

PRESS RELEASE
April 28, 2014
For Immediate Release

MEDIA CONTACT:
Casey Bruner, Project Manager, NBR
Ph: 206-632-7370
Cell: 509-952-8182
Email: pef_media@nbr.org

Policymakers, Energy & Environment Experts, Industry & Government Leaders Convene in Seattle to Define Prospects for Expanding Trans-Pacific Energy Trade

2014 Pacific Energy Forum Examines Asia's Energy Demand, North American Energy Supplies, U.S. Policies, and New Technologies

SEATTLE, WA (APRIL 28, 2014)--More than 100 high-level policymakers, energy and environment experts, industry executives, and government leaders gathered at the 2014 Pacific Energy Forum, held April 23-24 in Seattle, to explore prospects for expanding trans-Pacific energy trade. Forum discussions addressed the geopolitical and economic implications of fundamental shifts in the global energy landscape. These include the tremendous scale and increasing pace of Asia's energy demand, a surge in North American energy supplies, cleaner-burning technologies for coal, and advances in energy efficiency. Forum participants sought to identify practical solutions to effectively meeting Asia's growing energy needs--which will increasingly be fueled by coal--while combating climate change.

"Securing Asia's energy and environmental security has prompted an important conversation and we must ensure Asian voices are included in the debate," said **Mikkal Herberg**, Research Director for the Energy Security Program at The National Bureau of Asian Research. "The Pacific Energy Forum offers a platform for all stakeholders to be heard and to take part in an effort to address these challenges."

In addition to panel sessions on global energy markets and optimizing new technology for coal, energy sector leaders analyzed implications of the debate over increasing coal exports from the Pacific Northwest to Asia.

"Asia's energy demand is skyrocketing and cannot be overstated," said **Shoichi Itoh**, Senior Analyst Global Energy Group, Institute of Energy Economics, Japan. "The United States has the potential to export more gas, oil and coal to support Asia's sustained economic development, as well as energy market and geopolitical stability."

Energy experts attending the Forum agreed that the rapid increase in energy demand cannot be understated:

- According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), energy consumption in the Asia-Pacific region is expected to double in the next 20 years.
- In a 2013 IEA report, coal, due to its abundance and affordability, will surpass cleaner-burning natural gas as the primary fuel for electricity production in all ten countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- An Asian Development Bank assessment found that by 2035 most Asian countries will produce less than half of the energy they need, and many will produce only a tiny fraction.
- Today, China derives 74 percent of its power from coal, and about 3 percent from wind and solar power.
- The IEA estimates that by 2035, non-OECD Asia plus Japan are predicted to account for 56 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions.

The 2014 Pacific Energy Forum was co-hosted by the National Bureau of Asian Research and the Slade Gorton Policy Center, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and with support from the Government of Canada. Under the theme "New Frontiers in Trans-Pacific Energy Trade," the forum examined key policy questions that North America and Asia face in determining their future trans-Pacific energy relationship. Forum participants included **Dr. Shoichi Itoh**, Senior Analyst Global Energy Group, Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ); **Dr. Chulsu Kim**, Senior Advisor, Lee International; **Mr. Tadashi Maeda**, Managing Executive Officer, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Japan (JBIC); and **Dr. Han Phoumin**, Energy Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

Note to media: forum speakers are available for interviews

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About the Pacific Energy Forum

The Pacific Energy Forum convenes experts and leaders from Asia and North America to enhance energy and environmental cooperation across the Pacific. The Forum will begin with a high-level assessment of energy and environmental projections for the Asia-Pacific. Over the course of the subsequent discussions, participants will assess key considerations for increasing trans-Pacific energy trade and investment. For more information about the Pacific Energy Forum, visit <http://m.nbr.org/1nkADpO>.

About The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR)

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 policy in the Asia-Pacific. NBR also helps train the next generation of scholars who concentrate on Asia. For more information about NBR, visit www.nbr.org.

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