

Weathering the Storm: U.S.-Japan Leadership in Indo-Pacific Energy Security

August 15, 2023 | 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. PDT

Lotte Hotel
Room 5A (Fifth Floor)
809 5th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Kindly note that the roundtable will be held under Chatham House rule.

The past two years of tumultuous energy markets have demonstrated that energy security and economic security are closely tied to each other. With Japan assuming the G-7 presidency and the United States hosting APEC meetings this year, the two countries are well positioned to lead Indo-Pacific conversations and policies on balancing energy transitions toward decarbonization with their energy security needs. This roundtable will examine the energy security relationship between the United States and Japan, particularly how each nation is dealing with the current energy crisis and preparing for the coming energy transition, and how their cooperation on these issues can help address both energy and economic security concerns.

9:30 a.m. – 9:35 a.m. Welcome and Introduction

Ali Szalwinski
The National Bureau of Asian Research

9:35 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Keynote Remarks

Senator Joe Nguyễn
Chair of the Environment, Energy & Technology Committee,
Washington State Senate

9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. “Weathering the Storm: U.S.-Japan Leadership in Indo-Pacific Energy Security” Roundtable

Moderator: Soichiro Shibata
Monitor Deloitte

Presenters: Ken Koyama
The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan

Jennifer Sklarew
George Mason University

Discussants: Ryo Nasu
Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security

Clara Gillispie
The National Bureau of Asian Research

11:00 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. Closing Remarks

Chihiro Aita
The National Bureau of Asian Research

11:05 p.m.–12:00 p.m. Lunch

Participants

Chihiro Aita – *The National Bureau of Asian Research*

Chihiro Aita is a Senior Project Associate with the Energy and Environmental Affairs team at NBR. She supports various energy and environmental programs, such as the Pacific Energy Summit and the Energy Security Program, in addition to assisting NBR’s work on nontraditional security challenges and climate resiliency. Prior to joining the Energy and Environmental Affairs team, Ms. Aita was a Gorton Leaders Fellow at NBR’s Slade Gorton Policy Center. She also worked for the Japan research team within the Think Tanks and Civil Society Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania and has research and administrative experience from working at the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle. Ms. Aita has a BA in Political Science and International Studies from Macalester College, with a minor in English.

Clara Gillispie – *The National Bureau of Asian Research*

Clara Gillispie is a Senior Advisor to NBR and serves as the official U.S. delegate to the Energy Research Institute Network. Ms. Gillispie is the author of numerous policy essays and reports on Asian energy issues, including recently co-authoring NBR’s “Investments in Energy Transition: Strengthening the Power Sector in South and Southeast Asia.” Ms. Gillispie is regularly called on to directly brief her research and analysis to U.S. and Asian government officials, senior industry representatives, and the media, including the New York Times, Washington Post, and NPR’s Marketplace.

Ken Koyama – *The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan*

Ken Koyama is Chief Economist and Senior Managing Director at the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan. Dr. Koyama also is a Visiting Professor at the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Tokyo and an Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Innovative Research at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. He has served as a member of energy policy related advisory councils and committees for the Japanese government on many occasions. Dr. Koyama also plays a role as Visiting Senior Fellow at the Institute for International Economic Studies and as Board of Director at Japan Electric Power Exchange. He received the “OPEC Award for Research” in 2023.

Ryo Nasu – *Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security*

Ryo Nasu serves as the General Manager of JOGMEC (Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security) Washington D.C. Office since July 2021, where he promotes energy and metals business to achieve a stable supply of fossil fuels, critical minerals, clean hydrogen, and ammonia to Japan, under the close and solid cooperation among the government and private sectors between Japan and the US. Mr. Nasu is also promoting Carbon Free Fuels and CCUS (Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage). He also serves as a Special Advisor to the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) Japan to strengthen the ties between Japanese and U.S. government agencies. Prior to his current positions, Mr. Nasu used to serve as Director of the Radioactive Waste Management Policy Division, Director of the Office for Electricity Transmission and Distribution Policy, Director of the Office for Policy Planning Division of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Department, in addition to the position of the Chief Deputy Director of Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE) of METI. He holds a BS in Geophysics from Kyoto University, a MS in Global

Environmental Engineering from Kyoto University Graduate School of Engineering, and an MBA from Washington University in Saint Louis.

Senator Joe Nguyễn – *Chair of the Environment, Energy & Technology Committee, Washington State Senate*

Born and raised in the 34th Legislative District, Senator Joe Nguyễn has deep roots in the community. His experiences and his involvement with community makes him an ardent champion for investing in Washington families and residents, expanding economic opportunities, and marks him a bold leader in our fight against the climate crisis. Senator Nguyễn is the Chair of the Environment, Energy & Technology Committee. He also serves on the Ways & Means Committee, Human Services Committee, and is the Senate Democratic Assistant Floor Leader. Elected to the state Senate in 2019, Senator Nguyễn has spent his tenure advocating for working families and community members who historically have been left out of the political process. His priorities mirror the committees he serves on.

Soichiro Shibata – *Monitor Deloitte*

Soichiro Shibata is a Director with Monitor Deloitte's strategy consulting practice in Tokyo. Mr. Shibata currently co-leads a team dedicated to geopolitical strategy, combining the analysis of foreign policy, industrial policy, and national security policy with the study of market and industry trends. Through his 15-year career in consulting, he has advised clients across a wide range of industries, including automotive, electronics, consumer goods, and materials, on such topics as business strategy, external affairs, and supply chain management. In his current role, Mr. Shibata collaborates regularly with Deloitte's experts in advanced technology, energy and resources, and digital, which are increasingly at the heart of geopolitical competition. He also travels regularly to exchange insights with decision-makers in North America, Europe, and Asia, and gain first-hand perspectives on the changes rapidly taking shape in society. Mr. Shibata holds a B.A. in Political Science from Yale University and speaks fluent English and Japanese, as well as conversational Spanish and Bahasa Indonesia.

Jennifer Sklarew – *George Mason University*

Jennifer Sklarew is an Assistant Professor for the Environmental Science and Policy Department at George Mason University and brings 30 years of energy and environmental policymaking and analysis to her research and teaching. Dr. Sklarew's prior professional experience spans the public and private sectors. Prior to entering academia, she served in the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Japan, where she led her office's work on Japanese electricity and gas deregulation, as well as the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate. Dr. Sklarew also served as a Mike Mansfield Fellow in various Japanese government agencies. Prior to entering the government, she worked as a D.C.-based energy policy consultant to Japanese utility companies, and as a policy analyst for the Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and former rapporteur for the Council's Energy Security Group, Dr. Sklarew received her Ph.D. in public policy from George Mason University, her MA from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and her BA from the University of Pennsylvania. Her most recent book is *Building Resilient Energy Systems: Lessons from Japan* published by Routledge.

Alison Szalwinski – *The National Bureau of Asian Research*

Alison Szalwinski is Vice President of Research at NBR. In this role, Ms. Szalwinski provides executive leadership to NBR's policy research agenda and oversees research teams in Seattle and Washington, D.C. She is the author of numerous articles and reports and co-editor of the *Strategic Asia* series along with Ashley J. Tellis and Michael Wills. Prior to joining NBR, Ms. Szalwinski spent time at the U.S. Department of State and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Her research interests include U.S. alliance relationships, U.S.-China relations, and the implications of great-power competition for U.S. alliances in the region. She holds a BA in Foreign Affairs and History from the University of Virginia and an MA in Asian Studies from Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service.