

## 5. Lack of energy-policy co-ordination among countries is impacting regional stability and an obstacle to cohesive regional energy planning

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The South Asian region is a consortium of 7 developing countries namely India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Maldives and Nepal.

Of these seven, 5 of the countries share land borders. India shares its land borders with Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Since these 7 nations are concentrated over a relatively small area in terms of size, they lay an increased stress on the existing natural resources.

With the growing economy in this region and widespread poverty, the population growth in the south asian continents may have the following two impacts in the region:

- 1) And increased pressure on the existing natural resource
- 2) This may strain the bilateral relations between these countries further in the current context of already strained relations between these countries.

On asking Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri , a Nobel Peace Prize winner and a keynote speaker at the ISES 2011 for his thoughts on this issue, he opines that the situation is becoming increasingly better in this region with governments realizing that the political boundaries may not necessarily be the ecological boundaries and are working towards minimizing the aftermath of this impact.

And it can be seen in history that this has happened. In 1960, The Indus Water treaty between India and Pakistan brought both these countries to a consensus on how they were going to share the rivers that are common to both these regions.

Today, the economic growth in developing nations is resulting in the demand for energy.

Atiq, a Pakistani delegate currently pursuing Mechanical engineering at McGill opines that the best way to address the growing energy demands is through renewable energy considering that they are low cost, localized (and hence can be installed in the scattered villages across the region) and effective. Besides, most of these energy sources return the

cost of investment over a period of time and hence act as the most suitable direction for developing nations to head towards in the current context of rapid economic development.

The solution seems relatively simple. The way forward is clean green energy sources that we can sustain and more importantly, those that are localized, so that they can be implemented across various regions and countries without having to compromise based on resource availability. A localized energy supply would lay minimized stress on the existing natural resources and hence release the political stress amongst countries that share these natural resources.

