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# Political challenges for enhancing Japan-Russia energy cooperation

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## 3 factors to be considered

- Low oil / gas prices
- US factor / Sanctions
- China factor / Russia's strategic partner

## US factor / Sanctions

- Minsk-2 agreement and sanctions
- Conflict in Donbass will be frozen, but any more
- Low prospect for lifting sanctions in the near future

## China factor / Russia's strategic partner

- Russia-China de facto alliance in Eurasia after Ukraine crisis
- Limit of Russia-China strategic relations in Asia-Pacific region
- Japan as a key candidate for the diversification of partners

## Conclusion

▪ Considering these two factors, what is needed for further expansion of Japan-Russia energy cooperation, would be not only economically feasible projects, but also political will at the highest level of both countries to realize these projects. The forthcoming President Putin's visit to Tokyo could be a good opportunity in this regard.