



# Pacific Technology Policy Conference

## 2025 Conference Summary

Advances in digital connectivity and emerging technologies are increasingly shaping global strategic competition, calling for greater cooperation on technology and innovation policy between the United States and its Indo-Pacific partners.

Recognizing the importance of these issues in the Pacific Northwest—both a major technology hub and the nation’s gateway to the Pacific—the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) hosted its second annual Pacific Technology Policy Conference in Seattle on March 13, 2025. The conference convened high-level and policy-relevant discussions between U.S. and Indo-Pacific public- and private-sector stakeholders on key questions concerning technology policy. Around 100 attendees participated in the full-day conference, which was hosted at K&L Gates Seattle and sponsored by [Microsoft](#), the [Korea Foundation](#), and [K&L Gates](#).

The conference opened with remarks from NBR President [Michael Wills](#) and Microsoft Corporate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel [Tom Robertson](#). The speakers recognized the increasing importance of technology policy in a rapidly evolving Indo-Pacific and highlighted NBR’s current and future work on several topics related to technology and innovation.

The conference’s first panel discussed international perspectives in technology and innovation cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Panelists noted the respective strategies of the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, and South Korea and considered topics relevant to those strategies, including digital trade, AI, and advanced technology manufacturing. They also emphasized the need for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific through bilateral and multilateral partnerships.

Following the panel, NBR Advisor and Senior Advisor at Albright Stonebridge Group [Tami Overby](#) moderated a fireside chat with [Ambassador Mark Lippert](#), Executive Vice President of North American Public Affairs and Chief Risk Officer at Samsung. Ambassador Lippert discussed the increasing uncertainty from evolving export

control regulations and broader geopolitical tensions, which have prompted firms such as Samsung to develop proactive strategies to mitigate risks and ensure continued access to the global market.

The second panel covered the global governance of AI, examining how countries are cooperating to regulate the technology and how regulation is dealing with the incredibly rapid technical advances seen over the past year. Panelists noted the importance of an “innovation-forward” U.S. regulatory ecosystem.

In the afternoon, NBR President Michael Wills moderated a fireside chat with **Julie Brill**, Chief Privacy Officer and Corporate Vice President of Global Privacy, Safety, and Regulatory Affairs at Microsoft. Ms. Brill highlighted the evolving nature of regulations surrounding AI and digital safety and identified distinct trends that are emerging in the United States, Asia, and Europe.

The third panel examined the rise of next-generation batteries and the critical mineral supply chains that support this emerging industry. Panelists noted efforts in both the United States and South Korea to reduce reliance on China for supplies of battery materials through increased investment and recycling of critical minerals. They also recognized the expanding role of the private sector in next-generation battery development, despite geopolitical unpredictability.

The fourth panel focused on alignment of the public and private sectors to create more effective cyber policy amid competing national and international approaches to cybersecurity. Panelists discussed challenges to public-private cooperation such as differences in threat perception and allocation of resources. They also considered areas with common ground, such as critical infrastructure protection, noting several successful examples of cooperation.

The final panel covered AI governance in the Indo-Pacific, including the models of the United States and China. Panelists noted the importance of a multistakeholder approach for effective AI governance, the balance between regulatory measures to mitigate risks and policies that support AI innovation, and the context of these developing strategies amid U.S.-China competition.

The conference concluded with remarks from NBR Senior Director of Research and Programs **Doug Strub**, who highlighted NBR’s continuing work on these rapidly evolving issues and previewed the next Pacific Technology Policy Conference. The 2026 conference is scheduled for late March/early April and will cover key technology policy issues for the Indo-Pacific, including cybersecurity, digital regulation and competition policy, AI, and tech security.

