



# INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICY

“Global Patterns of Power Sector Reform, 1982-2013”

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## Executive Summary

POST-PRINT: forthcoming

PRE-PRINT: [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3301148](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3301148)

DATA: <http://sais-isep.org/?p=3200>

### 1. What is the question?

How have power sector reforms evolved over time? There are two major types of power sector reform – hybrid and textbook. Hybrid reforms change the management of the power sector without requiring privatization or liberalization of competition. Textbook reforms introduce more radical changes such as privatization of utility assets, creation of wholesale markets, and allowing customers to choose their supplier. With new data, this article investigates patterns of power sector reform between 1982-2013 in non-OECD countries.

### 2. What is the answer?

Developing countries continue to make substantial investments in hybrid reforms. However, textbook reforms are mostly limited to wealthy democracies with high levels of state capacity. Poor, authoritarian, and low-capacity countries have not moved toward privatization and liberalization of power markets.

### 3. What does this mean for policy and practice?

As countries continue to combat poverty, authoritarianism, and low state capacity, they will likely start to move toward textbook reforms. This insight can help governments, international organizations, and civil society better understand the relationships between power sector reforms and fundamental outcomes such as utility finances, technical performance, rural electrification and renewable energy. The article introduces freely available data.

### 4. About ISEP

The Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP) is an interdisciplinary research program that uses cutting-edge social and behavioral science to design, test, and implement better energy policies in emerging economies. Hosted at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), ISEP identifies opportunities for policy reforms that allow emerging economies to achieve human development at minimal economic and environmental costs. The initiative pursues such opportunities both pro-actively, with continuous policy innovation and bold ideas, and by responding to policymakers’ demands and needs in sustained engagement and dialogue.

**Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy**

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