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**EPRINC and the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) Initiate Joint Research Program on the “Future of Asian LNG”**

The Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc. (EPRINC) in Washington, D.C. and the Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) in Tokyo have combined forces to evaluate the potential for LNG Demand growth throughout Asia and the opportunity for U.S. LNG exporters to play a larger role in serving Asian LNG markets.

The two research organizations hosted an initial workshop in Washington, D.C. on July 20, 2017 with U.S. experts, industry representatives and government officials from both the U.S. and Japan. A follow up meeting in Tokyo was held on July 28th with Japanese industry executives. IEEJ and EPRINC will draw upon the workshop presentations, ongoing research and assessments in our respective organizations to publish a report of our findings. The report will include recommendations to policy makers with publication scheduled prior to the annual meeting of the world’s LNG producing and consuming countries scheduled for Tokyo on October 18, 2017.

An important focus of the IEEJ-EPRINC research effort is to understand the dynamics of longer-term Asian LNG demand, the capacity of the U.S. resource base to expand natural gas production, strategies that can improve the price competitiveness of U.S. LNG exports, as well as identification of policy initiatives to address structural demand constraints prevalent in emerging Asian LNG markets. Although LNG demand centers throughout Asia are now well supplied, considerable uncertainty characterizes market demand for the post 2022 period. New LNG demand centers are likely to emerge in both Asian power markets and industrial centers, but their number and magnitude remain uncertain. These markets are highly competitive as they can be served by alternative fuels and pipeline gas deliveries.

Government policies will play a critical role in the future of Asian LNG. For example, U.S. regulatory reform could reinvigorate or impede LNG export expansion. Technical support and export assistance measures will also play an important role in Asia, particularly for countries which present higher credit risks. The joint research effort recognizes that world LNG markets are heading towards more liquidity and transparency, but LNG markets are yet to fully mimic the world oil market. The Asian natural gas markets are undergoing an important transition, and much of this new market dynamic is driven by prospects of growing LNG exports from the U.S.

Photos from the July 20, 2017 Workshop in Washington, D.C. can be found [here](https://we.tl/mNI8OS4Ye7).

# ABOUT EPRINC

The Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc. (EPRINC), was incorporated in 1944 as a not- for-profit organization that studies energy economics with special emphasis on the production, distribution, and processing of oil and gas resources. It is known internationally for providing objective analysis of energy issues.

The Foundation researches and publishes reports on all aspects of the petroleum industry which are made available free of charge to all interested organizations and individuals. It also provides analysis for quotation and background information to the media. EPRINC has been called on to testify before Congress on many occasions, and it briefs government officials and legislators, and provides written background materials on request. Additionally, EPRINC has been a source of expertise for numerous GAO energy-related studies and has provided its expertise to virtually every National Petroleum Council study of petroleum issues. EPRINC receives undirected research support from the private sector and foundations, and it has undertaken directed research from the U.S. government from both the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Defense.

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