



Energy Diplomacy: From “Bilateral Diplomacy” to “Global Energy Governance”

In addition to energy security, energy diplomacy is a controversial topic in many of the energy-related concepts. Energy is an important part of economy, and its related energy diplomacy is an essential branch of economic diplomacy. Economic diplomacy appeared very early with the emergence of state and diplomacy, but energy diplomacy is the concept that only emerged after the Second World War, and it was not well accepted by the international community until the first oil crisis. The activeness of energy diplomacy depends, to a large extent, on the importance of energy itself and the imbalance of energy geo-distribution. At the beginning of this century, energy demand increased and oil prices climbed, so that the interaction between energy and diplomacy increased, and the relationship between them became increasingly complicated.

In general, energy diplomacy is the diplomacy of energy, which belongs to the category of diplomacy, and mainly refers to energy-related foreign policies and diplomatic activities. Generally speaking, energy diplomacy can be divided into two types: energy as diplomatic means and energy as policy target. The former type of energy diplomacy is mostly taken by the energy exporters, while the latter is more taken by energy-consuming countries. The differences between the two in essence and aim not only make people's understanding of energy diplomacy more divergent and controversial but also make the international political competition around energy development more complicated. In addition, the international community's various bilateral and multilateral diplomatic activities on energy issues could also be included in the context of energy diplomacy.

With the change of energy situation both at home and abroad, the interaction and connection between China and the world in energy field has increased significantly and China has become an active participant in international energy cooperation. But in general, China's international

energy cooperation is still dominated by bilateral cooperation, and multilateral energy cooperation is relatively weak. In recent years, voices calling on China participate more actively in global energy governance have been enhanced. China's multilateral energy diplomacy has become increasingly active, and its participation in the global energy governance process has gradually been deepened and its influence has been gradually expanded.



DIPLOMACY EXECUTED WITH ENERGY AS THE MEANS

Diplomacy executed with energy as the means is mainly carried out by countries with energy advantages, which are taken as the important diplomatic resources by the countries. Energy is considered as the important diplomatic resource to carry out related diplomatic activities in order to realize their political and security goals. This diplomacy focuses on politics and diplomacy, and energy becomes a card or weapon in political diplomacy. In this sense, energy serves diplomacy, with energy to promote diplomacy. It is common for energy to be taken as means or advantage for the purpose of national politics and security interests. The oil embargo against the West by Arab oil producers in the 1970s is a typical example. After the cold war, the geopolitical competition about oil and its transit transportation in the Caspian Sea also belongs to the energy diplomacy with political purpose.

In October 1973, after the fourth Middle East War broke out, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and other Arab oil-producing countries imposed an oil embargo against the western countries that were on the side of Israel. The oil embargo in the Arab countries triggered the first oil crisis and the ensuing world economic crisis, which significantly prompted western countries to adjust their eastern policies. Member States of the European Community declared that Israel must end the territorial occupation since the 1967 conflict and must consider the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. Japan offset the track of US Policy on Middle East and improved its relations with Arab countries. In the Palestine—Israel Conflict, the United States also had to take the political demands of Arab countries into more consideration to promote the Middle East peace process with a more positive attitude.

As a major energy producer and exporter, Russia is also a typical country with energy-driven diplomacy. In the former Soviet Union, energy issues have become an important card in their diplomacy from time to time. Between the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, oil cooperation and transnational oil and gas pipelines once became an important link to the Warsaw Treaty Organization. "Friendship" oil pipeline system, which was laid in the late 1950s and mid-1960s, was not a commercial project, but aimed at achieving the political intent of the Soviet leadership to provide oil and petroleum products to eastern European "brothers" at preferential prices. In the Soviet diplomacy, energy played a role more focused on politics than economy [1]. After the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, Russia's foreign energy policy and energy diplomacy have changed greatly, with its focus transferred to expanding international energy market and maintaining its energy interests, that is, more emphasis is put on economic factors than before. But as a major energy exporter with prominent energy advantages in international energy supply and demand, in the context of the increasing supply-demand unbalance of international energy sources, it is inevitable for energy to be used as a means for expanding its international political influence. Energy is not only an important pillar of Russia's economic growth but also an important trump card to consolidate its status and expand its international political influence.

For example, after taking the rotating presidency of the Group of Eight in early 2006, Russia ranked the issue of energy security as an important issue of the G-8 Summit and organized a series of activities on the theme of energy security. In early February 2006, Russia listed the issue of energy security as the focal point of the G-8 finance ministers meeting in Moscow. In mid-March, the G-8 meeting of energy ministers was held in Moscow. Russia took advantage of the identity as the host country and listed energy security as an important issue for the summit, out of the following two considerations: to enhance Russia's status in the Group 8 in the global energy security system by means of the cooperation at the interest intersection of energy; to solidate its position and to promote its influence in the international political and economic structure depending on its energy advantage and a new round of diplomatic offensive in the global energy security system. The Russian-Ukrainian gas conflict that broke out at the end of 2006 and the Russian-Belarus oil and gas conflict in late 2006 and early 2007 had aroused great concern of the international community. The above conflicts particularly aroused the

great worry of European Union that Russia could control it with oil as weapon and cut off its energy supplies, which deepened its mistrust of Russia and encouraged Europe to speed up the diversification of energy sources.

High oil price has also prompted energy exporters such as Venezuela, Sudan, and Iran to use energy to expand international politics and diplomatic space. In this regard, Venezuela's energy diplomacy is particularly prominent. Following Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's promise to supply the Caribbean countries with low-price oil in 2005, in 2006 Venezuela continued to use energy as a lever to strengthen ties with the countries concerned and expand regional influence. On April 29, 2006, Cuba, Venezuela, and Bolivian leaders, regarded as "anti-American triangle" by the United States, gathered in Havana capital of Cuba, signed an agreement about economic integration among the three countries. In May 2006, Chavez visited Bolivia, and the two countries signed an agreement, so that the two countries formed an "energy alliance." On May 30, 2006, Chavez visited Ecuador to sign two agreements on energy cooperation with President Palacio to promote the development and integration of bilateral relations. Venezuela's influence in Latin America has risen significantly through a series of energy diplomatic activities.

The status rise of the resource countries and the frequent energy diplomatic activities make the international balance of power exhibit subtle changes, which accelerated the adjustment of international relations and geopolitical pattern, and especially presented some challenges to the US-dominated international pattern. In the eyes of the United States, these countries are actively promoting resource nationalism, and took a tough attitude in communicating with the United States, so it is likely for these countries to form "anti-America oil axis." The oil-producing countries have further increased economic assistance to other developing countries, thus threatening the status of the United States in Latin America, the Middle East, and other places. For example, the Venezuelan government has invested \$16 billion in Latin America for expanding regional and anti-American needs, surpassing US \$13 billion spent in the region over the same period. In addition, with the strengthened energy cooperation between the above-mentioned countries with the EU, Japan, China, India, and other countries, democratic diplomacy enforced by the United States, to some extent, suffered from certain constraints. Thomas Friedman, the American *New York Times* columnist, noted that

the \$70 a barrel of oil was making the "post—cold war world" a multipolar world [2].

But energy-based diplomacy is not a privilege for energy exporters, and some energy-consuming nations may use energy as a means of achieving political and diplomatic goals at a given time. On the Korean peninsula, the United States, Japan, and South Korea have used energy supply as a force to force North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program. At that time, the United States announced that if North Korea could abandon the nuclear reactor program for nuclear weapons, the United States and other countries would provide the light water reactor used for peaceful purpose, that is, the energy required for its development, and otherwise, stop providing important energy supplies including heavy fuel oil. In 2002, the US government halted deliveries of fuel to North Korea because of the suspected North Korea's secret uranium enrichment program. After a major breakthrough in North Korea's nuclear issues, as an incentive for North Korea to de-functionalize its nuclear facilities by the end of the year, on September 28, 2007, the US President George W. Bush announced to give North Korea \$25 million to pay for 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil.

Energy can become a weapon because of its important strategic value and the obvious comparative advantage of the country in energy issues, but this value and advantage varies from time to time. Energy weapons are also double-edged sword, and its usage may have many negative effects. During the oil crisis, although the Arab countries successfully achieved the goal of political diplomacy by using oil weapons, they accelerated the pace of western countries' independence from the Middle East and the diversification of the world oil market. In addition, to a large extent, it led to the slumped oil prices for as long as 10 years from the middle of the 1980s to the late 1990s, which plunged Arab countries into financial trouble. Although Russia won the oil and gas conflicts with Ukraine and Belarus, the price of gas exports rose sharply, but its practice also aroused the concern of the international community and doubts about Russia's integrity, so some countries with heavy dependence on Russia took measures to reduce their energy dependence on Russia. Therefore, in the long run, with the economic globalization and the deepening of energy interdependence, energy-based diplomacy will be growingly constrained.



THE ENERGY-ORIENTED DIPLOMACY

The energy-oriented diplomacy mainly refers to the diplomatic activities of some countries for obtaining or maintaining the energy interests, which embodies the diplomacy for the service of energy interest, with the focus on the guarantee of economic interests. Energy-oriented diplomacy, according to the implementer, can be divided into diplomacy of energy importing countries and diplomacy of energy exporting countries. The starting point for energy importing countries' diplomacy is to ensure stable supply of energy and to realize the goals and plans related to energy by means of various forms of diplomacy. The starting point of energy exporting countries' diplomacy is to promote their energy export, enhance their influence and competitiveness in the international energy market, with a focus on promoting energy export and market competition by means of diplomacy.

The energy diplomacy of the United States, Japan, Europe, and other countries is mainly characterized by improving their energy security and external energy cooperation through diplomacy, including establishing the good and stable relations with the energy exporting countries to reduce the risk of energy security. After two oil crises, the energy-importing countries with the western developed countries as the main body, in order to reverse the passive position concerning the energy issue, took many measures in the diplomatic field. The first one was the anti-Cartel oil diplomacy, mainly in the form of multilateral diplomacy. After the first oil crisis, the western countries established the International Energy Agency (IEA) and formulated a set of measures including long-term and short-term energy plans, energy reserves, energy diversification, and environmental protection to weaken OPEC's influence on the international market. The second is to build "interdependence" relationship with energy supply countries through trade, investment, capital attraction, and even aid. In the 1980s, the United States opened a Treasury bill market solely to Saudi Arabia, and at the same time exported capital and technology and arms to the Middle East oil producers, which deepened their dependence on the US technology, markets, and military equipment. Japan also opened the yen bond market to oil exporters in the mid-1980s and provided substantial assistance. Third one is through diplomatic means to eliminate the hidden danger of conflict and ensure

stable supply. Energy security is one of the most important motivations for the United States to actively promote the Middle East peace process.

It is also an important part of energy diplomacy for consuming countries to build bridges for energy enterprises overseas. In this regard, Japan's performance is very eye-catching. Over the years, Japan has used government development assistance (ODA) to strengthen cooperation with resource countries such as the Middle East, North Africa, and Latin America. On October 2, 2005, five Japanese enterprises (New Japanese Petroleum Corporation, Oil Resource Development Company, Imperial Oil Company, International Oil Development Company, and Mitsubishi) finally won the right of oil exploitation in Libya, which was regarded as a victory in African diplomacy by Japan. South Korea also, through active high-ranking visits and military assistance, assisted indirectly the Ministry of Industrial Resources and oil-exploring communes participating in the overseas oil and gas development in Caspian Sea and other areas.

The United States is one of the most active countries in energy diplomacy in western countries. *National Energy Policy* clearly stated the importance of putting energy security at the top of foreign trade and foreign policy and also the stress of energy as a diplomatic issue. The US National Security Strategy will strengthen cooperation with energy producers such as Africa as an important way to strengthen America's own energy security. Diplomats visited oil-producing countries more frequently than non-oil-producing countries with similar characteristics in the United States. On the stage of multilateral and bilateral diplomacy, such as the Summit of the Eight Nations, the President of the United States and other relevant government officials held consultations and negotiations on energy issues as an important subject of external relations. As early as 1995, the Clinton Administration set up an interdepartmental "Caspian Energy Working Group" that was directly led by the National Security Council to deal with energy diplomacy in the Caspian Sea region. In 1998, the United States government set a new post of Special Adviser to the President in charge of Energy Diplomacy in Caspian Basin.

In March 2006, Richard Lugar, Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Republican Congressman, submitted *Energy Diplomacy and Security Act 2006* to Congress. The bill called for the US government to strengthen foreign energy cooperation to safeguard its strategic and economic interests. The bill stated that global oil and gas reserves were concentrated in a few countries, so energy supply depended

on their political will. Therefore, the United States should place a priority in ensuring energy security in foreign policy, and the government needs to continue and strengthen energy cooperation with foreign governments and entities. The President should ensure that the US government's international energy activities revolve closely around national security needs and establish specialized mechanisms to coordinate federal agencies in the implementation of international energy policies. The secretary of state should incorporate energy security into the State Council's core task and set up a post like international energy affairs coordinator in the secretary of state to take the responsibility of improving the US international energy policy. During Obama's first term, Hillary Clinton, the secretary of state, established the energy bureau in the state council, regarded largely as an important outcome of the bill.

As a major energy exporter, Russia pursues its diplomacy which takes energy as a policy target, aiming at expanding Russia's energy market, strengthening its status as an energy power and promoting energy and economic development. After President Putin came to power, he greatly promoted the status of energy in his diplomatic strategy. *The Energy Strategy of Russia Until 2020* suggested that the main task of Russia's energy diplomacy in the future was to provide external political support for Russia's energy strategy. At the beginning of Putin's power, he focused on developing energy diplomacy with the United States, warming up the US–Russian energy cooperation rapidly. At the same time, he further consolidated energy cooperation with Europe and vigorously promoted energy strategic partnership. After the Iraq War, Russia further expanded the vision of energy diplomacy and actively developed energy cooperation with Asia–Pacific countries.

At the same time, compared with diplomacy of some major western countries, Russia's energy diplomacy has some similarities that the government encourages domestic enterprises to develop overseas oil and gas exploration and development. Russia's energy companies also have a lot of businesses overseas. So protecting its overseas interests is also an important task of Russian energy diplomacy. In this regard, Russia has focused on strengthening its impact and control of energy resources in the former Soviet Union. In April 2000, President Putin asked Russia to resume its activities in the Caspian Sea to develop the Caspian Sea through state-owned companies and private enterprises. In December 2000, Russia successively signed 5-year contracts for natural gas development with Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In January 2002, Russia and Turkmenistan

signed a joint statement in Moscow, calling on Central Asia and the Caspian Sea countries to establish a Eurasian Energy Union. Russia has also successively signed agreements with Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan to divide the sea resources under the Caspian Sea, and has offered to offset energy debt with shares, which made Russia directly or indirectly dominate the natural gas distribution systems in Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, Lithuania, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. Russia has also acquired the mining rights of several large oil fields in Kazakhstan.



DIPLOMACY FOCUSED ON ENERGY COMPETITION AND COOPERATION

In addition to the above-mentioned two types of energy policy and practice, many diplomatic activities can be included in the energy diplomacy category, such as diplomatic mediation between the two countries or countries around the territorial boundary and oil price, the diplomatic activities undertaken by regional countries to promote regional energy cooperation and integration, and the dialogue and cooperation of international institutions or organizations on energy issues. Relatively speaking, these energy diplomacy activities involve a wider range, both economic and political aims, with more emphasis on bilateral and even multilateral interactions.

Historically, energy diplomacy manifested taking energy as diplomatic tactics or using diplomatic means to maintain energy interest. However, with the changes in international political and economic situation and deepening of global energy interdependence, bilateral diplomacy, especially multilateral diplomacy, which aims to relieve energy disputes and solve energy conflicts and promote energy dialogue and cooperation as the focus, would become the mainstream of energy diplomacy in the future.

Energy-related disputes are characterized by territorial and border disputes. Because energy is usually buried underground or underwater, many oil and gas resources are distributed in some disputed areas in which the territory or the boundary of countries is not clear for two or more countries. The territorial and border disputes make energy development more difficult, and the discovery and development of energy also make the territorial and border disputes become more uncertain. At present,

the territorial disputes related to oil and gas resources around the world are mainly concentrated in the areas with abundant oil and gas resources or high potential for development, such as the Persian Gulf, Caspian Sea, Gulf of Guinea, South China Sea, and Red Sea. In the region of Persian Gulf, the southern region of Rumaila oil field between Iraq and Kuwait, Hawar Island between Bahrain and Qatar, the border between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and Herab Triangle between Egypt and the Sudan are areas with abundant oil and gas resources and also territorial and border disputes. In the Caspian Sea, the dispute between the five countries of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan on the legal status of the Caspian Sea and the national ownership of oil and gas fields has been lasting for many years and has not yet been fundamentally solved. In Africa, the disputes in Nigeria, Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea around the Bakassi Peninsula and the Gulf of Guinea offshore are also related to the seabed oil fields. Some related countries make various diplomatic mediations and negotiations on territory and oil and gas drilling rights. For example, in the Persian Gulf region, some countries have reached an agreement on joint oil development.

Energy-related disputes also include oil and gas prices and transportation costs and the direction of pipelines. This is more common in areas that depend mainly on land transport, such as between Russia and the former Soviet republics, between Central Asia and some countries in the Caspian Sea region. Russia believes that one of the important factors affecting its energy security is the restrictions on energy transport from Russia, the blockade of oil pipelines in transit countries and the high transit charge for Russian energy when energy goes through the territory of other countries. At the beginning of 2003, Russia, in the excuse of the limited capacity and outmoded equipment of the Latvian pipeline, decided to transport oil to the port of Ventspils in Latvia only by rail, which made the relation of the two countries more strained. Russia has also expressed strong dissatisfaction with the high transit costs and frequent interception of crude oil shipments via Ukrainian oil pipelines. The oil and gas disputes between Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus are largely triggered by problems such as price and transit fees. In Iran–Pakistan and India's gas pipeline project, in addition to the strong opposition from the United States, India has also been dissatisfied with Pakistan's transit fees, so that its enthusiasm declined.

Promoting regional energy integration has become an important part of many countries' diplomacy. The predecessor of the EU is coal and steel

alliance, with high level of energy marketization and integration. In recent years, in response to new challenges at home and abroad, in addition to engagement in energy market liberalization, the EU has been actively planning to establish a pan-European energy community and seeking to formulate a coherent EU foreign energy policy. In the Asia-Pacific region, the importance attached to regional energy cooperation and investment has been significantly improved. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), established in 1989, has become an important platform for exchanges and cooperation. It holds two working meetings on energy each year, and one Ministerial Conference on Energy. At the subregional level, regional energy cooperation in Northeast Asia, ASEAN and South Asia, and energy cooperation between ASEAN and Northeast Asia all show good momentum of development. Energy cooperation has become an important topic of East Asia Summit, Foreign Ministers Meeting of Asian Cooperation Dialogue, and many ministerial conferences. In Latin America, energy integration also presents a trend of expansion from region to region.



MULTILATERAL ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND GLOBAL ENERGY GOVERNANCE

Multilateral energy diplomacy mainly refers to multilateral diplomatic activities launched around energy issues, especially energy dialogue and cooperation under the framework of international energy organizations or multilateral energy cooperation mechanisms. In recent years, with the changes of international political economy and energy situation, multilateral energy diplomacy focusing on energy dialogue and cooperation, easing energy contradiction, and resolving energy disputes has become increasingly active. Global or multilateral diplomacy and strategic dialogue, which revolve around energy issues between or among the countries and organizations concerned, also tend to be active and attract increasing attention from the international community.

International energy organization is an important stage for multilateral energy diplomacy. Historically, energy diplomacy has been characterized by unilateral and bilateral diplomacy. In the 1960s, OPEC was established, the first international energy alliance organization and multilateral energy diplomacy coordination mechanism with protecting the oil exporting

countries' oil interests as the core task. In the mid-1970s, the Western developed countries established the IEA to improve the collective energy security system in response to the increasingly prominent energy security challenges following the first oil crisis. The establishment of the two major alliance international energy organizations has provided an important stage for the countries concerned to carry out multilateral energy cooperation and has greatly promoted the development of international multilateral energy diplomacy.

In this period, energy diplomacy and cooperation are largely confined to the OPEC member countries and the western developed countries. In the historical context, the relationship between the two energy-producing and energy-consuming groups was mainly reflected in their opposite stances concerning energy and diplomacy. Since the mid-1980s, with the integration of energy market and the deepening of interdependence, the cooperation between consumers and exporters has increased significantly. In recent years, each country has been very active in the global energy field, so that the system of the world energy policy and the multilateral energy diplomacy mechanism has been further developed and optimized [3].

Since then, with the expansion of energy consumption and supply groups and the increasing internationalization of the world energy industry, the energy issue has become more and more globalized. International energy interdependence has been deepening and the contradiction between consuming countries and exporting countries has been greatly weakened, so that the junction points of interests have gradually increased, especially in maintaining the stability and transparency of the international energy market. Since the early 1990s, international energy cooperation has gradually expanded from country, group to the global, and the multilateral international energy cooperation mechanism, including energy consuming countries and exporting countries, has been developed. The representative organizations are International Energy Forum (IEF) and Energy Charter (ECT).

The IEF, named the International Energy Conference at the beginning, since 1991, is an important global energy dialogue mechanism held regularly by exporting countries and consuming countries in a wider range. In July 1991, France and Venezuela organized the first meeting in Paris, inviting energy ministers from energy exporting countries and consuming countries to attend, and the meeting decided that similar activities would be held regularly. In 1992, the second meeting was held in

Norway, emphasizing the need to find ways of cooperation to eliminate confrontation in the field of energy. Since then, the meeting has been held in Spain, Venezuela, India, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and other countries. In 2000, the International Energy Conference was renamed the IEF and the Standing Secretariat was established in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. After years of development, the IEF has become an effective mechanism for the exchange and dialogue between energy exporting countries and consumers in the world energy development.

The ECT is an international energy organization on the basis of *International Energy Charter Treaty*, which can be dated back to *European Energy Charter* signed in the early 1990s. At that time, the end of the cold war created unprecedented opportunities to bridge the divide between East and West in the economic field. At the meeting of the European Council in Dublin in June 1991, the Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers took the lead in proposing the establishment of a European Energy Community. In December 1991, representatives from 41 countries, including European countries, Australia, Canada, the United States, Japan, and Turkey, signed the political declaration of *European Energy Charter* in Hague. In order to confer legal effect on this declaration, since January 1992, the states concerned had been negotiating for about 2 years, and on December 17, 1994, 51 countries signed *Energy Charter Treaty* in Lisbon, and *Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects* was signed. The United States and Canada, which signed *European Energy Charter* and participated in negotiations, did not sign the *International Energy Charter Treaty*. After the approval of 30 governments, *International Energy Charter Treaty* entered into force in April 1998. In recent years, it has played an important role in pushing member countries to eliminate barriers in energy investment and trade, reduce costs and strengthen multilateral energy cooperation. In May 2015, ECT member countries and representatives from 75 countries (53 countries plus the EU) formally adopted *Declaration of International Energy Charter*, the name of which was changed from Energy Charter to the International Energy Charter and the scope of its concern was expanded to new areas such as energy poverty reduction.

At present, the international community is very active in the multilateral energy diplomacy, which revolves around the energy issue in the countries and organizations concerned. Besides the traditional OPEC, the IEA and the ever-evolving IEF and ECT, international agencies or

organizations such as the G20 and the United Nations play an increasingly important role in international energy security dialogue and cooperation, and become important stages for international multilateral energy diplomacy. At the regional level, both the EU and APEC have specialized energy cooperation mechanisms for internal energy coordination and cooperation. At the same time, in Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and other regions, in order to strengthen energy security cooperation, the related consumer countries and the exporting countries are also actively promoting the establishment of regional energy agencies or energy communities. Unlike the original OPEC and IEA, the main purpose of these multilateral energy cooperation organizations or mechanisms is to strengthen internal coordination dialogue, avoid vicious competition, and promote regional energy integration, rather than founding an exclusive alliance aimed at third parties.

Nowadays, international energy organizations play a very important role in international energy cooperation and multilateral energy diplomacy. In today's international energy market, it is impossible to develop energy cooperation without international organizations. In a sense, the establishment of international organizations means the development of international energy cooperation and the establishment of cooperative mechanisms. A country's participation in international organizations as well as its role and status determines its capacity and extent of international energy cooperation and also its discourse power and influence in the field of international energy [4].

The rise of global multilateral energy diplomacy stems from the changes in international politics, economy and energy market, supply and demand, and also from the remarkable enhancement of energy and international political interaction. The rapid growth of energy demand and the sharp increase in prices have led to an increase in the diplomatic coordination of collective energy security. At the same time, energy-exporting countries have been developing energy-driven diplomacy but to intensify diplomatic contradictions among countries concerned, such as the dissatisfaction of the United States and Europe with the countries such as Russia and Venezuela to use energy weapons to expand their international influence. In order to coordinate these conflicts, the multifaceted strategic dialogues and exchanges between the countries concerned take full advantage of the platform of various international institutions, and the energy diplomacy of multilateral leaders is very active. In addition, with the increasing prominence of global climate change,

energy and environmental issues have warmed up globally, and important international organizations and conferences such as the World Economic Forum, the EU Summit, and the UN Security Council have listed energy and environmental issues as important issues.



THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ENERGY MECHANISM

At present, there are a large number of energy-related international organizations in the world, a large number of which are non-governmental academic organizations or non-governmental organizations such as the World Energy Council, the World Petroleum Congress, the Petroleum Economist, and the International Energy Economic Association. From the perspective of energy diplomacy and international intergovernmental organizations, the current major international energy organizations and multilateral energy cooperation mechanisms can be broadly divided into the following categories.

The first one is an independent intergovernmental international energy organization. It includes OPEC, IEA, ECT, and IEF, which are the most influential international energy organizations in today's world and the important stage of multilateral energy diplomacy of the international community. Among them, OPEC, founded earliest, is the alliance group for the oil exporting countries to defend their interests, mainly focusing on the policy coordination of exporting countries, despite the increasing dialogue with consuming countries in recent years. As the world's largest oil-producing coalition, OPEC has been coordinating policies mainly through mechanisms including ministerial conferences, oil prices, and production quotas. Since its establishment, OPEC has played an important role in the world oil market and economic development.

The IEA is an organization for energy-consuming countries in the western developed countries, whose primary purpose is to balance OPEC with the focus on coordinating energy policies for member countries. It is an independent agency under the economic cooperation organization, emphasizing diversification of sources of energy supply, improving emergency response mechanisms, strengthening energy demand management, and maintaining the stability of the world energy market. Among them, the emergency response mechanism is the key

point of the IEA and the core of the collective energy security system of western developed countries.

Compared with the OPEC and the IEA, the IEF and the ECT cover a wider range of countries, including exporting countries and consuming countries. In terms of the field, OPEC concentrates mainly on oil, while the IEA and the IEF are also concerned with other types of energy resource and energy and environment issues, and ECT covers all types of energy resource including oil, gas, coal, and renewable energy, and also involves a whole energy value chain from energy development to final consumption including energy investment, trade, transport, energy efficiency, and the like. The ECT is known as the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the field of energy, especially in the protection and promotion of energy investment. At present, no other international energy organization has covered this field.

To the extent of cooperation, the IEF is an informal, interactive international organization that emphasizes inclusiveness. The ECT is an international organization based on international treaties and has strong legal binding force. Due to their restricted membership, OPEC and IEA are characterized by alliance and exclusiveness.

The second type is the related energy agencies and cooperation mechanisms subsidiary to various important international and regional organizations. With the deepening of interaction concerning energy and security issues, numerous crucial international organizations and institutions including the United Nations, the G20, the G-8 Summit, the EU Summit, the APEC, the ASEAN, and Shanghai Cooperation Organization have all listed energy issues as key issues, and some have especially established corresponding branches.

The G-8 originated from the Group-7 established after the first oil crisis. Although the energy issue has always been an important issue for the Summit, the energy ministers of the Group-7 did not arrange special meetings before the second half of the 1990s. After Russia's accession, the G-8 began to consider energy issues as an independent issue. In 1997, at the summit held in Denver initiated by Russia, it was decided to hold a meeting for the energy ministers of eight countries to attend in Moscow in the spring of 1998 to deliberate the world energy problem. From March 31 to April 1, 1998, eight ministers from major industrialized countries and the EU met in Moscow to discuss the global energy issues. In 2002, the second G-8 and EU Energy Ministers Conference was held in Detroit, USA. The agenda of the meeting included energy security,

energy market, and so on from May 2 to 3. In early 2006, Russia took the rotating presidency of the G-8, and the global energy security issue was listed as the main topic of the G8 summit. Both summits held in Germany in 2007 and in Japan in 2008 listed climate change which was closely related to energy security as a major issue.

Established in 1989, the APEC set up a subsidiary Energy Working Group and the permanent secretariat in the Australian capital Canberra is responsible for coordinating energy cooperation within the APEC framework. The Energy Working Group meeting is held twice a year, and the Conference of Energy Ministers is held annually. The agenda for these meetings includes the features of national energy policies in the Asia-Pacific region, the liberalization of regional energy markets, the implementation of the objectives and plans for cooperation, cooperation with the IEA, the development of regional electricity and natural gas infrastructure, nuclear safety, and so on.

In recent years, the G20 has stood out from a large number of energy governance mechanisms and gradually becomes the main stage of global energy governance. In 2015, at the Antalya Summit in Turkey, energy issue was listed as one of the priority agenda for the first time and the first energy ministerial meeting was held. In September 2016, at Hangzhou Summit the participants formulated an action plan concerning energy availability, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. As an important part of promoting infrastructure connectivity, global energy internet was included in the Business Summit (B20) report. Meanwhile, the G20 issued the presidential statement on climate change, the first one in history.

The third type is other international organizations and cooperation mechanisms that are closely related to energy, mainly including the International Atomic Energy Agency, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, and the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development. They discussed the issues related to energy environment, climate change, and nuclear nonproliferation. Although these international organizations and mechanisms do not directly deal with the cooperation in terms of energy trade, investment, and other issues, they are also closely related to international energy cooperation. With the increasing concern of the international community about the issues of energy and environment, the development of energy-related organizations and mechanisms has increasingly influenced international energy cooperation and multilateral energy diplomacy.



THE PRESENT CONTEXT AND FEATURES OF CHINESE ENERGY DIPLOMACY

With the substantial increase in energy demand and the oil import ratio, China's energy diplomacy has aroused great attention both at home and abroad and has also become a major controversy in international relations. Paying close attention to China's energy diplomacy, the domestic analysts mainly focus on how diplomacy serves energy, especially how to safeguard energy security and promote the overseas development of energy enterprises. In both energy and diplomacy, they pay more attention to energy. But the international community, especially the United States and other Western countries, has put their focus on how China's energy demands affect China's foreign policy and the international impact of China's energy policy. They always show more concerns about diplomacy and security.

In fact, as a major energy consumer, China and other traditional energy consumers such as the United States and European countries have a lot in common on energy diplomacy. This kind of diplomacy is formed on the basis of domestic and foreign experience, a kind of diplomacy promoting energy security and foreign energy cooperation in essence. The substantial increase in dependence on oil imports has made China's energy security increasingly prominent. The development of sound, stable, and interdependent relations with energy-exporting countries through trade, investment, and development assistance is a choice of importance to reduce the risk of energy supply security and to ensure the stability of future energy supply. It is also one of the important subjects in energy diplomacy to set up the platform for energy enterprises and safeguard the overseas energy interests of enterprises. With the increase of oil price and the increase of international upstream exploration and development opportunities, domestic companies with competitive strength and experience are actively expanding overseas business. In order to promote the internationalization of enterprises and enhance their international competitiveness, the government has given enterprises some financial and diplomatic support. Moreover, China has actively launched multilateral energy diplomacy to promote energy integration and global energy security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and vigorously advocated strategic dialogue and cooperation to solve various energy-related conflicts and disputes.

China's energy diplomacy is an embodiment of China's foreign policy transformation in recent years. Firstly, it embodies the overall strategy that politics and diplomacy serve economic development. After the reform and opening-up, the primary task of China's diplomacy is to create a favorable external environment for economic development and emphasize that diplomacy should serve economy. As an important part of economic diplomacy, energy diplomacy emphasizes the promotion of international energy cooperation through diplomacy. Secondly, it is an important principle advocated by China's diplomacy to solve relevant international disputes by dialogue and cooperation. In the practice of energy diplomacy, China not only develops cooperation with its partners but also stresses on strategic dialogues with competitors. At the same time, China also actively participates in multilateral energy dialogue and cooperation within the framework of important international or regional organizations such as the UN, the G20, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, and other organizations.

After many years of grouper and practice, China has made a lot of achievements in diplomacy and also formed its own characteristics. First, summit diplomacy is increasingly active. In the head visits in recent years, energy is an important issue in the agenda and diplomacy. The countries who have energy cooperation with China occupy a large proportion in the head visits. Second, the cooperative objects and the cooperation modes have become increasingly diversified. In addition to head-to-head diplomacy, there are various forms of conferences for energy ministers, multilateral and bilateral energy forums, and exchanges and seminars on business and academic level. China not only emphasizes mutually beneficial cooperation with energy producing countries but also attaches great importance to energy cooperation with consumers. Thirdly, the scope of cooperation is considerable expanded, not only in the fields of oil and natural gas but also in such fields as coal, nuclear energy, hydropower, and renewable energy; not only in resources and markets but also technical and management experience; and not only economic exchanges and cooperation but also political and strategic communications and dialogues. At the same time, for China there are more exchanges and cooperation with the IEA, ECT, and other energy institutions.

China's all-round energy diplomacy has achieved remarkable results both in deepening its cooperation in energy trade and investment with Russia, Africa, and Latin America, and in promoting strategic dialogue and technical cooperation with the United States, Europe, and Japan.

However, generally speaking, China's energy diplomacy is still in the trial phase, so it is inevitable that some problems and challenges will be encountered during the process of implementation.

In addition to the imperfect mechanisms and perceptions, more attention should be paid to the conflicts and frictions in diplomatic strategies with other countries like the United States. In particular, the energy cooperation between China and Iran, Sudan, and Venezuela has engendered some fears of the United States and other countries. China was blamed by some media as a threat to western energy security, scrambling for their influence sphere and weakening their strategic impact on the Middle East and Africa. What's worse, China is accused of obtaining oil unscrupulously regardless of the political context and human rights in these oil-producing countries. China's attitude about the Darfur issue in Sudan has been generally considered by the international community to be related to oil interests. Meanwhile, with the deepening energy cooperation between China and Latin America, Canada, and other countries, China has also been considered as threatening the US rear energy base and American sphere of influence. Although these accusations largely stem from prejudice against China and misunderstanding or misinterpreting of China's energy diplomacy, it is undeniable that some conflicts and frictions arising from energy diplomacy and foreign energy cooperation pose challenges to the implementation of China's overall diplomatic strategy.

Despite the consensus between China's energy diplomacy and the West's, that is, the starting point is to ensure stable supply of energy and to achieve energy-related goals and arrangements through various forms of diplomacy, some western countries such as the United States and Europeans countries hold an adverse opinion. Firstly, China adopted the strategy of new "mercantilism" which ensured its own energy security through direct control of resources. China also adopted energy-based diplomacy, that is, in China domestic policy adjustment and foreign policy considerations took petroleum as a goal. Secondly, they believe China is pursuing an energy-based diplomacy, so China is attempting to achieve strategic expansion by energy cooperation, squeezing their sphere of influence, and trying to gain more counter-leverage in the Middle East and Africa against America. Thirdly, China's energy cooperation with the so-called "rogue states" is suspected of forming an anti-US front. Finally, regardless of the appearance, China's energy cooperation with energy

exporters such as the Middle East and Africa has brought some challenges to the US foreign strategy, especially the democratic strategy.



THE INCREASING NECESSITY OF MULTILATERAL ENERGY DIPLOMACY

With the change of energy situation both at home and abroad, the interaction and connection between China and other countries in energy field has increased significantly, and China has become an active participant in international energy cooperation. But in general, China's international energy cooperation is still in its initial stage and scope-expanding period. Although Chinese energy cooperation is extensive and rich in content, the depth of cooperation waits to be deepened. Furthermore, China is relatively weak in multilateral energy cooperation. In particular, China takes a slow progress in participating in energy dialogue and cooperation under the framework of the international energy organization, because in face of a strong doubt from the international multilateral energy cooperation mechanism, China made responses quite passively, lack of initiative, and for China there is limited substantive international energy cooperation, most of which are general and conversational. China enjoys no membership in the alliance type and cooperative international energy organizations, and the international energy organizations that include China as a member are often coordinated or dialogue-oriented organizations [4]. For China, deepening cooperation with major international energy organizations cannot only meets the needs of taking the increasing energy challenges at home and abroad but also plays the role of multiple significance in many aspects such as politics, diplomacy, and economy.

From the perspective of energy, the substantive cooperation with the international energy organization will greatly enhance the security and stability of China's energy supply and better safeguard relevant energy interests. First, on the issue of energy supply security, it will help improve China's energy security environment, greatly increase opportunities for dialogue and cooperation with major energy-consuming and exporting countries, and reduce the possibility of hostile energy disruptions from exporting countries. At the same time, in the event of a substantial supply reduction or interruption, a number of collective security safeguards can

be shared with other countries to reduce negative impacts on economy and society. Second, in energy investment and trade, more multilateral and binding laws and politics safeguards can be enjoyed to reduce all kinds of discrimination or unfair treatment from concerned countries against Chinese energy enterprises, especially state-owned enterprises. China's overseas energy investment has increased significantly, giving rise to a significant increase in conflicts and disputes on investment between China and the target countries. In terms of addressing the issues, the multilateral energy cooperation mechanism is far less costly and less risky than the bilateral cooperation mechanism. Third, the promise of legal protection in foreign investment and trade can greatly improve China's investment and trade environment, which could enhance the confidence of the international community in investment and trade in China.

Although the overall Chinese economy growth needs less foreign investment than before, there is still a need for a large amount of foreign capital, especially capital and technologies related to energy efficiency and energy conservation, development of new energy resources, and environmental protection in energy-related areas. In addition, accession to international energy organization and multilateral energy cooperation mechanism will also promote further improvement of domestic energy policy and related legal system, and energy market systems.

From the perspective of political diplomacy, joining international energy organizations can greatly weaken the concern of the international community, especially the western countries, that China may challenge the current international order or system. The energy problem has gradually expanded to the field of political security, which brings many challenges to China's diplomacy. Energy Threat Theory has become the core content of China Threat Theory. In general, the core of the "energy threat theory" lies in the worry of the United States and other Western countries that China will challenge the existing international order and the dominance of the West by energy cooperation and energy diplomacy. This is reflected in not only concerns about China's overseas energy policy but also that China will take advantage of its growing strategic oil reserves to manipulate international markets.

One of the most important roots for the fear and suspicion mentioned above is that China, currently not a legally binding member of the major international energy organizations, is often regarded as a sabotage of systems, rules, and international practices because China is free from the Western-led international energy cooperation system. Under such

circumstances, no matter what energy policy (including establishing international strategic oil reserves and promoting energy saving and emission reduction) China may adopt and what kind of dialogue, communication, and explanation are carried out, without entering the existing international system and accepting the widely accepted laws and regulations of the West, it is difficult to fundamentally eliminate the worries and doubts of the West.

To a certain extent, international organizations can be regarded as a microcosm of the international community following the general trend of globalization. The degree of participation and recognition of international organizations is an important index to judge the extent of the integration of developing countries into existing international systems. On the whole, concerning participating in international organizations, China has gradually changed from an opponent and reformer of the current system to a maintainer, an active participant of international organizations, but its way of participation is relatively passive and less influential. China, particularly as a big country with increasingly influential energy production, consumption, and import, is still absent from the core international energy organizations.

There are many reasons for less substantive progress in cooperation with international energy organizations. In addition to historical factors and national power, China has insufficient research and understanding of many relevant international organizations and has limited research on international energy organizations. According to an article published in March 2008 by *Chinese Academy of Social Sciences*, the number of articles on international organizations in 2007 was only 7.39% of the empirical articles, and the vast majority of them were only related to the European Union. Due to the insufficient cognition and understanding, it is inevitable for China to misread the international organizations to some degree [5]. Some analyses suggest that China is basically excluded from major energy organizations in the global energy cooperation. It is true that that China was once excluded in history, but at present, the attitude of the major international energy organizations to China has changed significantly, and China has become the target country for many international energy organizations to invite.

It is due to historical, cultural, and cognitive reasons that some people doubt and distrust some international organizations, burdened with too many worries and concerns about joining international organizations. They assume that the organizations are controlled by a few countries and

China would suffer from sovereignty restrictions. Loaded with such worries, “we are used to rejecting international invitations, including many proposals of international organizations and existing institutions, especially when the interests behind those invitations and proposals are not obvious” [6]. In fact, with the deepening of the interdependence of the international community, many multilateral intergovernmental organizations are characterized by their emphasis on mutual benefits and universal benefits. Enjoying numerous benefits which could not possibly exist in unilateral or bilateral agreement, they strengthen their own constraints which can also help to win international trust and promote the improvement of domestic policies and social progress. Here is a typical example. Before joining the WTO, many people in China feared that the WTO would affect Chinese development. However, it turns out that China's accession to the WTO has greatly promoted China's development and has greatly promoted China's domestic reform and the perfection of the systems and policies in all aspects.

It is true that as for the accession of substantive international energy organizations, China still suffers from the absence of sufficient material foundation and a psychological preparation. In concept, there are various concerns and worries about the constraints of various international organizations and the dominance of the great powers. On the cognitive level, there is insufficient research and understanding on many international organizations. In addition, over the years, there is an absence of unified energy management and external cooperation agency in the country.



THE GRADUAL MATURITY FOR DEEP PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL ENERGY GOVERNANCE

With the continued growth of energy demand, to join such substantive international energy organizations as ECT and the IEA will speed up the process of China's integration into the international energy market and better safeguard China's various energy interests. On the one hand, it can promote China's overseas energy investment and trade, as well as develop dialogue and cooperation with the United States, Europe, and Japan around energy efficiency and technology. On the other hand, China would import more energy from Central Asia and the Middle East through land transport. Among many potential transit countries, Russia

and many countries in middle Asian countries are all member countries, and the countries around like Mongolia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have joined or are joining the international energy organizations such as ECT. Joining ECT and other international energy organizations will greatly enhance the safety of China's land energy transport.

Many international energy policies currently adopted by China are basically in line with the goals and directions of the international energy organizations. IEA emphasizes that all member countries maintain the stability of the international energy market under the principle of collective security. The core of ECT aims at, with legally binding agreements, the establishment of a truly open, nondiscriminatory energy market through the protecting multilateral energy investments, trade, and transport. China's policy of international energy cooperation is, to a large extent, targeted at strengthening energy interdependence and promoting the stability of the international energy market. In China's *White Paper on Energy Policy* published in 2007, it clearly put forward the wish of active participation in various multilateral and bilateral international energy cooperation and dialogue. It also attached great importance to the positive perfection of relevant laws and opening-up policies, and encouraged foreign investment to further optimize the foreign investment environment.

As for the external environment, the main international energy organizations have positive attitude towards China's wish for accession. In recent years, international energy organizations such as IEA and ECT have actively developed their relations with non-member countries to expand their own influence. China and India with a higher status in the international economy and energy affairs have become the objects of their active efforts. On June 12, 2008, at the meeting of Energy Charter Strategic Working Group, Russia made clear that it would be a priority consideration to encourage some emerging powers such as China and India to join this organization. In May 2008, US Assistant Secretary of State, Daniel Sullivan, called on China to join the IEA. He believed that China's accession could strengthen the resilience of organization, which would further consolidate energy security of the United States, China, and all over the world. The former Director of IEA, Mr. Nobuo Tanaka, has repeatedly stated that many countries, including the United States and Japan, welcome China to join the IEA and actively promote the reform of the IEA.

In addition, there has been a growing call for a similar regional international energy organization in East Asia. China, South Korea, Japan, and

many ASEAN countries increasingly believe that it is vital and urgent to establish energy community and strengthen regional energy cooperation. At the same time, the relevant parties are actively exploring its feasibility and related plans. The urgency of establishing regional energy organizations and the deepening of the Asian–European energy nexus have laid the foundation for ECT to become an international energy organization including most Eurasian countries.

At home, the related parties have shown more and more interest and desire to join the substantive international energy organizations, and the relevant research and cognition have been significantly multiplied. There are more and more concerns and discussions at the academic level about such issues as why some US policy makers advised China to join the IEA and China's attitude towards joining the IEA. This will undoubtedly help to create the environment and atmosphere for China to join substantive international energy organizations.

Moreover, with the deepening understanding of international energy organizations and multilateral energy cooperation mechanisms, some misinterpretations and prejudices are expected to be alleviated or eliminated. The misunderstandings and prejudices cover the worries that the international energy organization would limit China's sovereignty in energy policy and *ECT* would bring limited benefits to China who had entered WTO. *ECT* can be taken as an example. It explicitly acknowledges the state's ownership and sovereignty over energy resources, and at present the treaty does not urge member states to open up all energy fields to foreign investment. It emphasizes that once foreign investment is allowed to enter, the most favored nation must be guaranteed, which is even more beneficial for the ever-increasing foreign investment of China. In terms of trade, although China has joined WTO, it is still necessary to take the advantage of the guarantee of the ECT, since many countries that China makes energy trade with such as Russia and Central Asian countries are not members of WTO, and also WTO does not cover the field of energy.



CHINA'S GROWINGLY POWERFUL ROLE IN GLOBAL ENERGY GOVERNANCE

In spite of diverse problems and challenges, in general, China's multilateral energy diplomacy has become increasingly active. China, actively

participating in the global energy and environmental governance process, becomes increasingly influential with deeper participation and greater function.

In recent years, China's role on the traditional international energy governance platform has been continuously strengthened. In May 2015, China signed a new *Declaration of International Energy Charter*, shifting its status from an invited observer to the contracted observer. PetroChina has also applied to become a member of the ECT Industry Advisory Group to promote dialogue with the business sector and pay special attention to investment, cross-border energy trade, transit, transport, mitigation of crises, and improvement of industrial environment. In November 2015, China, together with Thailand and Indonesia, officially became the first consortium of IEA countries. In March 2016, Nur Bekri, the administrator of China's National Energy Association, and Fatih Birol, Executive Director of IEA, jointly announced the establishment of the IEA–China Energy Cooperation Center in China. It is the first cooperation center established overseas in 41 years for IEA. On February 16, 2017, in Beijing Nur Bekri and Fatih Birol formally signed *Three-year Work Program* to further deepen the cooperation in energy security, energy modeling, and statistics. In June 2016, Sun Xiansheng, the former president of CNPC Economics & Technology Research Institute, was elected the fourth Secretary General of IEF. It was the first time for Chinese experts to play a leading role in important international energy organizations.

China takes a more and more active attitude on global climate management, and its role is becoming increasingly prominent. In November 2014, China and the United States issued a joint statement on climate change at the APEC meeting to promote the reaching of a historical agreement at the Paris Climate Change Conference. In hosting the 2016 G20 summit in Hangzhou, China strongly encouraged countries to take a green low-carbon path and promoted to put the global energy internet and green finance on the formal agenda. For the first time in the outcome document of the G20 Ministerial Conference on Energy, the focus of energy popularization has been extended from sub-Saharan Africa to the Asia-Pacific region with a population of 500 million without electricity. China also initiated the founding of G20 Green Financial Research Group.

In May 2017, at the International Cooperation Summit Forum hosted by China, the relevant departments of China emphasized the importance

of energy cooperation to the “The Belt and Road” initiative and proposed to establish “The Belt and Road” Energy Cooperation Club. Energy cooperation is an important part of “The Belt and Road,” especially the construction of infrastructure such as oil and gas pipeline network and energy hub. These projects and facilities involve so many countries in terms of transnational transport and cross-border investment that it requires a multilateral legal framework to deal with crises and disputes and to protect related interests. Most of the countries along the “The Belt and Road” are members of ECT or observer states. The comprehensive advance of “The Belt and Road” is expected to push forward the transition of China’s energy cooperation from bilateral relations in the past to multilateral relations.

In light of safeguarding China’s growing international energy interests and deepening international energy cooperation, especially ameliorating the West’s concern that China would challenge the existing energy system and the international order, China should strategically attach importance to the role that international energy organizations may play in China’s multilateral energy diplomacy, such as IEA and ECT. China should treat IEA and ECT as a breakthrough point in deepening cooperation with international energy organizations and integrating into the multilateral energy cooperation mechanism and the international energy order. More researches should be further encouraged about major international energy organizations and multilateral energy cooperation mechanisms. In addition, taking more initiative in enhancing exchanges and communication, China should actively participate in related activities, and make preparations in relevant policies, laws, and even staff to join these organizations. China should make the best use of G20 platform to push the G20 Energy Working Group to establish close ties with major international energy organizations such as IEA, ECT, and OPEC, and set up the basic framework for global energy governance.

We will accelerate reform and the adjustment of domestic energy governance mechanisms and enhance China’s willingness and ability to participate in international energy governance. At present, domestic oil and gas interest groups restrict, to some degree, China’s deeper participation in global governance mechanism.

An important starting point for China’s accession to global energy governance is its participation in sharing global oil and gas data and transparency mechanisms. But several major oil companies have almost

monopolized the current domestic crude oil and oil market, so more transparency would pose a threat to its monopoly status [6].

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