

# The New Energy Economy -Optimising Asia's Future Energy Mix

Roundtable Session Summary Report

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# **Driving Energy Transitions Across** the Globe

Japan Energy Summit & Exhibition brings together key participants from across the global energy ecosystem to actively shape the future of energy, propel sustainable energy access, and redefine the global energy narrative.

The conferences and exhibition address the challenges Japan and countries across the globe face in balancing immediate energy security concerns with longer-term economic growth objectives, sustainability goals, and commitments to achieve carbon neutrality and, eventually, net-zero.

### **Event Overview**







STRATEGIC CONFERENCE





LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLES





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**Japan Energy Summit & Exhibition** 

## Leadership Roundtables

Japan Energy Summit & Exhibition's invitation-only Leadership Roundtables bring together the energy sector's most distinguished industry leaders, strategists, and policymakers. It facilitates important discussions about the future of energy production, LNG supply and demand, financing the energy transition and more, whilst providing excellent networking opportunities which empower attendees to build new high-level industry connections.

Held under the Chatham House Rule, no comments are attributable to any one participant, creating an environment for open and honest dialogue and sparking new ideas and partnerships.



#### **Leadership Roundtable:**

# The New Energy Economy Optimising Asia's Future Energy Mix

As governments continue to target net zero, renewables and storage, low-carbon hydrogen and ammonia and carbon capture and storage (CCS) are being heralded as key enablers of future energy security and decarbonisation for the mature economies of Asia.

LNG continues to be essential to the economies of Northeast Asia, but its role is changing as demand slows and low-carbon energy proliferates. This roundtable discussed actionable strategies aimed at driving sustainability and innovation within the energy sector.

Specifically, it explored three key areas:

#### **Energy Security:**

How long can LNG be a transition fuel for the growth in renewables?

#### **Cross-Border Collaboration:**

Could manufacturing blue hydrogen from imported LNG via CCS transform the long-term demand outlook across Northeast Asia, pushing importers to continue engaging with producers, portfolio players and traders to secure new supply?

#### Low Carbon Asia:

Can LNG act as the facilitator of future low-carbon energy in Northeast Asia?



SESSION HOST

Daniel Toleman

Research Director, Global LNG

Wood Mackenzie



MODERATOR
Gavin Thompson
Vice Chairman, Energy Europe, Middle East & Africa
Wood Mackenzie



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Key topics covered in this roundtable discussion included the pace of the energy transition in Asia, the feasibility of emerging technologies, policy and finance support required to enable the transition, and the role of gas and LNG as a facilitator of the energy transition

#### **KEY OUTCOMES FROM PARTICIPANTS**

## 1. The pace of transition will continue to differ across countries/geographies in Asia

While some countries in Asia are taking the lead in energy transition, other countries prefer to take a wait-and-watch approach. Affordability remains the primary concern of emerging economies already grappling with currency depreciation vs USD, high inflation/high cost of living. What works in Europe cannot easily be replicated in Asia. It is therefore important to be "realistic" on the pace of energy transition in Asia ie not easy to immediately shut down coal plants and switch to cleaner fuels. Existing government subsidies on fossil fuels makes the transition harder.

#### 2. Understanding the economics of emerging tech

Different technologies are being developed in Asia but only where synergies with existing projects / captive demand improves the. CCUS/CCS making progress, but costs remain high and the region lacks subsidies and incentives. Growth expected in partnering with domestic companies or cross border trade. Educating governments on cross border CO2 trade and overcoming the mindset of "why should my country import someone else's Co2" is the key to building partnerships. Companies continue to explore different technologies ie green hydrogen into e-methane, producing blue hydrogen and use of blue ammonia for co-firing in power plants with coal. Most technologies remain nascent, with adoption at scale a challenge due to high costs.



# KEY OUTCOMES FROM PARTICIPANTS

## 3. Policy and finance support required to enable the transition

Governments need to play a bigger role in ensuring a faster transition. Some are starting to develop policies that encourage companies to invest in CCS, hydrogen etc but more support is required. Governments tend to understand fiscals in Oil and Gas value chain better than the components of CO2 value chain and hence the onus also lies with the industry educating governments and populations. The question remains on who will pay a premium for these new technologies? Some companies that are committed to a greener future and have net zero goals like Microsoft, Facebook have shown their willingness to pay and are supporting technologies like Direct Air capture.

## 4. Role of Gas and LNG as a facilitator for the energy transition

Coal remains the dominant fuel source in Asian power markets, with energy security and price affordability remaining the main drivers. Gas will continue to grow in the energy mix as coal-to-gas switching occurs over the next decade and will continue to remain in the mix to support the intermittency of renewables. Higher regulated power prices, carbon taxes and competitive LNG supply are key to unlocking demand.



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