
Introduction

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Biographical notes: Ying Fan is the Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, Institute of Policy and Management, Chinese Academy of Sciences. She holds a PhD in System Engineering. Her research fields include energy economics, energy-environment-economy modelling and climate policy. She is currently the President of the Committee of Low Carbon Development Management at OOPem, a council member and Asia-Oceania Representative of International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE).

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With its rapid economic growth, China's energy consumption has also been increasing significantly. This trend will not change much in the near future. Domestic resources play an important role. However, there are many critical issues during energy production, in particular fossil energy production, such as the safety of coal production, the sustainable development of oil field regions, the effective use of coalbed methane, the emissions from burning fossil energy, and energy efficiency. Due to the huge potential in terms of energy saving, energy efficiency has been seen as a kind of new energy resource. Thus, the sustainable utilisation of energy resources is not only a key issue in China, but also throughout the world.

A conference, the 6+2 Forum on Economics and Management of Energy Resource (6+2 FEMER), was held in Beijing in June 2012. The forum was sponsored by six top universities in the field of energy and resources in China – the China University of

Geosciences (Wuhan), the China University of Geosciences (Beijing), the China University of Mining and Technology (Xuzhou), the China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing), the China University of Petroleum (Huadong), and the China University of Petroleum (Beijing) – and two famous research institutes, namely the Institute of Policy and Management at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Land and Resource Economics. The aim of the forum was to provide a platform to promote academic exchange among Chinese researchers in the field of energy and resource management. The forum also provided dialogue opportunities for experts and officers from government departments and energy firms, and it tried to build a bridge between the government, industry, and the academic community.

There were more than 40 presentations during the 6+2 FEMER (2012). We believed that many of these presentations were worth sharing with more people. Thus, after the forum, we invited 12 presentations to be revised and expanded into research papers to be submitted to the special issue on the sustainable utilisation of energy resources in China in the *International Journal of Global Energy Issues*. Each of these went through rigorous reviews by two or three reviewers in a blind-review process. After three or more rounds of reviews, eight of the papers were accepted and included in this special issue.

We are happy to see that some important issues are discussed in these papers. Feng and Chen explore the safety regulations for coal mines, which is a serious topic in coal production. Mo, Li and Zhu discuss the coalbed methane investment and the impact of climate policy, which is related to both the utilisation of coalbed methane and coal mining safety. Tang, Zhang, Wei and Höök explore how the petroleum industry influences employment in China's economy, an increasingly important topic in resource regions. Environmental impact of energy burning is a critical issue for energy use. Song, Song and Zhang investigate the factors that determine carbon emissions from energy consumption in Shandong Province. Energy efficiency is widely discussed in and out of China. Li, Cheng and Zhuo discuss how industrialisation interacts with energy efficiency; Wei, Zhang and Tang propose a new approach for energy efficiency evaluation. Guo and Liu discuss the carbon footprint of household consumption. Zhou, Wu, Fang, Ren and Jin predict the demand of coking coal. All these topics are important in China and worthy of research and discussion. We believe these papers will provide new perspectives and may result in further investigation.

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