Global gas markets and the future of natural gas

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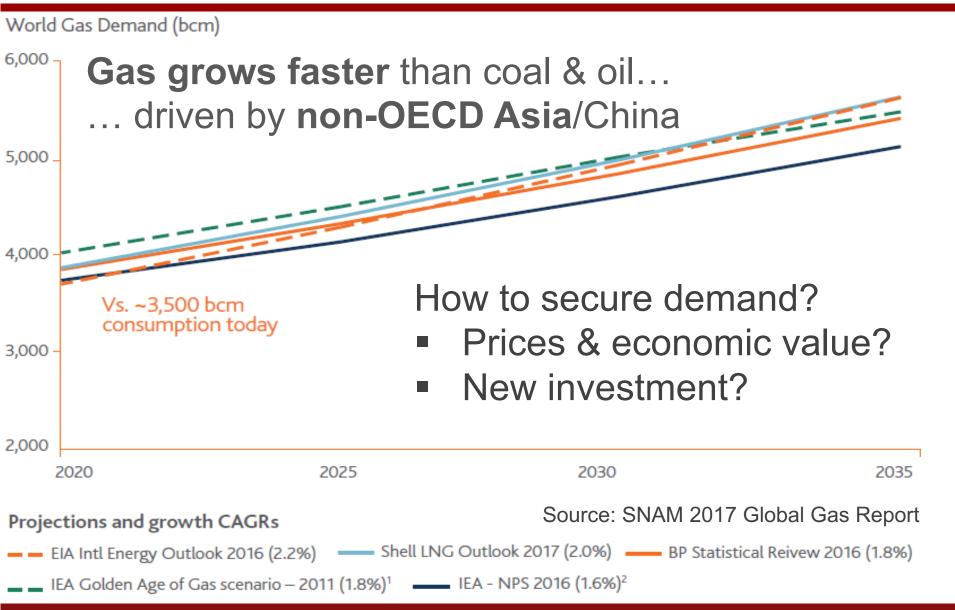
Plan for this talk

1 Demand and prices

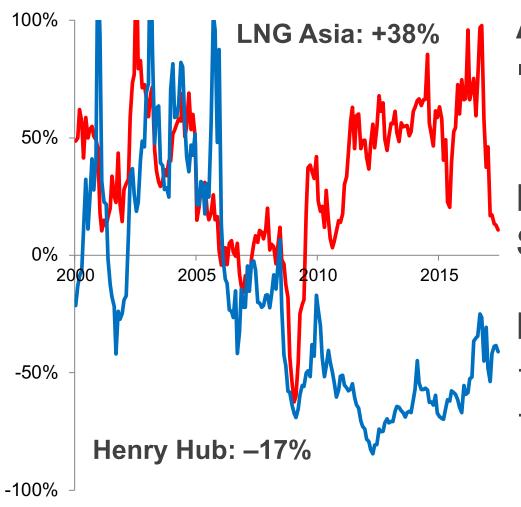
2 Political economy

3 Strategic positioning

Forecasts too bullish given challenges facing gas?



Regional price divergence is the historical norm



Asia premium: 20+ years

Exporter market power magnifies price spikes

Balance of power:

Shift to buyers post-2014

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

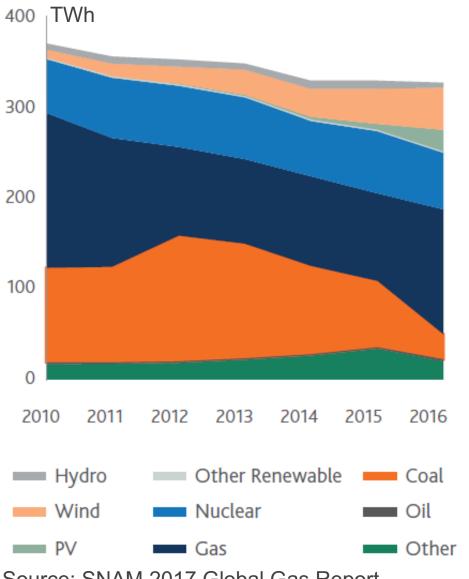
 → US LNG exports

 → 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

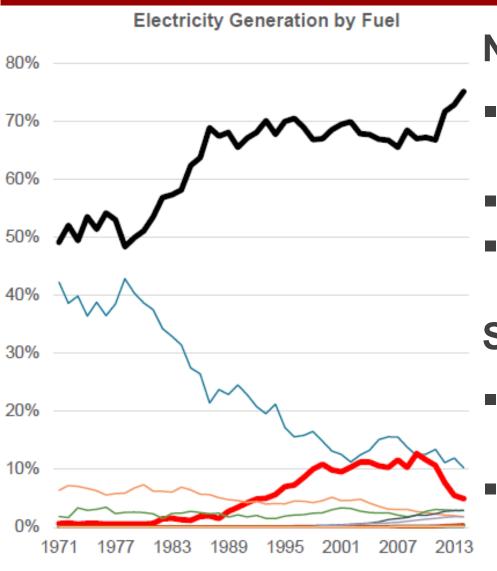


Coal phase-outs now a policy objective...

- Social cost of carbon & "target-consistent" price
 ≈ \$50+/tCO₂
- Coal-to-gas switching price ≈ \$20-30/tCO₂
- ⇒ Carbon price floor
- + Good electricity market design rewards flexibility services provided 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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