Established in July 1995, the Institute is an influential, university-based Center of Excellence that produces solid results to support open markets for private investment in energy, capturing both the business and policy dimensions and serving as a platform for advanced market knowledge that can filter throughout degree program fundamentals and principles. We concentrate on the policy frameworks that best serve global capital markets for energy resource and infrastructure development – the ingredients for successful, “bankable” energy investments – as well as on optimal strategies for investment and trade.

Houston provides a unique setting for interaction with the international energy industries. The Institute is externally funded through Corporate and Government Partner sponsorships, research grants and contracts and revenues from education programs and publications. To date, about 30 faculty and international research fellows and 20 graduate students have collaborated with more than 60 Corporate and Government Partner Fellows, Advisors, Senior Associates, visiting scholars and professional staff through the Institute.

Corporate and Government Partners

A “Do Tank”
We focus our interdisciplinary research on three fundamental, interacting forces that are re-shaping the global energy industries.
★ The role of government (at all levels) and policy models for commercial energy development.
★ The business/government interface.
★ Corporate strategies and management responses to more competitive energy markets.

We have a tested “model” for all Institute research.
★ Maintain a strong energy value chain focus.
★ Corporate Partners help road map priorities with balance assured through our Advisory Board.
★ Use conceptual models to define problems, quantitative models for solutions.
★ Use case studies for thorough treatment.
★ Maintain ongoing evaluations of market fundamentals via outlooks and scenarios, emphasizing basic assumptions.

★ Join the team” with Corporate and Government Partners whenever possible and when appropriate to accomplish specific goals.

Overall Activity Elements
Ongoing research and training ★ Visiting Researcher Program ★ Forums and networks ★ Internet resources ★ Student enhancement (Institute fellowships, Texas Railroad Commission Internship, corporate internships) ★ Curricula enhancement for BCB and other UH degree programs

CURRENT ACTIVITIES
Research Highlights
Gas/power “marketization”: The Institute is a leader among university research centers on natural gas and electric power field-to-market development and convergence. Our scope includes the Americas; West Europe; West and South Africa; Turkey, the Caspian and Middle East; and East Asia. Research includes market design and structure Best Practices, intensive market analysis and case studies, outlooks, country databases and objective public commentary.
Special topics: Range from oil market transparency to impacts of “disruptive” technologies such as new vehicle engine designs and environmental trends.

Energy Business Enterprise of the Future
Business consequences of more competitive energy markets. Activity includes “Energy Inc.” simulation for research and instruction, case studies and special research topics such as information technologies.

Online Energy Trading Lab
The Institute is developing an online energy trading platform to provide commodity market information and expert systems for: market simulation, experimental research on market design and behavior, financial product structuring, integration of physical asset and risk management strategies and decision analytics and support. This platform will be accessible through the AIM Center for the Management of Investment Services at BCB.

Professional Training – Announcing a New Era for Oil, Gas and Power Value Creation
New Era is a high level, capacity-building review for professionals in government and industry worldwide, under development with the U.S. Department of Energy and other institutions. May 14-25, 2000

Recent Publications
Energy Inc. is the Institute’s semi-annual newsletter.

The Energy Institute is a University-Business Learning Partnership ★ Bauer Means Business
Our Mission ★ To help prepare energy business managers and government policy makers for more competitive global markets.
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