

## I. Introduction

From the early harnessing of animal power to the most sophisticated of today's hydrogen fuel cells, energy utilization has long been the lifeblood of technological and economic development. The energy choices made by the United States and the rest of the world have ramifications for: economic growth, both in developed and developing countries; local, regional, and national environmental quality; the global climate; and even the future shape of international political alliances and national defense commitments. Here we evaluate the availability of global energy resources, how they are used and by whom.

### *Classification scheme*

(See Table 1.)

We analyze year 2000 data from 211 countries<sup>1</sup>, following the World Bank's method of distinguishing between low, middle and high-income countries according to gross national income per capita (GNI/pop). We refer to low- and middle-income countries jointly as developing countries, and high-income countries are considered industrialized or developed countries. Of the countries considered in this analysis, approximately 75% fall into the former category. Countries are low income if GNI/pop is less than US \$750 (69 countries, *e.g.*, Congo, India and Indonesia), middle income if GNI/pop is between US \$750 and US \$9,250 (85 countries, *e.g.*, Argentina, Mexico and Turkey), or high income if GNI/pop is greater than US \$9,250 (57 countries, *e.g.* U.S., Japan and Western Europe). We have also identified those countries comprising the poorest 10% (*e.g.*, Cambodia, Chad and Tajikistan) and the richest 10% (*e.g.*, the U.S., Singapore and the United Kingdom). The developing country group is heterogeneous in resource endowments and development conditions, while classification as a developed country does not imply a preferred or final stage of development. GNI per capita is a convenient criterion among many metrics for levels of development, and does not necessarily reflect development status.

The low-income countries include mostly nations in Africa, but also countries in Central and Southeast Asia, Oceania, Central and South America, Eastern Europe, several former Soviet nations, and one nation (Yemen) in the Middle East. The middle-income countries are more heterogeneous, but located in the same regions described above as well as Western Europe and North America (Mexico). The high-income group includes countries in North America, the Caribbean, Oceania, Western Europe, and a handful of nations in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

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<sup>1</sup> A list of these countries, grouped by GNI per capita in 2000 as reported by the World Bank's *World Development Indicators 2002* database, can be found in Appendix I.

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