

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sonia Luthra, Assistant Director of Outreach

Phone: +01 202-347-9767

Email: media@nbr.org

**ADMIRAL BLAIR, THE HONORABLE KONO, AND SENIOR EXPERTS
TO DISCUSS STRENGTHENING U.S.-JAPAN TIES IN A NEW ENERGY ERA**

TOKYO, JAPAN (February 5, 2014) – World energy markets have undergone a seismic shift in the past ten years, driven by the unexpected boom in U.S. and Canadian production of unconventional oil and gas. These changes have accelerated an already steady decline in U.S. imports of Middle East oil and gas. At the same time, Japan, China, and the rest of Asia have emerged as major importers of oil and natural gas from the Persian Gulf.

With this in mind, on Thursday, February 13, The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) and the U.S.-Japan Research Institute (USJI) will convene a discussion on “Adapting to a New Energy Era: Strengthening U.S.-Japan Ties.” This on-the-record event will feature remarks by senior energy and geopolitical experts, including Admiral Dennis C. Blair, U.S. Navy (ret.) (Board of Directors, NBR); the Honorable Taro Kono (House of Representatives, Japan); Mikkal E. Herberg (NBR); and Shoichi Itoh (Institute of Energy Economics, Japan), among others.

This discussion will examine how Japan and the United States can work together to develop more collaborative strategies for regional energy security in light of major shifts in world energy markets. It will also consider how the two countries can strengthen their approaches to stabilizing the Persian Gulf.

Kindly note this discussion will be in English and will be on the record.

WHEN:

Thursday, February 13, 2014
10:00 am–12:00 pm

WHERE:

Waseda University
Okuma Memorial Tower (Building #26), Room B104
1-6-1, Nishiwaseda, Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo, JAPAN

WHO:

- **Admiral Dennis C. Blair, U.S. Navy (ret.)**, is former U.S. Director of National Intelligence and a member of NBR’s Board of Directors.
- **The Honorable Taro Kono** is a Member of the House of Representatives, Japan.
- **Mikkal Herberg** is Research Director of the Energy Security Program at NBR and a Senior Lecturer at the University of California, San Diego.
- **Shoichi Itoh** is a Senior Analyst and Manager at the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES OR TO CONFIRM PARTICIPATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Sonia Luthra, Assistant Director, Outreach
media@nbr.org
+01 202-347-9767

###

About The National Bureau of Asian Research

Founded in 1989 with a major grant from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, NBR is an independent, nonpartisan research institution committed to informing and strengthening U.S. policy toward the Asia-Pacific. NBR also helps train the next generation of scholars who concentrate on Asia. For more information, visit www.nbr.org.

About the U.S.-Japan Research Institute

The U.S.-Japan Research Institute (USJI) is a research consortium jointly operated by top universities in Japan—including Doshisha University, Keio University, Kyoto University, Kyushu University, Tsukuba University, the University of Tokyo, Ritsumeikan University, and Waseda University. The mission of USJI includes fostering policy analysis, human resource development, and community building. USJI works to provide a platform for practical research with political implications relevant to U.S.-Japanese relations and to disseminate its research results to policy decision-makers and corporate leaders. USJI holds several events through the year, including seminars and lectures related to U.S.-Japan relations. USJI encourages everyone to participate in their events and contribute to the mission of the institute. For more information, visit www.us-jpri.org.