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Rice University**

The mission of the Baker Institute is to help bridge the gap between the theory and practice of public policy by drawing together experts from academia, government, media, business and nongovernmental organizations. By involving policymakers and scholars, as well as students (tomorrow's policymakers and scholars), the institute seeks to improve the debate on selected public policy issues and to make a difference in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policy, both domestic and international. The Baker Institute is an integral part of Rice University, one of the nation's most distinguished institutions of higher education. The efforts of Baker Institute fellows and affiliated Rice faculty focus on several ongoing research projects, details of which can be found on the institute's Web site, <http://bakerinstitute.org>.

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Homeland Security and Terrorism  
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Religion and Public Policy  
Science and Technology Policy  
Space Policy  
Tax and Expenditure Policy  
Technology, Society and Public Policy  
The Transnational China Project  
Women and Human Rights in the Middle East

**Baker Institute Energy Forum**

Located in Houston, Texas, the energy capital of the world, the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy has created a multifaceted program designed to promote original, forward-looking discussion and research on the energy-related challenges facing our society in the 21st century. The mission of the Energy Forum is to shed light on important trends—both regional and global—that shape the nature of global energy markets and influence the quantity and security of vital supplies needed to fuel world economic growth and prosperity. The choice of the word “forum” is deliberate. It reflects the group's goal to serve as a focal point for the exchange of ideas on how to improve understanding of the complex political, cultural, religious, economic and social forces that influence open access to energy resources and their equitable distribution.



**JAMES A. BAKER III  
INSTITUTE FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY  
RICE UNIVERSITY**



***Equatorial Guinea:  
A Vision of the Future***

**Friday, September 18, 2009**

**Doré Commons**  
James A. Baker III Hall  
Rice University

**His Excellency**  
**Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**  
President, Republic of Equatorial Guinea

In 1979, after the devastation of a decade under tyrannical rule, then-Lieutenant Colonel Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo took control of the government of Equatorial Guinea. He was named president of the Supreme Military Council, which would lead the nation's transition to participatory democracy. When Equatoguineans voted overwhelmingly for a new constitution in 1982, the Supreme Military Council was abolished and Obiang became president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea for an initial seven-year term. He was re-elected in 1989, 1996 and 2003.

Since the discovery of substantial oil and natural gas reserves in the mid- to late-1990s, Obiang's government has made significant investments in increasing transparency in its financial practices and diversifying its economy, modernizing its infrastructure, strengthening its public health system, and promoting education to build a strong foundation for the future of the country. Under Obiang's leadership, Equatorial Guinea has reopened schools, expanded primary education, and restored public utilities and roads. Obiang has also made a strategic decision to focus on diversifying the national economy to ensure successful long-term stabilization.

Obiang was born in Akoakam-Esangui, in the Mongomo district in northeast Equatorial Guinea. He was educated in the official school of Mongomo and then by Catholic missionaries. In 1963, he was accepted as a cadet of the Territorial Guard, and later that year, into the General Military Academy of Saragosse, Spain.

The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy  
and the  
Baker Institute Energy Forum

Introduction

**The Honorable Edward P. Djerejian**  
Founding Director, Baker Institute for Public Policy

Address

***Equatorial Guinea:  
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by

**His Excellency**  
**Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**  
President, Republic of Equatorial Guinea

**Friday, September 18, 2009**  
11:00 am

Reception to Follow

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