Istishraf

Third Annual Volume of the Journal for Future Studies

Special Issue on Forecasting the Future of Energy

For the 7.5 billion people inhabiting our planet, energy is a key component of their economic and social life. Energy makes our lives richer, more productive, secure, and healthier. Be it in terms of quality of life and general wellbeing, the right to a decent and healthy life, the provision of food, shelter, education or transport, the question of energy is essential to our future.

By 2040, population and economic growth will increase demand for energy, although energy consumption then will be more efficient and environmentally friendly and fuels will be less carbon intensive. In the advanced economies, demand for energy will be generally stable over the next 25 years. For the five-sixths of the world's population living in developing countries and aspiring to improve living standards, however, a 60 percent increase in demand for energy is expected. Growth in demand for electricity will remain the main driver for rising energy requirements, on the basis that electricity generation will represent 40 percent of global energy consumption by 2040. Although most of the energy used today derives from oil and coal, in the future there will be increasing reliance on natural gas – a source of energy that will witness the fastest growth – as well as renewable energy. Accordingly, global demand for energy in 2040 will be 30 percent greater than in 2010, with all that entails in terms of the problems of diversifying energy sources, investment, and the exacerbation of obstacles preventing sustainable development. At the same time, energy-saving technologies and energy-friendly practices can enhance efficiency gains for the world's economies and significantly reduce the increase in demand and in greenhouse gases, thus helping improve the living standards and prosperity of a world population that will be verging on 9 billion.

This leads on to an examination of possible scenarios regarding change to patterns of energy production and consumption, or what is termed the "energy transition". These would need to take into account the limitations imposed by the exhaustion of energy supplies (post peak fossil fuel); the innovations around renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, which will account for nearly 40 percent of global energy by 2060; the development of nuclear energy and the controversy around its security and dual civilian-military use; the pollution arising from the extraction and consumption of fossil fuels and the expected geostrategic changes.

All the above issues have a direct impact on the Arab world, where the question of energy is vitally important and raises serious questions about the management of the period post peak oil and peak gas, as well as questions concerning energy consumption, energy efficiency, and sustainable development. Confronting these challenges requires radical change to energy systems and patterns of energy consumption and boosting renewable, clean, and sustainable energy resources. This in turn demands collective action to develop and effectively implement general and specific policies, and to conduct research and development and forecasting.

In light of the above, this edition of *Istishraf*, the third annual volume for future studies, is devoted to forecasting the future of energy and to investigate these issues and analyze their impact on Arab countries, with a particular focus on the following topics:

- **Forecasting the Arab future of energy: national experiences.**
- **Forecasting the period post peak fossil fuels.**
- **Changing scenarios for patterns of energy production and consumption (the "energy transition").**
- **Energy issues in Arab future visions: national case studies.**
- **Renewable energy policies, their future and funding opportunities in the Arab world.**
- **Forecasting solutions to increase the efficiency of energy consumption.**

- **The future of nuclear energy in the Middle East and North Africa.**
- **Innovation and invention in the energy field.**
- **Arab public policy in the energy field.**
- **Energy issues in Arab development policies.**
- **Geopolitical scenarios relating to the future of energy.**

Submission procedure

- *Istishraf* welcomes research proposals on "Forecasting the Future of Energy" which offer new research treatments or additional value and results, according to the specifications for research proposals adopted by the ACRPS.
- Completed research papers will be adjudicated by a specialist academic board.
- Research papers should be anywhere between 4,000 to 8,000 words.
- Research papers should be in Arabic or English, and in the latter case they will be translated once accepted.
- The deadline for submissions is **November 30, 2017.**
- Submission should be addressed to istishraf@dohainstitute.org

Note: *Istishraf* also accepts reviews of recently published books on the theme "Forecasting the Future of Energy". Reviews should be between 1,000 to 3,000 words.