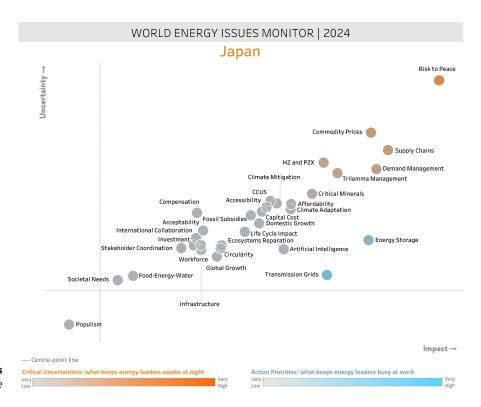


Commodity prices, including crude oil and petroleum products, are among the most critical issues for Japan, reflecting global trends. Additionally, the depreciation of the national currency against the US dollar may enhance the competitiveness of domestically produced goods and services but will have an adverse impact on energy prices. This could raise affordability issues for end users and create cost-push inflationary pressure at the macroeconomic level.

As a major importer of primary energy, Japan views **risks to peace** as a very critical issue. If geopolitical tensions escalate further in East Asia and the Middle East, in addition to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Japan could face significant constraints in securing sufficient energy imports.





Acknowledgements Japan Member Committee