

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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Contact: Rachel Wagley  
Director of Government Relations and  
External Affairs  
Phone: (202) 347-9767  
Email: [media@nbr.org](mailto:media@nbr.org)

### **EXPERTS DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF NORTH AMERICA-ASIA ENERGY TRADE**

**SEATTLE, WA** – Over 30 policy and energy experts, including Ambassador Gary Locke and representatives from Stanford University, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and the University of Seoul, convened at the [National Bureau of Asian Research \(NBR\)](#) on Tuesday, September 29 to participate in an invitation-only, on-the-record roundtable on the future of trans-Pacific energy trade. Participants examined the impacts of North American energy abundance in gas, oil, and coal on addressing Asia’s increasing energy demand. A video recording of the event can be accessed [here](#).

The event was chaired by former **U.S. Senator Slade Gorton**.

#### ***WHAT DID THEY SAY?***

##### ***On China’s Energy and Environmental Security***

- “China cannot build enough power plants fast enough to meet the energy needs and the demands of its people, whether it’s powered by coal, nuclear, hydro, or solar. But as it produces energy, it must also do so with an eye toward reducing greenhouse gases. America can definitely help China achieve its goals.” – **Ambassador Gary Locke**, former U.S. Ambassador to China, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and Governor of the State of Washington
- “China’s energy needs are opportunities for not just the companies of the Pacific Northwest but indeed throughout all of America.” – **Ambassador Gary Locke**

##### ***On U.S. Energy Production and Consumption***

- “U.S. oil production has increased by 4 million barrels of oil a day over the last eight years or so. That’s equal to more oil production than Iraq, than Iran; in a sense, we’ve added another Iran or Iraq to the world oil supply picture. These are staggeringly big numbers, and this is the number one reason why we’ve seen such a huge price reaction.” – **Mikkal Herberg**, NBR
- “The shale gas revolution has dramatically lowered the share of coal in the U.S. power mix, but it still remains at about 30%, and for most in the United States, it is surprising how much of a role coal still plays in our daily energy demand.” – **Clara Gillispie**, NBR

##### ***On the Role of U.S. Policy***

- “The Pacific Northwest is a hub, a transit point for potential energy trade...We have the potential here in the Pacific Northwest to fit into Asian energy demand in a very important way.” – **Richard Ellings**, President, NBR
- “If the U.S. lifted its ban on crude oil exports, this would be a game changer from the Japanese perspective.” – **Masayuki Tanimoto**, Japan Bank for International Cooperation
- “U.S. climate policy is weak in places where it should be much stronger, and strong in places where it should be much more nuanced... My hope is that if there’s more coherence in how the U.S. is thinking about climate and energy access and local pollution, that we can have a situation where action on climate doesn’t have to seem like it’s in total conflict with free trade and access to energy.” – **Mark Thurber**, Stanford University

### ***On Increased International Energy Cooperation***

- “The United States and South Korea share a lot of strategic interests in terms of energy and regional security. Energy trade between the two countries is not purely based upon commercial interests, but the strong alliance and confidence between the two sides.” – **Se Hyun Ahn**, University of Seoul

### **WATCH ON YOUTUBE**

A video recording of the event can be accessed [here](#).

### **INTERVIEWS**

To interview roundtable participants, contact Rachel Wagley, Director of Government Relations and External Affairs, at [media@nbr.org](mailto:media@nbr.org), (202) 347-9767.

**U.S. Ambassador Gary Locke** (Former U.S. Ambassador to China, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and former Governor of the State of Washington)

**U.S. Senator Slade Gorton** (Counselor, Slade Gorton International Policy Center, NBR)

**Richard Ellings** (President, NBR)

**Mikkal E. Herberg** (Director, Energy Security Program, NBR)

**Se Hyun Ahn** (Director, Center for Energy Security Strategic Studies, University of Seoul)

**Mark Thurber** (Associate Director, Program on Energy and Sustainable Development, Stanford University)

**Clara Gillispie** (Director for Trade, Economic, and Energy Affairs, NBR)

**Shoichi Itoh** (Manager and Senior Analyst, Institute of Energy Economics, Japan)

**Roy Kamphausen** (Senior Vice President for Research, NBR)

**Sung Kyu Lee** (Research Fellow and Head of the International Information Analysis Division, Korea Energy Economics Institute)

**Masayuki Tanimoto** (Director General, Oil and Gas Finance Department, Japan Bank for International Cooperation)

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### **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.*

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