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Scarcities that reinforce the food, energy, and water nexus in the China-Latin America-Japan relations



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Abstract

Despite having very distinct amounts of natural resources, China and Japan are among the top importers of food and energy commodities in the world. Those predicaments forced them to launch resource diplomacy efforts and “go-out” policies in different parts of the globe. Given its well-known wealth in natural resources, attractive local markets, and relatively advanced industrial bases in international terms, Latin America became an obvious go-to region for transnational corporations from those two Asian leading economies. Much more recent Chinese incursions in the region, in the context of the FEW (food-energy-water) nexus, have already surpassed those of Japan by a large margin. But Japanese corporations still show a great appetite to increase their business participation in the food and energy sectors, particularly in Brazil, by far the largest economy in the region and the South American country with the largest volumes of business with Chinese corporations.

Keywords

FEW (food-energy-water) nexus; China-Latin American relations; Japan-Latin American relations; natural resources and energy scarcity; ethanol; biofuels; biomass; soybeans; sugarcane; Brazil; offshore deepwater oil and gas.

众人拾柴火焰高 / 罢人拾柴火焰高
Zhòng rén shí chái huǒyàn gāo
“Only when all contribute their firewood can they build up a big fire”

¹- * M.Sc., M.A., Ph.D., Visiting Fellow at the University of Tokyo, Institute of Social Science.

七転び八起き
nana korobi ya oki
“Fall seven times, get up eight.”

Haciendo y Deshaciendo Se Va Aprendiendo
“It's By Doing and Undoing That We Learn”