

## **International report forecasts clean, cheap future for coal**

A report just released lays out the science, technology and policy roadmap for developing energy resources to drive economic growth in both industrialized and developing countries while also securing climate protection and global development goals. Commissioned by the governments of Brazil and China, the InterAcademy Council says *Lighting the way: Toward a sustainable energy future*, identifies a scientific framework for directing global energy development. The report was produced by a study panel of 15 world-renowned energy experts. The report establishes the best practices for a global transition to a clean, affordable and sustainable energy supply in both developing and developed countries. It also addresses incentives that can accelerate the development of innovative solutions, provides recommendations for financial investments in research and development and explores other transition pathways that can transform the landscape of energy supply and demand around the globe. One of the report's nine conclusions is devoted to nuclear energy, which the report says can continue to make a significant contribution to the world's energy as a low-carbon resource. However, a "global renaissance of nuclear power" is unlikely to materialise over the next few decades, the report says, without substantial governmental support; international collaboration to address safety, waste, and proliferation concerns; changes in public perception; and the imposition of greenhouse gas constraints that would make low- or non-carbon energy technologies more cost-competitive with their currently cheaper fossil-fuel counterparts. On global energy supply and coal, the report also states that: "Given ample global supplies and relatively low cost, coal is likely to be an important part of the energy picture for some time to come. Therefore great urgency must be given to developing and commercialising technologies – such as carbon capture and sequestration – that would allow for the continued use of coal in a manner that does not pose unacceptable environmental risks." The Netherlands-based InterAcademy Council was founded in 2000 by science academies from around the world to provide high quality advice to international bodies – such as the United Nations and the World Bank – as well as to other institutions.

[Source: esaa ]