

# South Asian Energy and Emission Perspectives for 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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This paper examines the energy supply strategies for South Asia during the 21<sup>st</sup> century considering different scenarios of economic growth. The study is based on the IIASA-WEC project on global energy perspectives and is particularly focused on the region of South Asia so as to determine the region's role in world's energy policies during the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The study examines South Asia closely with a view to identifying the strategic changes that the region is expected to undergo in its energy supply profile during this century. The study proceeds on similar lines as the parent work on global energy perspectives. The advantage of the global model, as adopted in the IIASA-WEC study, over stand-alone regional models is that there are no free lunches in that the imports do take into consideration their global availability and competing demands from other regions are also addressed. With a total population of 1.13 billion and accounting for 22% of the world population in 1990, South Asia had the lowest per capita income of \$334. It is one of the poorest regions of the world with the third lowest share of world's GDP, being only ahead of Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Eastern Europe. Consequently, the region's per capita energy consumption is drastically low and is even much below the world's average per capita energy consumption levels. The region contributed 3% of the global carbon emission in 1990 while the developed regions such as North America and Western Europe were the major contributors. Carbon emission on per capita basis was the lowest in South Asia in 1990. Such poverty and economic standards are clearly unacceptable and the region has to take major strides in not only removing poverty but has also to ensure some level of prosperity. This study contributes to the understanding of the needs of the South Asian region in the long run so as to meet such requirements of regional development.

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