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February Panorama

Welcome to the February installment of Energy Panorama.

At the beginning of the month, we collaborated with the Baker Institute Center for Energy Studies on a timely webinar: ***Venezuela's New Hydrocarbons Law: Scope, Intent & Viability***.

The discussion brought together leading legal and policy experts to assess the reform of Venezuela's oil framework approved by the National Assembly on January 29. Panelists highlighted investor-friendly provisions—including greater contractual and fiscal flexibility, economic equilibrium clauses, and potential arbitration pathways—while underscoring persistent risks related to government discretion, the absence of an independent regulator, and ongoing PDVSA counterparty exposure. The conversation also emphasized the decisive role of U.S. sanctions policy, OFAC licensing, and broader U.S.–Venezuela relations in shaping investment outcomes. Check out the recording for the full and extremely insightful analysis from the panel.

Watch Recording

Building on the success of our first-ever data center and energy event in Chile in2025, on May 14 in Mexico City, we are convening a forum exploring the intersection of **data center growth and energy policy in Mexico**. The event will bring together public officials, industry leaders, academic experts, and civil society to examine how rapid digitalization — from cloud services to AI — is shaping energy demand, grid reliability, sustainability, and investment opportunities in Mexico.

Learn More

The IOA podcast series this month turned to the topic of **critical minerals** and served as a dual curtain raiser – for the ministerial meeting in Washington, DC and our upcoming report on the Western Hemisphere's opportunity.

Listen to this Podcast

In case you missed it...

Last month, we published our annual outlook report, *Powering 2026*, which provides unique insights and perspectives from our distinguished roster of Non-Resident Fellows. The report focuses on the central question: which energy sources can deliver power at scale—reliably, competitively, and sustainably?

Read Report

Opinion & Analysis

In his latest Energy Unwrapped essay, our Non-Resident Fellow, Chris Sladen, turned to the game of word association to consider messaging and communications around energy issues.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Madrid Energy Conference

April 27-29 | Madrid, Spain

Register

Data Centers & Energía en México

May 14 | Mexico City

Register

XXXV La Jolla Energy Conference

October 13-15 | La Jolla, CA

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INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAS
10111 North Torrey Pines Road | La Jolla, California 92037
858-453-5560 | info@iamericas.org

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