

# Energy Security



The global energy system faces a number of major challenges in the twenty first century

## The growing risk of disruption to energy supplies

- Heightened global competition over depleting fossil fuels
- The increasing pressure on current supply from rapidly industrialising countries such as China and India
- The security of supplies from the Middle East
- Energy-rich countries using supplies of gas and oil as a political weapon
- The recent scramble for Africa's reserves by countries such as China in competition with established transnational oil companies
- The possibility of a terrorist attack on gas or oil pipelines



## Persistent energy poverty in the less developed countries

- 2.5 billion people rely on biomass as a source of energy, this number will continue to rise over the twenty first century
- Increased population pressure on the land in the poorest countries means that fuel wood is gathered unsustainably
- Most people living in rural areas have no access to electricity

## The threat of environmental damage posed by current energy production and use

- Damaging emissions from fossil fuels must be cut in order to halt the process of global warming; fuel efficiency must become a priority
- The proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources of energy needs to rise significantly in order to produce 'cleaner energy'
- The likelihood of a revival of nuclear power as a major source of energy and the associated environmental risks involving this source of energy

