

# Seeking global solutions

By DR ROBIN NIBLETT

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ROBIN NIBLETT is the Director of Chatham House. Previously he was the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Washington-based Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS). He is the author of the Chatham House Report, 'Ready to Lead? Rethinking America's Role in a Changed World' (2009) and editor of the forthcoming book 'America and a Changed World: A Question of Leadership'. He is currently leading a major Chatham House project on Rethinking the UK's International Ambitions and Choices.

I am pleased that Chatham House is working with FIRST to produce this special issue of *World Petroleum* to mark the Cancun meeting of the International Energy Forum. As the world's largest recurring gathering of energy ministers, its participants include not only IEA and OPEC countries, but also Russia, China and India.

IEF countries account for more than 90 per cent of global oil and gas supply and demand, and the dialogue generated through the Forum and its associated events play an important role in understanding global energy security issues. Through these events ministers meet to discuss common concerns and seek consensus-orientated approaches to energy-related challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Discussing common concerns and seeking solutions is also an important part of the work of Chatham House. Our mission is to be a world-leading source of independent analysis, informed debate and influential ideas on how to build a prosperous and secure world for all. We pursue our mission by drawing on our membership to promote open as well as confidential debates about significant developments in international affairs and about the context and content of policy responses. We produce independent and rigorous analysis of critical global, regional and country-specific challenges and we offer new ideas to decision-makers and -shapers on how these could best be tackled from the near to long term.

Research is core to all Chatham House activities. Of special relevance to this conference is our work on Energy, Environment and Resource Governance which centres on the themes of promoting climate security, enabling energy security and strengthening global sustainable development solutions.

For example, one of our major ongoing projects – *Changing Climates: Interdependencies on Energy and Climate Security for China and Europe* – aims to identify the mutual interests, challenges and opportunities for China and the EU in energy security and climate security over the next 25 years, and to identify the priorities for future collaboration to meet common climate and energy security goals.

This month we released a report which says that the creation of a 'Low Carbon Zone' in Jilin Municipality would signal a decisive step towards achieving low carbon development in China. This is the first time a

detailed low carbon pathway has been produced for a Chinese region. The roadmap sets a new benchmark for analysis of low carbon development in China. As Jilin City, an area approximately the size of Belgium, starts out on a low carbon road, the approach set out in the roadmap can now be applied to other regions in China – and other developing countries.

The articles by some of our experts working on a selection of related areas are included in this special edition of *World Petroleum*. John V Mitchell writes about energy security and producer-consumer cooperation; Will Blyth considers the next steps for international cooperation over climate change after Copenhagen; Glada Lahn assesses community solutions to energy poverty; and Walt Patterson gives a personal account of how he thinks the world has to change to meet the challenges ahead.

Chatham House also undertakes research on International Economics in which the main themes are trade, investment and finance, reforms and governance, globalisation and regionalisation. A major new report published this month, *Beyond the Dollar: Rethinking the International Monetary System* outlines a number of options for reform of the global system to meet the needs of a changing world economy.

Chatham House's third area of research focuses on Regional and Security Studies, where our team undertakes work on Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Russia and Eurasia. Research on these regions ensures that Chatham House is well-placed to identify potential sources of conflict and emerging trends. The Chatham House Centre on Global Health Security analyses policies in this growing area of worldwide interconnectivity; research in the International Security Programme covers global, European and UK national security and defence issues. Work on International Law includes discussion of international legal issues and their practical application to current problems in international relations.

For the past 90 years, Chatham House has been pursuing its goal to be a global leader in the field of international affairs. I am delighted that we are able to contribute some of our ideas to this year's International Energy Forum as it addresses some of the major challenges facing the world today – a world in which our work has a more vital role than ever. ■