



JAPAN ENERGY SUMMIT & EXHIBITION

ジャパン・エネルギー・サミット

26-28 MAY 2027, TOKYO BIG SIGHT



**Japan's energy diplomacy
bolsters regional energy
resilience and cooperation**

**STRATEGIC
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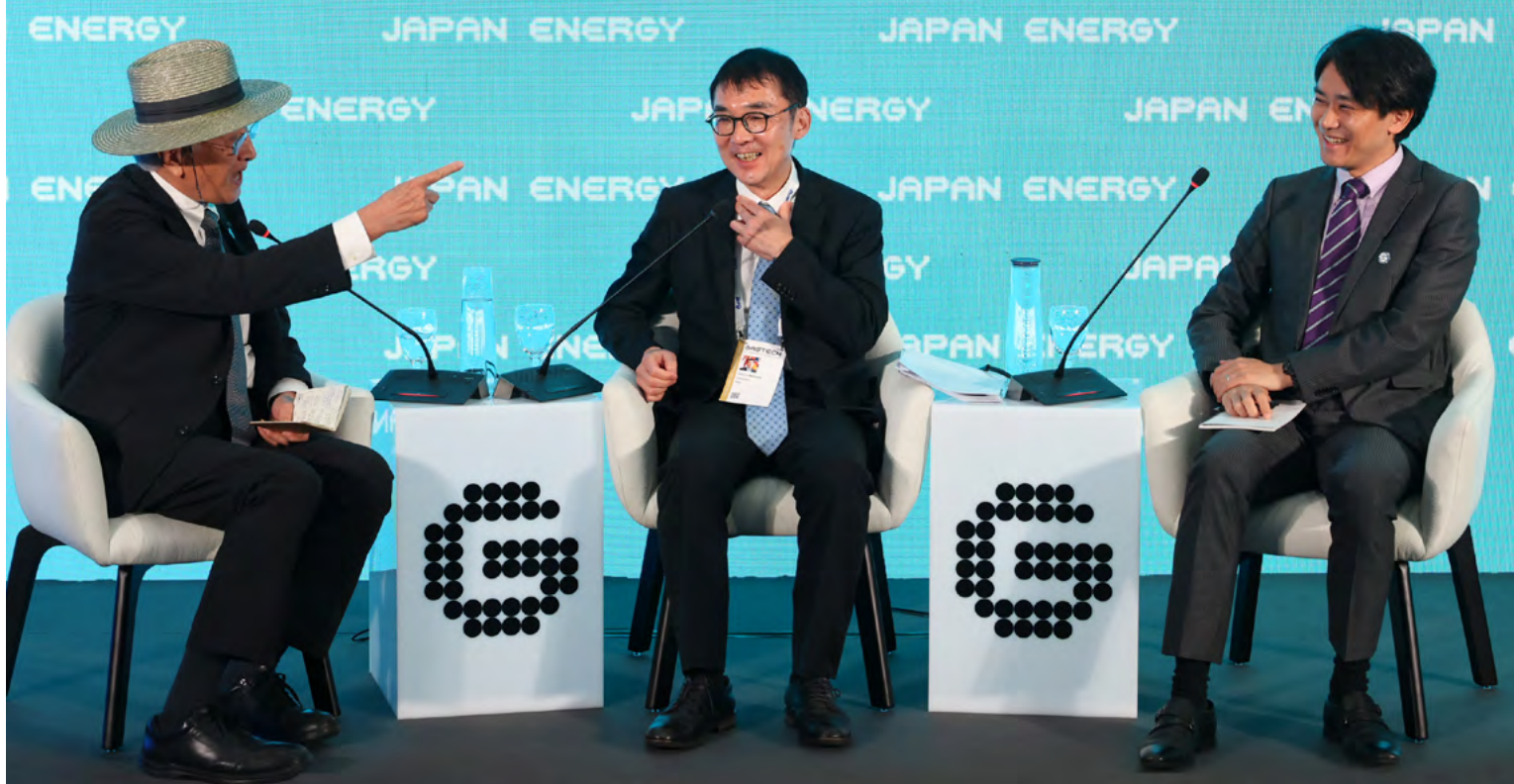
It's very important that, as a region, we achieve economic growth and energy security and decarbonisation at the same time that gas continues to be a very important option for the region.



TETSUYA AZUMA

Director

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI)



JAPAN IS OFFERING LESSONS ON REDEFINING ENERGY DIPLOMACY IN A REGION NAVIGATING AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX GEOPOLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE.

It aims to underpin its national energy security and wider regional resilience, building on the 7th Strategic Energy Plan.

During the Japan Energy Show on the second day of Gastech 2026, the Japan Energy Theatre heard how initiatives such as AZEC and POWER Asia are strengthening regional energy resilience and economic security.

In his opening address, Tetsuya Azuma, Director, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI), welcomed what he called a “very timely opportunity to discuss energy security given what we have experienced in the past several months”.

“There are many lessons we learned,” he told the Japan Energy Theatre. “One is diversification, and another is flexibility or the preparedness for the emergency system.”

Japan benefited from crude-oil stockpiling, while LNG storage remains more difficult, but he said that the portfolio should continue expanding into new sources while broader Asian markets and gas infrastructure could improve flexibility and stability.

“It’s very important that, as a region, we achieve economic growth and energy security and decarbonisation at the same time that gas continues to be a very important option for the region,” said Azuma.

“I’d like to emphasise the importance of international cooperation, especially on the supplier side as well as the demand side.”



With the current oil shock from the Iranian crisis, the geopolitics of energy have changed dramatically

NOBUO TANAKA
CEO - Tanaka Global
Executive Director Emeritus - IEA





Regional cooperation was also prominent in a keynote address by Nobuo Tanaka, CEO of Tanaka Global and Executive Director Emeritus for the IEA, who also discussed how Japan can learn from its response to the 1970s oil shock.

"With the current oil shock from the Iranian crisis, the geopolitics of energy have changed dramatically," he said.

A Strategic Conference session followed, titled 'Harnessing Japanese energy diplomacy at a global inflection point: strengthening supply resilience, diversification, and strategic partnerships'.

The panel explored how policymakers are pursuing a more integrated approach to supply diversification, economic security, and infrastructure development, while elements such as cross-border cooperation and deeper international collaboration are rising in importance for long-term stability and growth.

H.E. Tetsuya Watanabe, President, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), said the ASEAN region was considering joint oil stockpiling, with Japan potentially supporting projects in Vietnam, the Philippines, Australia and other countries.

"I think ASEAN has navigated the crisis quite remarkably," he said. "And one of the priorities is joint stockpiling. It's difficult, but it's maybe the first time regional cooperation on energy in a specific area like oil stockpiling is being tested here."

"That will be very good, not just for energy security, but also for cooperation between Japan and ASEAN in this difficult global landscape."

Japan, like other Asian countries, is also looking to balance energy security, affordability and decarbonisation without hindering growth.



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H.E. TETSUYA WATANABE

President

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

The country's experience of the supply pinch from the US-Iran conflict showed how interconnected regional supply chains are.

"We need to secure a stable supply of energy in the region as a whole," said Azuma, adding that decarbonisation still needed to happen despite the energy shock.

Tanaka argued that the current crisis may accelerate electrification and deepen competition between what he called "petrostates and electrostates".

"Because of this Iranian crisis, the electrification trend will be enhanced and accelerated everywhere, especially in the Asian economy, because Asia was hit most," he said.

"And my concern is that China is definitely the winner of this Iranian shock, and the Japanese auto sector will suffer if we don't transform our sector into a more electrified mode. We have to see a new age of electrification, and Japan and ASEAN should lead together."

As a major proponent of nuclear energy, Tanaka also asked whether ASEAN can develop a common nuclear policy, how regional electricity grids could support security and decarbonisation, and how Japan could contribute to stability in the Middle East.

"With Japan's nuclear experience, in management and safety, we can contribute a lot," he added.



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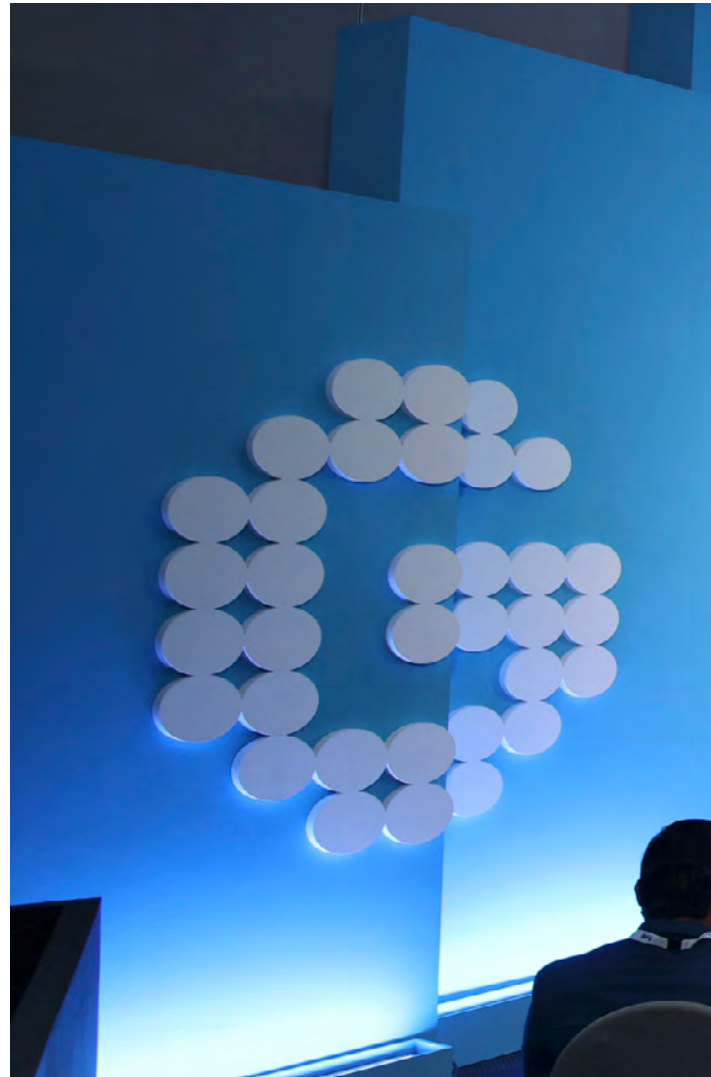
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