# Global gas markets and the future of natural gas

#### Robert A. Ritz

Energy Policy Research Group (EPRG)

Judge Business School, Cambridge University

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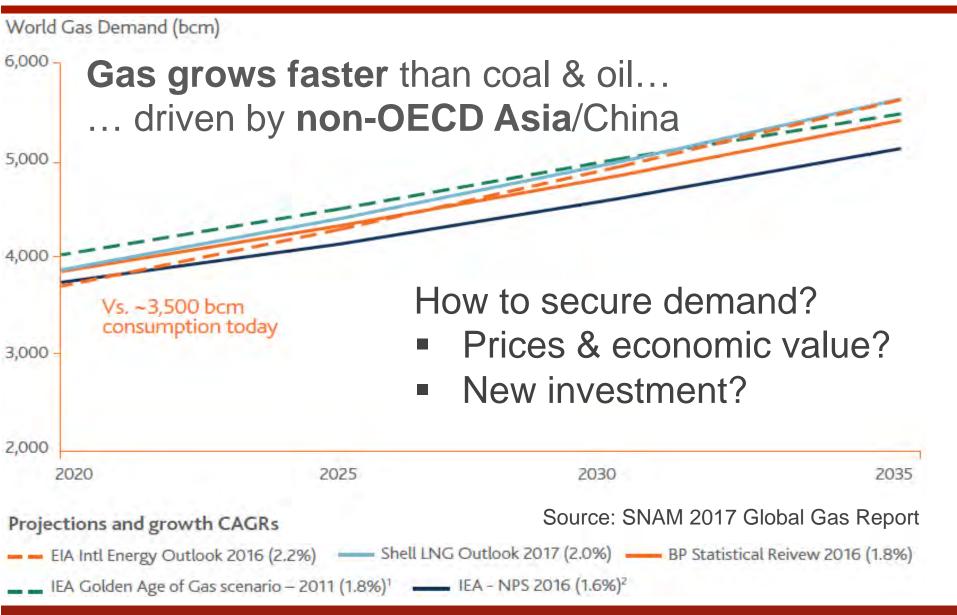
#### Plan for this talk

**1** Demand and prices

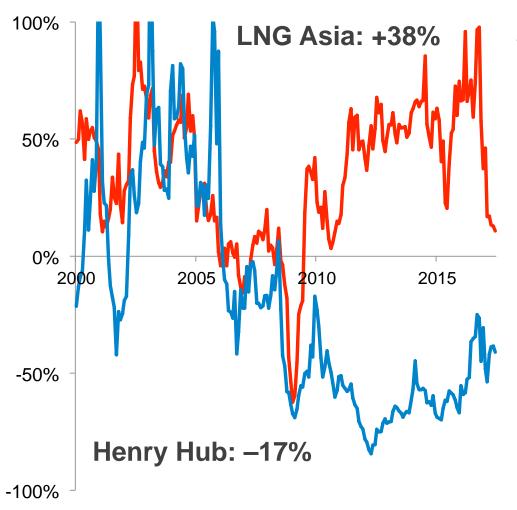
2 Political economy

3 Strategic positioning

# Forecasts too bullish given challenges facing gas?



# Regional price divergence is the historical norm



# Asia premium: 20+ years

- Imperfect competition
  - + limits to arbitrage

# **Balance of power:**

Shift to buyers post-2014

- Low & <u>stable</u> HH price

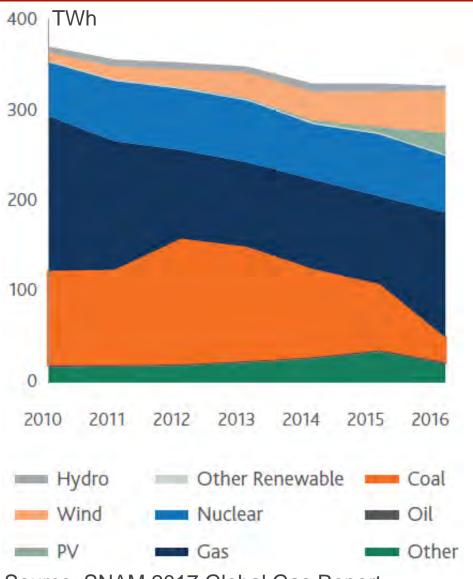
  → US LNG exports

  → Security of supply (LNG vs pipeline gas)

⇒ Global convergence to Henry Hub-based pricing?

Source: IMF database – % premium (or discount) relative to EU natural gas

# UK: Carbon price floor supports coal-to-gas

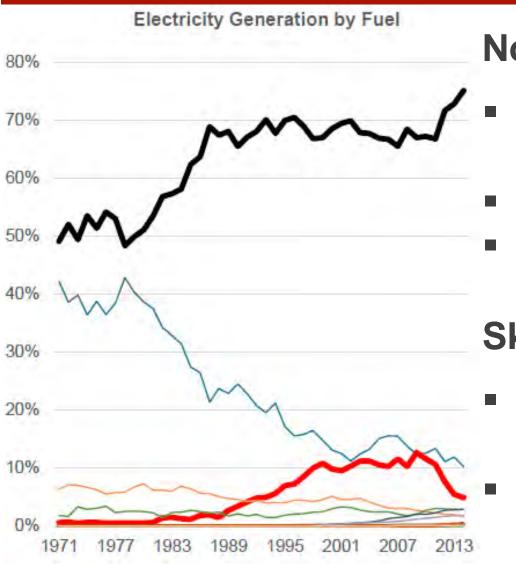


Coal phase-outs now a policy objective...

- Social cost of carbon & "target-consistent" price ≈ \$50+/tCO₂
- Coal-to-gas switching price ≈ \$20-30/tCO<sub>2</sub>
- ⇒ Carbon price floor
- + Good electricity market design rewards flexibility services (e.g. by gas)

Source: SNAM 2017 Global Gas Report

# India: Gas/LNG squeezed out by coal & solar



## No clear role for gas/LNG

- Not cost-competitive against domestic coal
- Limited policy support
- Infrastructure constraints

# **Skipping gas? Coal to RE**

- Ambitious 175 GW target for 2022 (esp. solar)
  - Large cost reductions & low auction prices

Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) & Vivid Economics

# Gas industry itself is in the midst of a transition

# Strategic repositioning around natural gas

- ① Energy majors: oil → gas/LNG & power/RE
- ② Electricity companies: coal/gas → RE
- ③ Commodity traders: oil → LNG
- ④ Private equity: → "legacy" coal/gas assets
- ⑤ New players: → LNG export, gas E&P
- ⇒ Trend to *large integrated* or *niche specialist*?

Maturing LNG market "should" become less integrated

#### Conclusions

- 1 Global price convergence not any time soon
- 2 Significant downside risk in gas demand forecasts
- 3 Local political economy for gas/LNG in non-OECD (Asia) very different from OECD (Europe)
- 4 Strategic repositioning reflects companies' different visions of the future

#### References

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