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Call For Workshop Papers **FAIR ENERGY TRANSITION – THE ROLE OF LATIN AMERICA AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Humanity is facing a civilizational crisis. Unlike previous challenges on warfare, conflicts, and geopolitical tensions experienced during the 20th century, the contemporary era has a vital environmental component. The potential for civilizational breakdown has been accelerated by Anthropocene-induced environmental, climatic, energy, water, and food concerns (Bartra 2014; Gudynas 2017). Put differently, the world is experiencing a rapid erosion of the existing model of economic, productive, and social organization, with its respective expressions in the ideological, symbolic, and cultural spheres. This crisis is punctuated by specific elements of the growth model that propelled carbon-intensive industrialization in the Global North, notably underpinned by intensive processes of commodity production, which has been elevated as a universal logic for progress in the last 25 years. In so doing, economic growth under neoliberalism exacerbated the expenditure of materials and energy (Vega 2009, 1).

In facing this ecological crisis, an emerging global consensus began to be consolidated across climate negotiations. A fundamental step to put a halt on rising sea level and warming temperatures emphasized the need to advance a global energy transition, meaning a systemic shift away from carbon-intensive economic activities to more environmentally and socially sustainable alternatives. This transformation of energy systems, in turn, requires ‘common but differentiated’ responsibilities and both developed and developing countries ought to share the burden of decarbonization. However, to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement, demand is expected to increase by 40% for copper and rare earth elements (REES), 60-70% for cobalt and nickel, and almost 90% for lithium in the next two decades (International Energy Agency 2021, 5). Thus, the link between extractive industries and clean energy transition is patently clear. To undergo the green energy revolution, mining—and consequently mineral producers around the world—will play a vital role as suppliers of the critical raw materials required to build the infrastructure and machineries for renewables.

A new international division of labor has emerged around the global supply chain of clean energy technologies. On one hand, what we now call “critical raw materials” needed for the worldwide energy transition are located in regions that do not have advanced engineering technologies, such as Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. On the other hand, countries participating in the downstream segment of the value chains—production of photovoltaic panels, electric vehicles, and wind turbines—also control the rents accrued from technological innovation. Despite the lack of natural resources, European countries, South Korea, and Japan have successfully controlled the production of alloys, magnets, and other intermediate inputs; they also participate in advanced manufacturing, high tech digital



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goods, **and** strategic military systems. In this spectrum of geological lottery, China, US, and Russia share some interesting similarities—these countries not only seek natural resources from other countries, but they also bear important reserves within their own territories, though protected for national security and industrial competitiveness reasons.

Despite this complexity in the political economy of green growth, debates on energy transition have often portrayed the switch to renewables as a relatively simple process of energy system transformation, wherein technological solutions aided by the market mechanisms. However, fossil fuels have been deeply embedded in modern economic life that decoupling faces serious feasibility questions. On the one hand, easy to access fossil fuels are running out and a case in favor of renewable energy sources has shown steadily grown over the years (Abas, Kalair, and Khan 2015; Palmer 2019). On the other hand, climate targets have not only failed to cover all greenhouse gasses and sectors, but many countries have also remained far from achieving their 2020 targets across sectors. The tremendous growth in some renewable energy sectors only lead to moderate increase on a yearly basis, and such gradual improvements are largely an outcome of rising global energy demand, disruptions in supply chains, and continuing consumption and investment in new fossil fuels (Murdock et al. 2021). With geopolitical tensions rising at the beginning of 2022, national security and high politics have taken center stage, overshadowing climate diplomacy.

Secondly, redistributive conflicts linked to the energy transition are often neglected, especially given the limited linkages between mineral extraction and the expansion of clean energy (International Energy Agency 2021). While ownership and natural resource management models are quite distinctive across the global South, the concentration of wealth and mineral rents in private hands has failed at generating long-term growth apart from the inability of many developing countries to promote structural transformation through their natural resources sectors (Nem Singh 2019). In the context of accelerated demand for mining, communities at the extractive frontiers must be capable of making meaningful decisions over territorial use to mitigate social conflicts and ecological consequences related to energy transition. This, then, requires broadening our conceptual lens on environmental governance beyond traditional problem-solving approaches (Nem Singh 2022).

This idea of governance seeks to focus our attention on what both academics and civil society in different regions of the world, especially Latin America, have deliberated about the required actions to design and establish a fair energy model. The debates on what is understood as fair or just are as diverse as the historical trajectories of each territory. However, the concept of fair transition focuses on the creation of models that prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable populations, as fundamentally a transition out of ‘the logic of unequal relations’ (Velicu and Barca, 2020) that have characterized the fossil fuel regime. Both public and private investments in the processes of exploitation, distribution and access



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to energy must follow the dynamics of deprivatizing, decolonizing, deconcentrating and decentralizing (Bertinat, 2016; Tirado and Jiménez, 2019; Ramos, 2019; Rivera, 2020 and Setton, 2020) to the extent that community participation and decision-making, respect for labor rights, especially those of women, and recognition of cultural differences that may exist between regions are considered essential; it is necessary to remodel the prevailing governance criteria, including those around renewable energy, seeking instead to build new paths of self-determination and independence for the communities of the Global South.

The proposed workshop sets out to answer the following questions:

- What are the continuities and changes in natural resource governance models between the 20. and 21. centuries, and to what extent is a new governance model emerging in the race to secure critical raw materials (CRMs) in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia?
- What common social, economic, and political factors have driven countries in Latin America and Southeast Asia to undertake particular pathways on energy transition?
- What are the common driving forces in East Asia that have shaped their industrial and energy policies, and in turn, their decisions on investment, trade and finance, in relation to their energy transition plans?

The workshop aims to attract conceptually innovative and empirically grounded, data-driven papers for a double publication initiative, firstly a special issue proposal and secondly an edited book with a major university press, which will be led by the GRIP-ARM research team and our network. We therefore seek around 30 papers on the following suggested themes:

Panel 1. Actual prevalence, potentials and challenges of global energy transition and fair energy transition in LATAM and SEA.

Panel 2. Compared shifting politics in energy transition and fair energy transition from LATAM and SEA.

Panel 3. Social movements and local experiences of fair energy transition in LATAM and SEA.

Panel 4. Global value chains approach to clean energy transition with particular emphasis on where do states and firms fit in the emerging value chains of energy and how can we place of China and Asian impacts in energy transition.

Keep in mind that these categories are tentative and final panel structure will be determined by the event convenors. However, when sending an abstract, we expect you to suggest a panel where you consider your findings are most valuable.

Dates: August 14-20, 2023



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The workshop will be held in **Tunja, Colombia**, which is co-sponsored by the **Faculty of International Business, Santo Tomas de Aquino University, Tunja section**, and the ERC Starting Grant research programme *Green Industrial Policy in the Age of Rare Metals (GRIP-ARM)* under Grant No. 9590056.

To participate in the workshop, please send a 500-word (maximum) abstract with filename SURNAME_LA-Asia Workshop2023 and subject heading “LA-Asia Workshop Abstract” to grip-arm@iss.nl by March 28, 2023. We will send individual emails of acceptance/rejection by April 21st, 2023. Full papers between 5,000-7,000 words are expected to be submitted on July 30, 2023. We will release the final programme one week before the seminar. Please note that the event has no registration fees and will be held in hybrid format to enable paper givers with limited budget to participate in the workshop. However, there is no funding available to support travel and accommodation expenses of prospective participants.

About the Convenors

Julie Ann de los Reyes is an Assistant Professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University. She obtained her PhD in Geography from the University of Manchester in the UK. Her research is concerned with the dynamics of energy transition in East and Southeast Asia, focusing in particular on coal investments (and disinvestments) and emerging hydrogen supply chains. She has been a recipient of prestigious grants and fellowship awards, including the EU’s Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, Erasmus Mundus Scholarship, and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science’s Grant-in-Aid for early career scientists. Her articles have been published in high-impact journals such as *Geoforum*, *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, and the *Journal of Peasant Studies*.

Jojo Nem Singh is an Assistant Professor at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Netherlands. He is a Global Fellow at the Wilson Center Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP), Washington DC and an Affiliate Research Fellow at the International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS), The Netherlands. He leads a major research programme, *Green Industrial Policy in the Age of Rare Metals: A Transregional Comparison of Growth Strategies in Rare Earths Mining (GRIP-ARM)*, funded by the European Research Council Starting Grant No. 950056 (2021-2026). He is author of *Business of the State: Why State Ownership Matters for Resource Governance* (Forthcoming, Oxford University Press) and editor of three special issues, including *The Politics of Designing and Negotiating Industrial Policy in the 21. Century* (2023, Third World Quarterly) and *Developmental States beyond East Asia* (with Jesse Ovidia, 2018, Third World Quarterly).

Leonardo Guzmán Sanabria is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of International Business, Santo Tomas University, section Tunja, Colombia. Graduated as Finance and International Relations from Universidad Externado de Colombia and MSc in Sociology from the National University of Colombia. he has fieldwork experiences on international and local



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environmental and social development studies, these complemented with Asian and Latin American studies, both from social and critical perspectives.

Isamu Okada is a political scientist and a Professor at the Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University. Before his current position, he worked at the Japanese Embassy in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Japan Society for Promotion of Science. He has publications in resource governance, political participation, and Latin American politics. His latest research covers policy measures and citizens' reactions under the pandemic COVID-19 in Japan and Latin American countries. He has numerous fieldwork experiences in Peru, Bolivia, and other countries. Also, he has publications employing quantitative methods and on-site and online surveys before and during the pandemic. He was awarded by the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization, Japan Society of Social Science on Latin America, and the Japanese Association of Electoral Studies.

Olga-Lucia Castillo, is retired full professor and independent researcher; her research interests are focused on critical analyzes on the "development" concept and the discourses and practices that it entails; also, on the socio-ecological conflicts generated by the current dynamics of exploitation, production, distribution and consumption of fossil fuels and the socio-political challenges brought by the energy transition. Among her recent publications on the topic are Castillo, O.L. (2022) *Who, How and How Far – Renewable Energy Transition in Industrialized and Emerging Countries* (Green Energy and Environmental Technology Journal); Martínez V. & Castillo O.L. (2019) *Colombian Energy Planning – Neither for Energy not for Colombia* (Energy Policy) and Martínez V. & Castillo O.L. (2016) *The political ecology of hydropower - Social justice and conflict in Colombian hydroelectricity development* (Energy Research & Social Science).

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