissions	Greenhouse gas emissions by sector	Carbon dioxide intensity of specific energy carriers

Table 3Simple and Complex Energy Security Indicators and Metrics.

imension	Components	Simple Indicators and Metrics	Complex Indicators and Metrics
vailability	Security of supply	Total energy reserves	Supply/Demand (SD) Index
	and production	 Total energy reserves per capita 	 Willingness to pay for security
		 Proven recoverable energy reserves 	of supply
		 Proven recoverable energy 	
		reserves per capita	
		Average reserve-to-production ratios for	
		the four primary energy fuels (uranium, coal,	
		natural gas, and oil) in remaining years	
		Coal reserves per capita	
		Oil reserves per capita	
		Uranium reserves per capita	
		Natural gas reserves per capita Tatal ail pagamas	
		Total oil reserves Total organism recomments	
		Total patient gas resources	
		Total goal reserves Total goal reserves	
		Total coal reservesTotal renewable energy	
		resource endowment Total energy supply (including imports)	
		Self Sufficiency (% demand met by	
		domestic production)	
		Strategic fuel stock ratio	
		Total primary energy supply per capita	
		Total primary energy supply per GDP	
		Reserve-to-production ratio for uranium	
		Reserve-to-production ratio for petroleum	
		Reserve-to-production ratio for coal	
		Reserve-to-production ratio for natural gas	
		Average field recovery rate for oil	
		Average field recovery rate for natural gas	
		Total installed electricity generation	
		capacity	
		Total electricity demand	
		Peak-load electricity demand	
		Base load electricity demand	
		Refining capacity	
		(as percentage of production)	
		Refining capacity (volume refined per year)	
		Percent served by residential	
		solar home systems	
		 Percent served by cogeneration or CHP 	
		 Percent served by alternative transport fuels 	
		 Annual amount of coal production 	
		 Number of oil wells drilled for exploration 	
		 Number of coal mines 	
		 Growth in energy production per year 	
		 Total energy consumption per capita 	
		 Annual electricity consumption per capita 	
	Dependency	Oil import dependence ratio	 Stability of exporting countries
		 Coal import dependence ratio 	 Transparency International
		 Natural gas import dependence ratio 	corruption rating for exporting
		(including liquefied natural gas)	countries
		 Uranium import dependence ratio 	 Historical relationship with
		 Net electricity imports 	exporting countries
		 Annual change in net electricity imports 	 State Fragility Index rating of
		 Annual change in net fuel imports 	exporting countries
		 Ratio of exports and imports 	 Worldwide Governance
		to consumption	Indicator rating of exporting count
		 Number of international electricity 	
		interconnections	
		Total oil imports (barrels of oil)	
		 Ratio of value of oil imports to GDP 	
		 Oil consumption per unit of GDP 	
		• % of imports coming from the Middle East	
		• % of imports coming from outside the region	
		Annual transfers of wealth to oil producers	
		(in USD)	
		Balance of payments related to energy	
		imports	
		Diversification in an energy and desetion	Classica NAP and a Landon
	Diversification	 Diversification in energy production 	 Shannon—Wiener Index
	Diversification	 Diversification in energy production Diversification in total primary energy supply 	 Snannon—Wiener Index Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI) Index

Table 3 (continued)

Dimension	Components	Simple Indicators and Metrics	Complex Indicators and Metrics
		Diversification in oil supply	Mean Variance Portfolio MEN The agent
		Diversification in coal supply Diversification in patternly are supply	(MVP) Theory
		Diversification in natural gas supplyDiversification of fuels for electricity	
		Diversification of fuels for transport	
		Diversification of fuels for heating	
		and cooling	
		Geographic dispersion of energy	
		facilities	
		 Diversification of ownership 	
		of energy companies	
		 Number of flex fuel vehicles 	
		Number of power plants that	
		can run on multiple fuels (e.g.,	
		co-firing of biomass and coal) • Share of nuclear energy	
		in total primary energy supply	
		Share of hydroelectricity in total	
		primary energy supply	
		Share of non-hydroelectric renewable	
		resources in total primary energy supply	
		Share of non-carbon energy sources	
		in energy	
		Rate of contractually	
		flexible electricity demand	
Affordability	Price Stability	End-use energy prices by fuel	Price of macroeconomic shocks
		End-use energy prices by sector	caused by volatility
		(residential, commercial, industrial)	
		 Regional price differences (average price in most expensive/cheapest deciles) 	
		Electricity and petrol price volatility	
		(annual % change)	
		• % energy use covered by long-term contracts	
		Fuel price volatility	
		Carbon price volatility	
		 Currency exchange rate volatility 	
	Access and Equity	 Percent of households with high quality 	Burden threshold variable
		connections to the electricity grid	 Energy GINI coefficient
		Rate of electrification (number of	
		new connection per year) • Percent of population reliant on charcoal,	
		dung, and biomass for cooking	
		Percent of people that use mechanical power	
		for productive, non-industrial applications,	
		such as water pumping, agricultural	
		mechanization, and grinding and milling	
		 Rate of electrification expansion (annual % change) 	
		Annual number of new electricity customers served	
		(number of new customers served)	
		Revenues lost from electricity theft	
		 Average number of household electric appliances Vehicle ownership 	
		Income distribution tied to energy use,	
		lowest quintile	
		Average household expenditure on energy	
		Annual household electricity consumption	
		(in kWh)	
		 Average kilometers driven per private 	
		automobile per capita	
		• % of total dwelling areas that are air	
		conditioned	
		 Annual sales of new air conditioners Per capita number of televisions 	
		Per capita number of televisions Per capita number of computers	
		Per capita number of refrigerators	
		Per capita number of light bulbs	
		Occupancy rate of vehicles	
		Average income levels of automobile drivers	
		 Presence of reliable mass transit systems 	
		• Ratio of net fuel imports to GDP	
	Decentralization	Percent of energy needs met by distributed	
		generation (units less than 1 MW)	
		Number of households served by off-grid lighting Number of households served by migra grids	
		 Number of households served by micro-grids 	

(continued on next page)

Table 3 (continued)

Dimension	Components	Simple Indicators and Metrics	Complex Indicators and Metrics
		Average construction lead time for new energy	
		infrastructure% electricity generation met by combined	
		heat and power/cogeneration	
		Number of installed residential solar photovoltaic	
		systems	
		Installed capacity of fuel cells	
		Installed capacity of micro-turbines Installed capacity of residential wind turbines	
		 Installed capacity of residential wind turbines Installed capacity of biogas units 	
	Affordability	Share of household income spent on fuel	 Ratio of daily disposable income
	·	and electricity	to energy consumption
		Public expenditure on subsidies as	 Equity of access to grid/transmission
		percent of GDP • Industrial energy prices	system • Household energy use for each
		Residential energy prices	income group and
		Retail gasoline prices	corresponding fuel mix
		 Price of 1 kg of fuel wood 	
		Price of 1 kg of charcoal	
		 Price of 1 L of kerosene Market prices for coal 	
		Market prices for coar Market prices for uranium	
		Market prices for oil	
		 Market prices for natural gas 	
		Average price of residential electricity per GDP	
		 Sales of industrial electricity per industrial GDP Inflation caused by import fees 	
		End-use energy retail prices by fuel and sector	
		Avoided cost of power generation	
		 Marginal cost of electricity power generation 	
		Fuel cost for electricity generation The provision and distribution and for electricity.	
		 Transmission and distribution cost for electricity Carbon price 	
		Wholesale price of electricity	
Technology	Innovation and	Total energy research expenditures	 Research intensity (% government
Development	Research	Annual number of new energy patents	expenditures on energy research
and Efficiency		Total number of energy patents Public research intensity (research and the second and the	comparedto all expenditures)
		 Public research intensity (government expenditures on energy research compared 	
		to all government expenditures)	
		Private research intensity (private expenditures	
		on energy research compared to all expenditures)	
		 Research budgets for renewable sources of energy Research budget for fusion 	
		Research budget for advanced fission	
		Research budget for hydrogen	
		 Research budget for biofuels 	
		• Overall research expenditures (public + private)	
		as a percentage of GDPResearch consistency (% change from year to	
		year in expenditures)	
	Safety and reliability	Frequency of electric power grid	 System Average Interruption
	, ,	Voltage control of electric power grid	Duration Index (SAIDI)
		Number of hours homes have electricity per year	System Average Interruption
		Cost of interruptions Veltage central of electric power grid	Frequency Index (SAIFI) • Customer Average Duration
		 Voltage control of electric power grid Number of major energy sector accidents and failures 	Index (CAIDI)
		(defined as accidents involving at least one fatality	Breakdown of energy supply
		and/or \$50,000 of property damage)	per energy carrier (in MJ)
		Number of annual terrorist attacks and disruptions	 Crisis Capability Index (CCI)
		on energy infrastructure	Average time required to restore
		 Number of natural disasters Number of coal mining accidents or deaths per year 	service to the average customer per sustained interruption
		Cases of pneumoconiosis (black lung disease)	
		 Frequency of electricity blackouts or supply 	
		interruptions	
		 Duration of electricity blackouts or supply interruptions Annual revenues lost due to electricity blackouts 	
		Annual revenues lost due to electricity blackouts or interruptions	
		Interruptions in electricity supply per year per customer	
		 Hours of availability of electricity per day 	
		Annual accident fatalities per specific fuel chain	
	Pociliance and	Value of lost load for electricity Cas capacity margins (maximum supply versus)	- Emergency property
	Resilience and adaptive capacity	 Gas capacity margins (maximum supply versus maximum demand) 	Emergency preparedness measuresGenerator profile (seasonal)
	adaptive cupatity		- deficiator profife (deadoriar)
		 Electricity capacity margins (maximum supply 	 Availability of trained repair

Table 3 (continued)

Dimension	Components	Simple Indicators and Metrics	Complex Indicators and Metrics
	Сотроленс	Secondary frequency control reserve (for electricity transmission) Tertiary frequency control reserve (for electricity transmission) Critical electricity surplus Percentage of energy capacity actually utilized Peak-load to base load ratios Generator profiles summer/winter Emergency stockpiles for oil (days meet demand) Emergency oil stockpiles (% imports) Emergency stockpiles for coal (days meet demand) Emergency coal stockpiles (% imports) Emergency stockpiles for natural gas (days meet demand) Emergency stockpiles for natural gas (days meet demand) Emergency natural gas stockpiles (% imports) Availability of trained repair personnel Availability of spare parts and supplies Generation adequacy System adequacy	Availability of spare parts and supplies
	Efficiency and energy intensity	 Energy intensity (number of BTUs needed for US\$1 of GDP) Number of LEED certified buildings Average thermal efficiency of power plants Fuel economy for new vehicles Fuel economy for on-road vehicles Fuel economy for rail (megajoules per ton-kilometer traveled) Fuel economy for aviation Fuel economy for freight and heavy trucks (megajoules per ton-kilometer traveled) Fuel economy for marine transport (megajoules per ton-kilometer traveled) Fuel economy for marine transport (megajoules per ton-kilometer traveled) Electricity transmission and distribution losses Space heating efficiency Annual energy efficiency savings (revenues) Annual energy efficiency savings (billion kWh) Energy intensity for total manufacturing Energy intensity for chemicals manufacturing Energy intensity for paper, pulp, and print Energy intensity for paper, pulp, and print Energy intensity for metal products and equipment Energy intensity for food, beverages, and tobacco Energy intensity for cement manufacturing Energy intensity for coment manufacturing Energy intensity for coment manufacturing Energy intensity for coment manufacturing Energy intensity for iron and steel Energy intensity for aluminum 	 Energy payback ratio for total energy sector Energy end use efficiency for buildings Standard Assessment Procedure rating for households
	Investment and employment	 Planned new energy projects including construction status of approved projects Direct employment in the energy sector Indirect employment in the energy sector Induced employment in the energy sector Technical expertise (number of engineers or energy employees) Unemployment in the energy sector (%) Expenditures on financial support mechanisms for renewable energy Investment in electricity transmission (billions of dollars/year) Net capital investment in energy infrastructure Total amount of stranded costs or sunk costs Average age of energy capital stock Average power plant age Planned new generation capacity Average rate of return on energy 	Average construction lead time for new energy infrastructure Net total investments in energy infrastructure (billions of dollars)
Environmental and social sustainability	Land use	investments • Total environmental footprint of energy facilities • Energy pollution's impact on habitats • Generation of energy-related industrial and municipal solid waste • Generation of energy-related hazardous waste • Generation of energy-related radioactive waste • Deforestation related to energy use and fuel collection	 Cost of noise pollution Loss of farmland due to decline in soil quality

Table 3 (continued)

Dimension	Components	Simple Indicators and Metrics	Complex Indicators and Metrics
	Water	 Energy-related mercury discharges to water supplies Occurrence of annual climate-changed 	 Annual economic damages from energy-related water contamination Economic damage to fisheries from
		related droughts	energy production
		Thermal discharges to water sourcesWater withdrawals per kWh	
		Water consumption per kWh	
		Water use per kWh	
		 Water use efficiency Energy intensity of water treatment	
		Volume of tritium leaked into local	
		water supplies	
		Water used per ton of coal minedWater used per ton of uranium mined	
		 Water used per barrel of oil refined 	
	Climate change	Share of zero-carbon fuels in energy mixTotal greenhouse gas emissions from	 Carbon dioxide intensities of transport (per km driven)
		energy production and use	Carbon dioxide intensity
		(including land use changes)	of electricity (per kWh)
		 Per capita greenhouse gas emissions from energy production and use (including land use changes) 	 Carbon dioxide intensity of industrial output
		Total greenhouse gas emissions from	Carbon dioxide intensity
		energy production and use (excluding	of buildings (per square foot)
		land use changes) • Per capita greenhouse gas emissions	
		from energy production	
		and use (excluding land use changes)	
		 Energy-related methane emissions Energy-related nitrous oxide emissions 	
		Carbon content of primary fuels	
		 Annual revenue related to carbon credits Presence of climate change goals and targets 	
		 Presence of children change goals and targets CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion 	
		 CO₂ emissions from electricity sector 	
	Pollution	 Annual nitrogen oxide emissions Annual nitrous oxide emissions 	 Ratio of waste to units of energy produced
		Annual sulfur dioxide emissions	Economic damage from annual
		Annual emissions of volatile organic compounds	oil spills (USD)
		Annual benzene emissionsAnnual emissions of particulate matter	 Disability adjusted life years associated with biomass
		Annual emissions of particulate matter Annual emissions of lead	use/indoor energy combustion
		Annual emissions of mercury	
		 Annual emissions of carbon monoxide Annual emissions of cadmium 	
		Annual emissions of black carbon	
		Per capita nitrogen oxide emissions Per capita nitrogen oxide emissions	
		Per capita nitrous oxide emissionsPer capita sulfur dioxide emissions	
		 Per capita emissions of volatile organic compounds 	
		Per capita benzene emissionsPer capita emissions of particulate matter	
		Per capita emissions of particulate matter Per capita emissions of lead	
		Per capita emissions of mercury	
		 Per capita emissions of carbon monoxide Per capita emissions of cadmium 	
		 Per capita emissions of black carbon 	
		Number of annual oil spills (greater than 50 barrels) Volume of oil spilled each year.	
		 Volume of oil spilled each year Percent of power plants equipped with pollution 	
		abatement equipment	
		 Number of households with improved cook stoves Annual volume of sales from woodlots 	
Regulation and	Governance	Number of electricity system regulators	• Transparency International
governance		Percent government revenue dependent on energy	Corruption Index
		 Provision of priority grid access to renewable energy Strength or sufficiency of environmental permitting 	 Worldwide Governance Indicators (CIGI/World Bank)
		and impact assessment requirements	State Fragility Index
		 Length of time it takes new business to get electricity service 	UN Human Development Indicators (HDI)
		Frequency of changes in regulatory or institutional	Indicators (HDI) • Satisfaction (share of adult
		mechanisms	population satisfied with
		 Frequency of review of country energy profile Presence of climate change goals or targets 	policy and planning mechanisms)
		Number of annual protests relating to energy	ciiiiii
			(continued on next nage)

(continued on next page)

Table 3 (continued)

Dimension	Components	Simple Indicators and Metrics	Complex Indicators and Metrics
		Completeness of existing legislation	
		 Estimated annual revenues lost to corruption in the 	
		energy industry	
		Country credit rating	
	Trade and regional	 Amount of transnational electricity trading (kWh) 	
	interconnectivity	 Volume of natural gas/oil exported 	
		 Annual revenue from exports of energy fuels and technology 	
		 Number of free trade agreements signed 	
		related to trade of energy fuels	
		Total electricity interconnection	
		capacity (installed)	
		 Amount of interconnector trading 	
		of electricity (kWh traded)	
		 Number of flagged LNG tankers 	
		 Number of flagged very large 	
		crude carriers (oil tankers)	
		 Volume of energy imports via pipeline 	
		 Volume of energy imports via rail 	
		 Number of attacks or acts of piracy 	
		on flagged marine vessels carrying	
		energy fuels and/or equipment	
		 Number of transnational natural gas pipelines 	
		 Number of LNG ports 	
		 Number of existing production sharing 	
		agreements in the oil sector	
		 Volume of energy shared during 	
		emergencies	
		 Foreign direct investment in the 	
		energy sector	
	Competition and	 Market share by largest three energy 	
	markets	suppliers or companies	
		 Rate of return for energy companies 	
		 Percent of generation capacity owned 	
		by independent power providers	
		 Average annual change of GDP energy intensity 	
		 Tax burden of energy sales volume 	
		 Ratio of accounts receivable to annual production 	
		volume of energy industries	
		 Total amount of annual public energy subsidies 	
		 Total amount of annual public energy subsidies 	
		per capita	
	Knowledge and	Periodic publication of official energy planning	 Public resistance to new power
	access to information	documents and/or statistics	generating units
		Number of customers served by net metering	 Energy literacy of users
		Number of customers served by real time	
		pricing or smart grids	
		Annual cost of energy-related	
		externalities (to inform policymakers)	
		Annual cost of automobile	
		accidents (to inform policymakers)	
		Annual deaths from automobile	
		accidents (to inform policymakers)	

Source: Research interviews as well as [11,13-20,23-28,32-34,47-55].

Other approaches, like those currently being proposed at the Energy Security component of the IIASA's Global Energy Assessment, divide indicators among a continuum of "simplest", "intermediate", and "complex". This system of categorization can be used to disaggregate indicators measuring quantity (simple), quality (intermediate) and context (complex) for the various components of energy security identified above. Table 2 is provided as an illustrative example breaking down some of the energy security components into their constituent simple, intermediate and complex indicators. For instance, a "simple" indicator for energy imports would be the share of imported energy; an "intermediate" one the type of imported energy and mode of import (such as via pipeline, tanker, or rail); a "complex" one the specific qualitative context of imports from a particular location.

Still other studies, such as [20,23,34] classify "simple" indicators as those that can be expressed in "physical" or "monetary" terms, whereas "complex" indicators use diversity indices. For these sorts

of studies, the following types of indicators would be classified as "simple":

- Resource estimates and reserves;
- Reserve to production ratios;
- Share of zero-carbon fuels;
- Import dependence;
- Political risk rating;
- Energy prices;
- Ratio of a country's consumption over the total market for a fuel;
- Energy intensity;
- Energy expenditures for research.

"Complex" or "aggregate" indicators would be those derived by diversity indices such as the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index or Shannon—Wiener Index [42–47].

Acknowledging that aggregate indicators differ from disaggregated and process indicators, that indicators can measure quantity, quality and context, and that some can be expressed in physical or monetary terms while others require aggregation into a diversity index, we have chosen to divide our indicators for energy security into "simple" and "complex". We define an indicator as "complex" if it is an established aggregate indicator that includes the measurement of multiple variables or if it involves time intensive, detailed means of measurement. Complex indicators thus allow for depth of assessment. By contrast, simple indicators are those that are more suitable for a rapid, snapshot appraisal of energy security. Synthesizing and distilling from the academic literature, as well as the data collected through interviews, survey responses, and the workshop, Table 3 presents 320 simple indicators and 52 complex indicators corresponding to the 20 energy security dimensions. Some of these indicators do overlap, making the table complicated, but such intricateness directly results from the abundance of data collected from the interviews and other methods

5. Conclusion

Through our synthesized mixed methods assessment of energy security we offer four conclusions. Firstly, the data that has been compiled from an extensive literature review as well from original primary sources including research interviews, a survey, and a focused intensive workshop, strongly suggest that energy security is a multidimensional phenomenon. Energy reserves and stockpiles, fuel mixes and diversification, price stability and affordability, justice and equity, technology development, energy efficiency, resilience, investment, environmental quality, governance, and regulation all influence — and thus form part of — contemporary national energy security issues. These should supplement current investigations that look exclusively at security of supply, access to oil and coal, or the price of energy services as "elemental" components of energy security.

Secondly, these diffuse elements of energy security can be categorized according to 20 separate and distinct dimensions that then correspond to 320 simple and 52 complex indicators. These metrics are useful and relevant to those attempting to better understand energy security issues, assess best practices, comprehend tradeoffs between energy security dimensions, and identify vulnerabilities within and between countries. The composite index presented here is broad enough to capture meaningful differences among developed and developing economies, energy importers and exporters, big and small countries, and rich and poor communities. It is also more rigorous and complete than existing indices in the field: rigorous in the sense that it has been derived from consultations with dozens of experts trained in different disciplines from different types of countries, complete in the sense that it looks at technical supply and demand side aspects of energy security simultaneously along with social, political, and economic ones across a variety of sectors including electricity and transport. We thus urge policymakers and scholars alike to start applying these metrics to evaluate national and perhaps even sub-national energy security performance.

Thirdly, however, is that collecting data for composite indices of energy security will be difficult. For one, it may not be possible to collect data for even most of the 372 energy security metrics for particular countries, yet alone all of them. Perhaps more feasible would be collecting data for one to two of the simple and complex indicators above for each dimension, meaning analysts could boil down the complete list presented in Table 3 to 20 indicators

depending on the country and data availability, using it as an instructive guide rather than an exhaustive checklist. The process of collecting data for an energy security index itself might reveal pressing energy concerns, or gaps in institutional capacity, that need addressed. Data reliability and accuracy will also be paramount issues to contend with.

Fourth, if the energy security dimensions projected here are accurate, the proposed indicators best capture these dimensions. and the challenges to data collection and synthesis above can be overcome, then the logical next step is to begin collecting data on these indicators for countries around the world so that energy security can be systematically investigated, both spatially (between countries) and temporally (compared across time for a particular country). Such metrics could even be used to create a snapshot of a given country's energy security threats, or to reveal whose energy security has rapidly improved or deteriorated. Conversely, such an index could help illustrate tradeoffs between different energy security metrics, as well as which technologies or policies truly enhance energy security across all of its interstitial dimensions. Only then, perhaps, can many of the daunting energy security vulnerabilities facing most countries actually be reduced in practice.

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Appendix 1. Institutional Affiliations of Energy Security Research Interviews (Where the institute is headquartered is mentioned in parentheses)

Arizona State University (United States)

Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (Japan)

Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)

Atomic Energy Commission (India)

Center for Energy Policy and Economics (Switzerland)

Center for Policy Research (India)

Center for Security Analysis (India)

Central European University (Hungary)

Chiang Mai University (Thailand)

Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)

Dalhousie University (Canada)

European Commission (Belgium)

Georgia Institute of Technology (United States)

Indian Statistical Institute (India)

Indonesian Institute for Energy Economics (Indonesia)

Institute for the Analysis of Global Security (United States)

International Atomic Energy Agency (Austria)

International Energy Agency (France)

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (Austria)

Malaysia Energy Centre (Malaysia)

National University of Singapore (Singapore)

Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (Netherlands)

Nuclear Energy Agency (France)

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (Austria)

Rocky Mountain Institute (United States)

Shandong Institute of Business and Technology (China)

Stanford University (United States)

The Energy and Resources Institute (India)

The Open University (United Kingdom)

United Nations Environment Program (France)

United Nations Development Program (Austria)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Austria)

US Department of Energy (United States)

US Department of Defense (United States)

University of California Berkeley (United States)

University of Helsinki (Finland)

University of Sussex (United Kingdom)

University of Tokyo (Japan)

University of Waikato (New Zealand)

Vanderbilt University (United States)

Vermont Law School (United States)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (United

States)

World Bank (United States)

World Resources Institute (United States)

Appendix 2

Participants at the International Workshop on Energy Security Concepts and Indicators for Asia, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, November 14–16 2009, Singapore.

Participant	Institution
Shonali Pachauri	
Shohan Pachauri	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
Alan McDonald	International Atomic Energy Agency
Larry Hughes	Dalhousie University
Li Jinke	Shandong Institute of Business
El Jilike	and Technology
Shi Dan	Chinese National Academy of Sciences
Nathalie Trudeau	International Energy Agency
Aad Van Bohemen	International Energy Agency
Andreas Goldthau	Central European University
Rekha Krishnan	The Energy and Resources Institute
Sanjay Verma	Indian Ministry of External Affairs
S. Rajagopal	Indian Atomic Energy Commission
Eshita Gupta	The Energy and Resources Institute
Krishnaswamy	Center for Security Analysis
Srinivasan	
Ami Indriyanto	Indonesian Institute for Energy
	Economics
Masanari Koike	The University of Tokyo
Gladys Mak	Malaysia Energy Center
Jaap C. Jansen	Energy Research Centre of the
Danier Danie	Netherlands
Barry Barton Scott Valentine	University of Waikato National University of Singapore
Hooman Peimani	Singaporean Energy Studies Institute
Geoffrey Kevin Pakiam	Singaporean Energy Studies Institute
Mely Caballero-Anthony	Nanyang Technological University
Joergen Oerstroem	Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
Moeller	institute of Southeast Asian Studies
Violet Chen	Singaporean Energy Market Authority
Edgard Gnansounou	Laboratory of Energy Systems
Tira Foran	Chang Mai University
Aleh Cherp	Central European University
John Kessels	IEA Clean Coal Centre
Andy Stirling	University of Sussex
Michael Dworkin	University of Vermont Law School
Godfrey Boyle	The Open University
Mike Pasqualetti	Arizona State University
Jack Barkenbus	Vanderbilt University
Marilyn Brown	Georgia Institute of Technology
Christopher Cooper	Oomph Consulting
Gal Luft	Institute for the Analysis of
	Global Security
Anne Korin	Institute for the Analysis of

Global Security

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