



# PACIFIC ENERGY SUMMIT

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**\*\*\*News Release\*\*\***

## **Industry Executives, Regional Government Leaders, and Energy Experts Tackle Soaring Regional Energy Demand and Corresponding Climate Security Challenges**

*2012 Pacific Energy Summit Delegates from over 17 Countries Meet in Hanoi to Foster Energy Security, Economic Growth and Electricity Access*

Leaders from across the Asia-Pacific gathered in Hanoi, March 20-22, for the 2012 Pacific Energy Summit to examine how to address a staggering rise in regional need for power supplies and the associated environmental challenges. Asia is the world's most dynamic economic region and is driving a rapid expansion in global energy demand. This unprecedented growth, coupled with heavy regional reliance on fossil fuels such as oil and coal for power generation has led to surging greenhouse gas emissions and environmental concerns.

The 2012 Pacific Energy Summit focused on power generation and gathered world-renown energy and geopolitical experts, industry executives, high-level policymakers, and government leaders to promote forward-looking, practical and market-driven policies that address the twin challenges of rising energy demand and global climate change. This year's Summit theme, "Innovative Generation: Powering a Prosperous Asia," addressed the challenging decisions policymakers face: a wide array of fuel choices, at various price points and each with varying environmental impacts and infrastructure requirements.

According to the EIA's latest forecast, electricity demand in developing Asian countries will rise by 56% from 2015-25, and another 40% from 2025-35. From 2010-35, Japan's Institute for Energy and Economics (IEEJ) forecasts that \$20 trillion will be needed to meet electricity demand growth worldwide, of which \$9 trillion alone will be needed in Asia.

"Asia is faced with a daunting task. It must meet escalating power needs and is simultaneously trying to shift to a cleaner energy mix and expand electricity access to nearly 700 million people who don't have it. What is required is tremendous investment and a policy environment that supports increased competition, efficiency, and pricing reform," said **Dennis Blair**, Member of the Board of Directors, The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), which is the presenting organization of the Summit. "This was the third Summit meeting and by developing a like-minded community of leaders who are committed to these very urgent issues, we build the momentum toward finding market-based and realistic solutions."

"Vietnam's economy is growing quickly, as are the economies of other nations in the region," said **Hoang Tien Dung**, Director-General of the Institute of Energy, a leading research and consulting group under Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade. "We share a common need for adequate power supply to fuel development and prosperity for all. Vietnam was honored to host a high-level meeting of regional leaders and to facilitate the collaboration and cooperation needed to ensure energy and environmental security."

Under the overarching issue of ensuring adequate power supply to sustainably meet regional economic growth forecasts, the Summit hosted a series of plenary sessions and focused workshops led by renowned experts in the field. Discussions focused on a variety of inter-related issues, including the prospects of transforming natural gas into Asia's baseload fuel; the outlook for new technology to reduce coal's environmental footprint; the benefits and impacts of hydro power; how to realize the promise of clean energy and economic opportunity through renewable energy resources; innovation and technologies for expanding access to electricity; and designing responsive and effective power markets.

The bridge to a prosperous, low-carbon, regional economy is forged through significant investment in innovation and infrastructure, and reinforced by a strong policy framework. Due to high start-up costs and the long-term planning required for energy infrastructure, decisions made in the next five years will affect the region and the world for decades to come. There was general consensus among Summit delegates that first step toward transforming the regional energy system requires greater collaboration as well as sustained political will at the highest levels. Discussions focused on exploring new energy development strategies that will yield abundant, reliable, affordable energy supplies.

“Every Summit delegate has an important role to play in finding viable solutions to energy and climate security issues,” said **Mikkal Herberg**, Research Director for the Energy Security Program at NBR. “The meeting fosters an environment where we can build bridges across sectors and implement effective strategies to power a prosperous Asia.”

The 2012 Pacific Energy Summit was held in Hanoi March 20-22 and hosted by The National Bureau of Asian Research and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam. The Pacific Energy Summit launched in 2009 to foster economic and energy security in the Asia-Pacific by developing practical solutions to the twin challenges of rising energy demand and global climate change. The Summit convenes a select group of high-level representatives from policy, industry, NGOs and academia to explore innovative technology and policy solutions in an interactive setting.

To inform discussions at the 2012 Pacific Energy Summit on power generation, NBR commissioned seven policy papers on the challenges and opportunities confronting the region’s power and energy sectors:

**Powering Asia’s Growth: Meeting Rising Electricity Needs** by Mikkal E. Herberg, *The National Bureau of Asian Research; University of California, San Diego*

[Full Text English](#) | [Full Text Vietnamese](#)

**Electricity at the Right Price** by Donald Hertzmark, *DMP Resources*

[Full Text English](#) | [Full Text Vietnamese](#)

**First Principles: Technology as an Enabler for Productive Power Markets** by Peter Hughes, Scott Hare, and Maite Pina, *Ricardo Strategic Consulting*

[Full Text English](#) | [Full Text Vietnamese](#)

**Case Study on Power Sector Restructuring in Vietnam** by Nguyen Anh Tuan, *Institute of Energy, Vietnam*

[Full Text English](#) | [Executive Summary Vietnamese](#)

**Prospects for Nuclear Energy in Asia** by Hooman Peimani, *Energy Studies Institute*

[Full Text English](#) | [Executive Summary Vietnamese](#)

**Taking Renewable Energy to Scale in Asia** by Letha Tawney, *World Resources Institute*

[Full Text English](#) | [Executive Summary Vietnamese](#)

**Principles of Successful Expansion of Rural Electrification Programs** by Daniel Waddle, *NRECA International*

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