

From Panama to Pakistan: The International Forum Forging Low-Carbon Diplomacy

PANAMA, PANAMA, May 22, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The 17th edition of the International Gas & Energy Forum (IGEF) marked a defining evolution in scope with its first-ever Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) edition—headlined by a keynote from the Society for Low Carbon Technologies (SFLCT). This milestone reflected a doctrinal inflection point for a forum renowned for its legacy and technical rigor, coinciding with renewed global focus on Panama and the strategic relevance of its canal. The forum brought together multi-sector energy leaders and global institutions, including Panama's Secretary of Energy, Juan Manuel Urriola, who officiated the event.



Miguel Zabala-Bishop (left), CEO of IGEF; Panama's Secretary of Energy, Juan Manuel Urriola; and SFLCT Chairman, Fernando C. Hernandez

As a certified supporting organization of IGEF, SFLCT shaped the CCUS edition's direction through the leadership of its Chairman, Fernando C. Hernandez, who delivered the keynote address. During his address, Hernandez went beyond forecasts to show that the SFLCT is unifying continents by showcasing its impact with the governments of Scotland, Pakistan, and Brazil—via net-zero diplomacy, clean tech deployment, and the passage of South America's first carbon capture law, respectively. [This legislative milestone included U.S. Department of Energy engagement.](#) These concrete examples redefined the Global South and Global North divide that can exist in the energy transition. Hernandez commented, "As a representative of a global organization, this forum gave

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The result: a vision beyond geopolitical boundaries, offering a case study in how Global South cooperation is evolving with structure and intent in defense of the biosphere shared by all. Following his address, he moderated a panel titled “CCUS and Low-Carbon Technologies in a Transitioning Market,” featuring Topsoe, BGP Latin America, and Brazil’s Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Following the forum, attention turned to the Panama Canal—which

Hernandez visited while tariff ripples permeated the global economy—recognizing its role as a strategic and macroeconomic corridor and an evolving backbone of the low-carbon transition. Hernandez highlighted the NetZero Slot initiative launched by the Panama Canal Authority, which prioritizes lower-emission vessels and integrates sustainability into a key maritime artery. The canal offers a model for aligning infrastructure with decarbonization goals—via energy transition fuels such as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which—alongside similar fuels—are reshaping maritime flows.

In January, prior to the forum, [in a videocast recorded while in Pakistan, Hernandez emphasized](#) the importance of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for the Global South and its low-carbon impact—an insight that gains renewed relevance as Panama explores a proposed LPG pipeline to accelerate cross-isthmus transport. This initiative, currently under evaluation by the Panama Canal Authority, aims to enhance global LPG trade by elevating Panama’s position as a liquefied energy corridor—a vision aligned with discussions held at IGEF.

Further underscoring this alignment, the CEO of IGEF, Miguel Zabala-Bishop, joined the SFLCT as an advisory member in the weeks following the conference—reinforcing the credibility and continuity of the forum’s outcomes. This critical event served as both a convening platform and a launchpad for a more connected, cross-regional approach to technology, policy, and low-carbon diplomacy. It affirmed that the next chapter in decarbonization will not be defined by one nation or sector but by coordinated frameworks and institutions that span hemispheres and champion intergenerational equity.

Press Relations



Fernando C. Hernandez’s Keynote Address on Carbon Law, Infrastructure, and Global South–North Alignment

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