

Energy Colloquium

Energy Policy and Urban Policy Are Linked: Government and Industry Must Cooperate Rather Than Compete in Meeting This Challenge

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26 April 2016, 16:00

Skolkovo Innovation Center

Technopark, Building 3, Room 403



ABSTRACT:

How the cities of tomorrow will cope with the twin challenges of energy provisioning and the emerging urban settlement system is an open question. These domains are rarely discussed face to face. Examining the process of global urbanization twinned with the geography of global economic development, unmasks the complexity of urban management and planning. Cities are simultaneously facing the requirement of economic development for tens of millions of people in a context where highly uneven economic growth is privileging some locations while ignoring others in the face of resource constraints, political uncertainty, and institutional failure. We need urban policies that are founded on energy policies and that are responsive to human needs in this era of mass urbanization. The China example highlights the difficulty of deploying retrofit technology as the fix for solving problems of energy supply at a scale sufficient to meet the need of the world's newly urbanizing residents. The gap between the mass flows of people moving into newly urbanizing cities, the highly skewed global distribution of energy resources, and the absence of energy supplies in many of the world's big urban centers, raises fundamental questions: where is this mass urban scaling occurring, what is regulating this process of urban development and are the current pathways to city formation taking into account the basic goods needed for a minimally sustainable life, importantly energy infrastructure.

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Colloquium schedule and information on how to get to the colloquium can be found at <http://www.skoltech.ru/en/energy-colloquium/>