



PRESS RELEASE

Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore Organizes Arctic Energy Conference in Singapore

Singapore, 17 August 2016 – The Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore will organize a half-day conference on “Energy Transitions and a Globalized Arctic: The Role of Science, Technology and Governance” on 19 August 2016. The Conference, which is open to the public, will be preceded by a closed-door workshop on 17 and 18 August. The three day event is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.

In an increasingly globalized Arctic, human activity is expected to increase as the region becomes more accessible, and with this comes rising energy demand. At the basic level, the sustainable energy transition challenges surrounding remote communities and operations are common around the world. For example, many remote communities in Southeast Asia are cut off from the main grid and researchers in both Southeast Asia and the Arctic are similarly developing sustainable off-grid energy systems that can be clean, affordable, easy to manage and resilient. Besides the technological system itself, a proper governance framework has to be in place for the system to function effectively. Pooling relevant expertise from within and outside the Arctic to support science and technological collaboration and in sharing the best practices of good energy governance is one way to tackle these common challenges.

The purpose of this three day event is to pool relevant expertise from within and outside the Arctic to support science and technological collaboration, and in sharing the best practices of energy governance, in order to address common energy challenges.

The preceding workshop involves about thirty participants from the Arctic, Southeast Asia and Singapore. They will discuss issues such as remote access to energy, maritime infrastructure and

shipping, renewable energy transitions and the role of research and development. At the Conference, seven of the workshop participants will provide the key findings from the preceding workshop.

The Conference will be graced by Guest of Honour, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Manpower Mr Sam Tan Chin Siong. Professor S.K. Chou, Executive Director of the NUS Energy Studies Institute will deliver the welcome remarks, and United States Ambassador to Singapore, His Excellency Kirk Wagar will deliver a keynote address.

In 2012, the Energy Studies Institute organized a conference on *Energy Security and Geopolitics in the Arctic: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century* to better understand the legal, political, energy, military, security and environmental stakes for the Arctic's littoral states as well as the non-littoral states.

For the Conference programme and other information, please visit

<http://esi.nus.edu.sg/eventitem/2016/08/19/default-calendar/energy-transitions-and-a-globalized-arctic-the-role-of-science-technology-and-governance>

For more information on the Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore, please visit

<http://esi.nus.edu.sg/>

Your reporter is cordially invited to cover the conference opening. The conference agenda is appended for your easy reference. **Please confirm your attendance by Thursday, 18 August 2016, 2pm.**

The rest of the conference is open to members of the media. Please note that videography and photography will only be allowed for interviews on the sidelines of the conference and not during the panel discussions. For more information, please contact:

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The full transcripts of the speeches will be provided after their deliveries.

About the National University of Singapore

A leading global university in Asia, the National University of Singapore is Singapore's flagship university which offers a global approach to education and research. NUS has 17 faculties and schools across three campuses. NUS offers a global and Asian experience that is broad, deep and rigorous. An NUS education is recognized as among the best in Asia, and the world.

NUS has four Research Centers of Excellence (RCE) and 27 university-level research institutes and centres. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences, biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information, please visit <http://www.nus.edu.sg>

About the Energy Studies Institute, NUS

The Energy Studies Institute (ESI) is an independent research institute within the National University of Singapore. ESI was established in 2007 in response to the need to better understand global energy developments and their implications for Singapore. ESI examines the economic, environmental and international relations aspects of energy. Besides being a focal point for energy policy research in Singapore, ESI also contributes to energy dialogue and collaboration within the region.

In the short period since it was established, ESI has grown from strength to strength, organizing international conferences, training workshops and seminars. ESI is working closely with international and Singapore-based scholars on collaborative research projects and have forged close relationships with many renowned policy institutions and universities.

ESI came in at 8th place in the “Top Energy and Resource Policy” category of the 2015 Global Go-To Think Tank Index which was released on 29 January 2016. Within a year, ESI has moved up two notches to 8th in a list of 55 think-tanks engaged in energy and resource policy activities.

For more information, please visit <http://www.esi.nus.edu.sg>
