Central Asia’s Pipelines:
Field of Dreams and Realities
*Edward C. Chow and Leigh E. Hendrix*
Dawning of new pipeline era?
Twenty Year Journey

- Russia squandered lead after 1991
- *Temporary* U.S. advantage mid ’90s to’00s
- Return of regional players last decade
- Rise of local governments and elites
- East and South Asia’s turn?
- Wherefore Europe?

*Multi-vector game*
Central Asia’s Oil Pipelines
Central Asia’s Gas Pipelines
Ingredients for success

- Major dedicated volumes of oil or gas
- A capable commercial champion with sufficient economic stake
- Economic viability and superiority over alternatives
- Political support

*Diversity costs and someone has to pay.*
### Realized

- Baku-Supsa
- Caspian Pipeline Consortium
- Blue Stream
- Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan
- South Caucasus Gas Pipeline
- Kazakhstan-China oil
- Turkmenistan-China gas
- Turkmenistan-Iran gas

### Failures

- Upgrade of Atyrau-Samara
- Tikhoretsk to Novorossiysk debottlenecking
- Promoter-led Caucasus pipelines
- Odesa-Brody, other Bosporus bypasses
- Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline
- Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (?)
Gas Pipeline Proposals

- Central-Asia-Center upgrade
- South Stream
- Pre-Caspian gas pipeline
- Nabucco
- Turkey-Greece-Italy
- Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (?)
- Iran-Turkey, Iran-Pakistan-India

Oil Transportation

- Direction of Kashagan flows?
Key Factors:

Who’s the Commercial Champion?

Who pays for diversity?