

WORLD'S BIGGEST MARKET FORECAST

GLOBAL

ENERGY OUTLOOK 2026

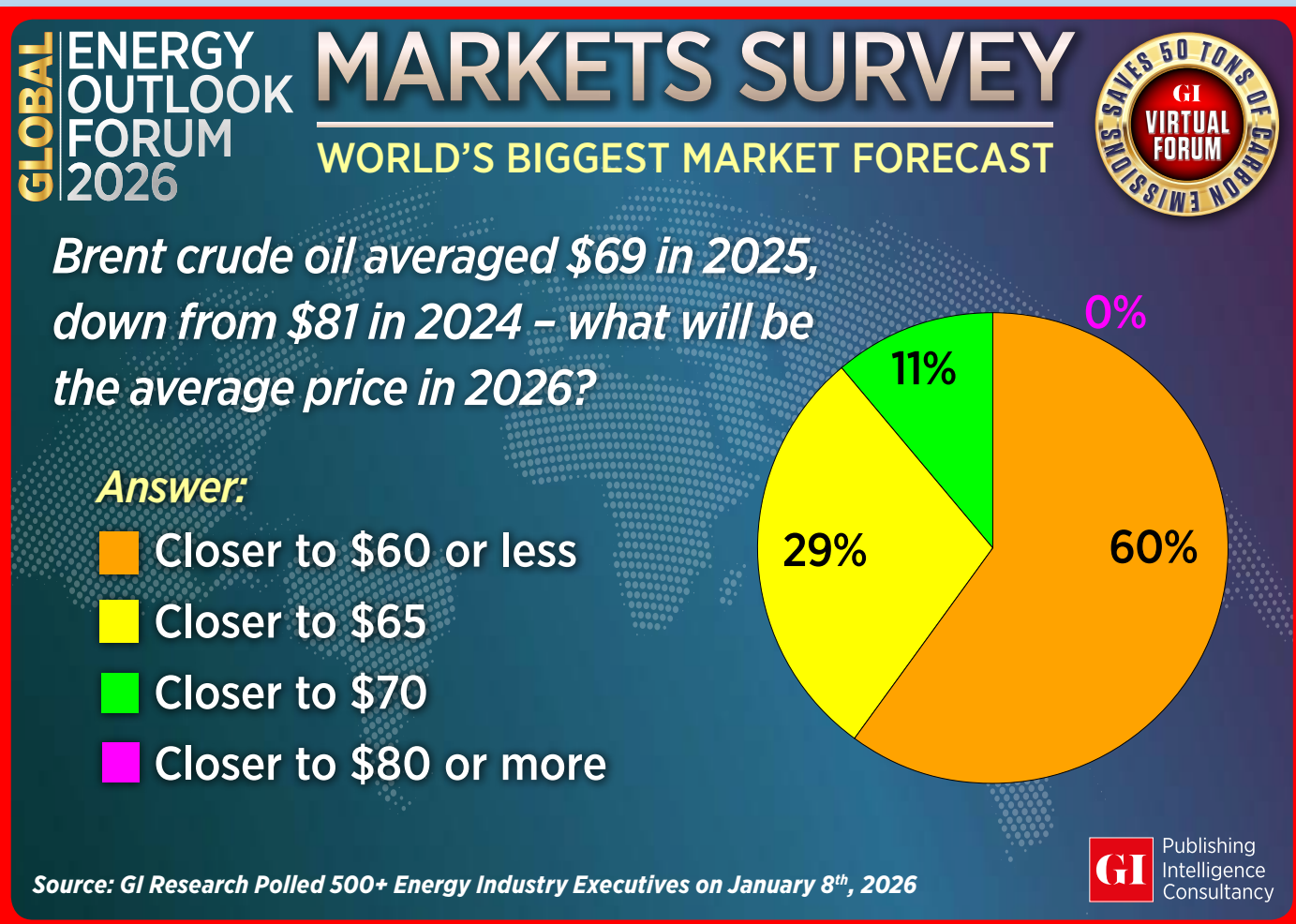


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"The oil price cap mechanism will lose relevance and likely be abandoned in 2026 as Price caps are proving structurally ineffective as market adjustments allow sanctioned oil to trade below cap levels, while still accessing compliant shipping and insurance."

Michelle Wiese Bockmann
Senior Maritime Intelligence Analyst, Windward

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"Lower prices are part of the clearing process. We see dated Brent averaging \$59 a barrel in 2026, extending the decline from \$69 a barrel in 2025, before supply and demand begin to rebalance."

Dave Ernsberger
President, S&P Global Energy

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"We're probably going to be surprised by how much spare idle capacity is left in OPEC+. I think much of the time we think that there is infinite spare capacity and that OPEC is always going to jump in if we have a massive supply outage somewhere in the world. But, the reality is that this immediate spare capacity in the group is being held by two or three countries."

Amena Bakr, Head of Middle East Energy & OPEC-plus Research, KPLER

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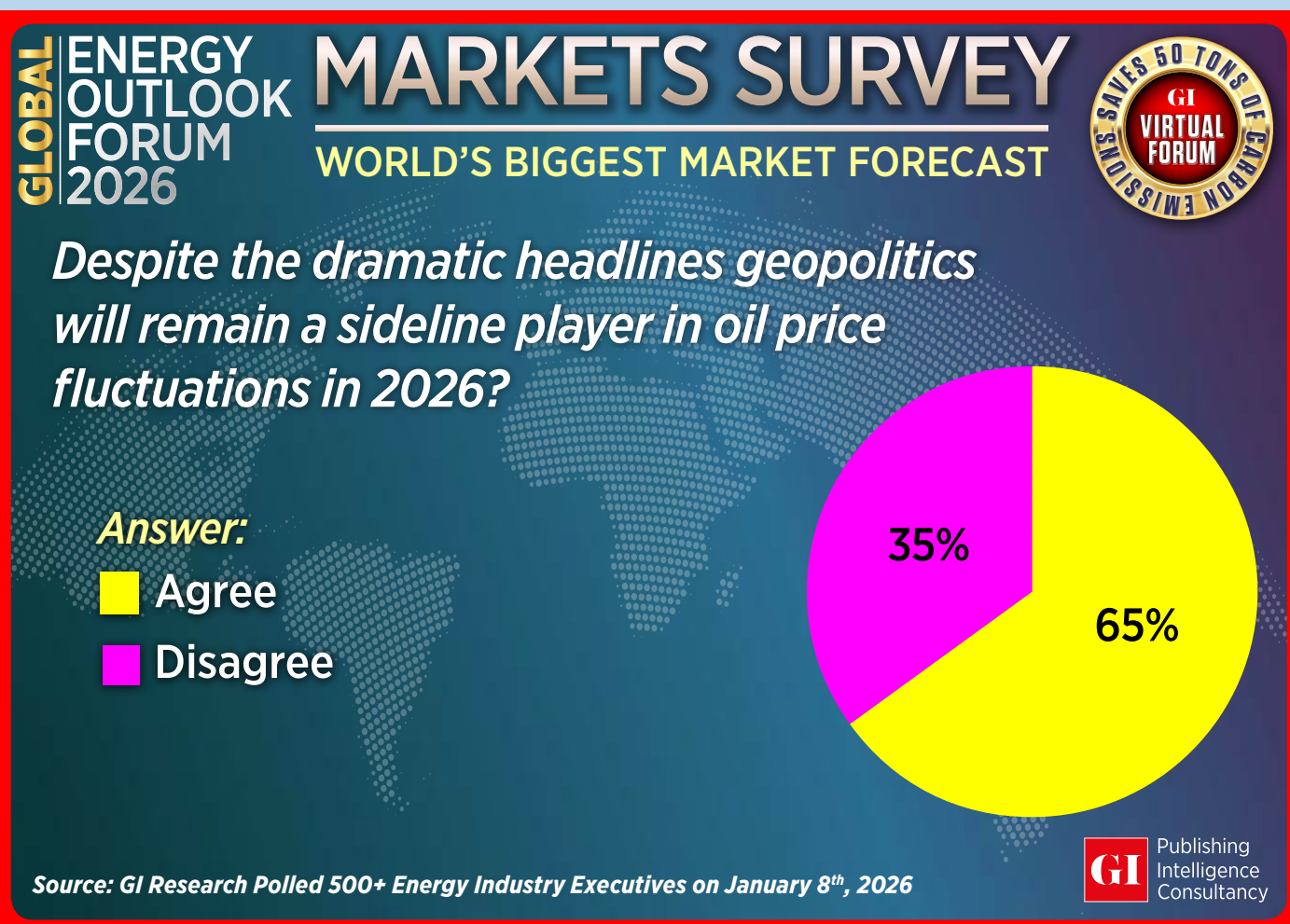
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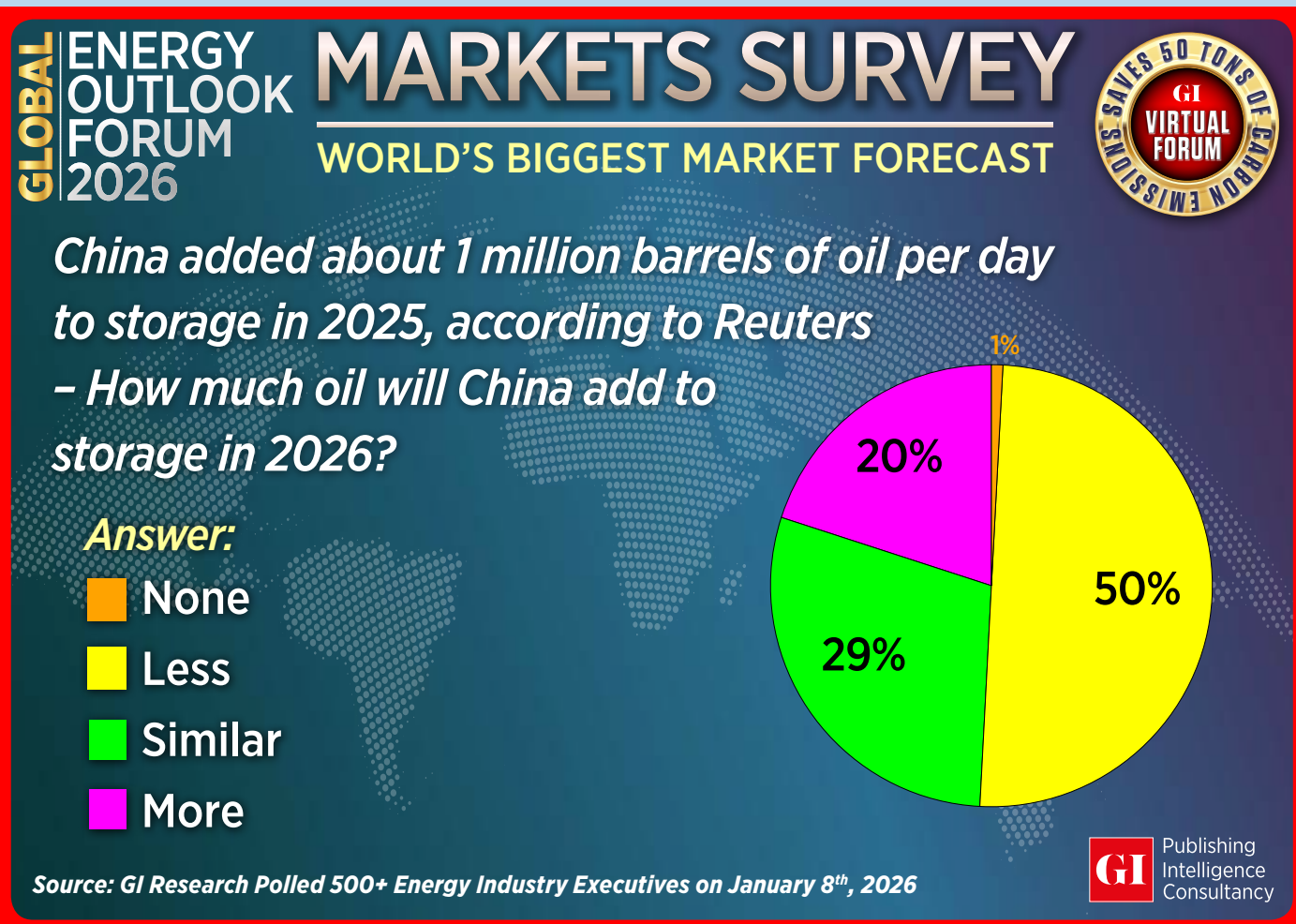
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"Oil is likely to remain range-bound in 2026. Oversupply caps the upside, but if prices move decisively into the low \$50s, OPEC—particularly Saudi Arabia—is likely to respond. The market is sensitive at those levels, which anchors my expectations for Brent between \$55-\$60 range unless a major geopolitical disruption removes accessible supply."

Tom Baker
Managing Director, Vitol Bahrain

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"China could still deliver close to 500 kb/d of incremental oil demand in 2026. Strategic stockpiling remains a key driver, even though activity slowed temporarily late last year as barrels shifted from floating storage to onshore tanks. With low oil prices, ample financial capacity, and rising geopolitical risk, this slowdown is viewed as a short-term pause rather than a structural shift, with China likely to resume steady strategic buying through 2026."

Anoop Singh
Global Head of Shipping Research,
Oil Brokerage

GI Publishing Intelligence Consultancy

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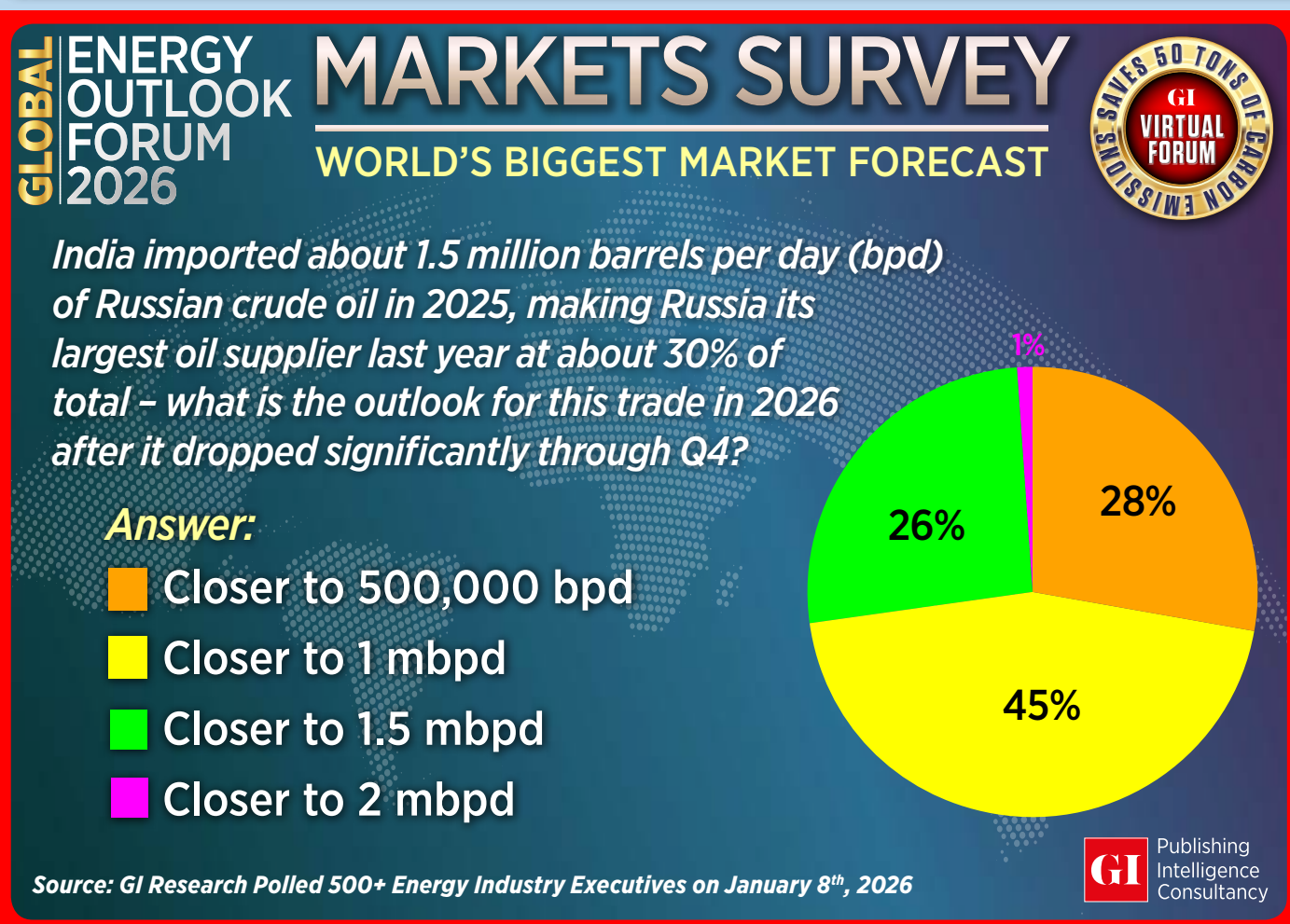
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"We see similar GDP growth for the US in 2026 of 1.8%, but lower growth in Europe and the rest of the world, and that is relevant for China. Other than for the AI boom, I would be cautious about energy demand this year."

Alicia García Herrero
Chief Economist for Asia Pacific
Natixis CIB

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"In 2026, Indian oil companies will actively reduce over-reliance on Russian crude by continuing a gradual diversification toward multiple geographies, including the United States. This shift will be driven primarily by India's own energy-security imperatives rather than external pressure, reflecting a strategic decision to avoid concentration risk while ensuring stable supply in an oversupplied global oil market."

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
Former Chairman, IndianOil Corp.

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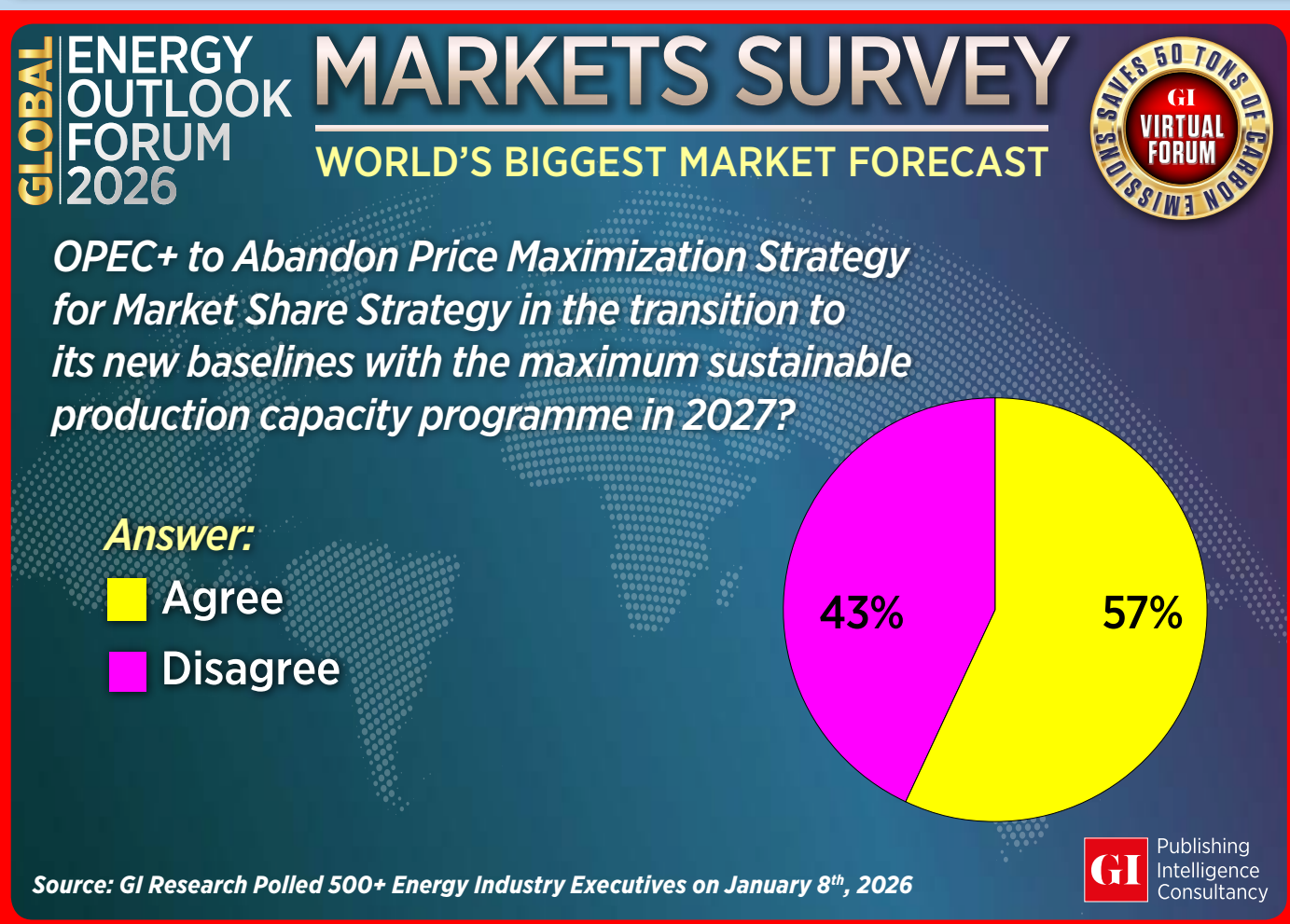
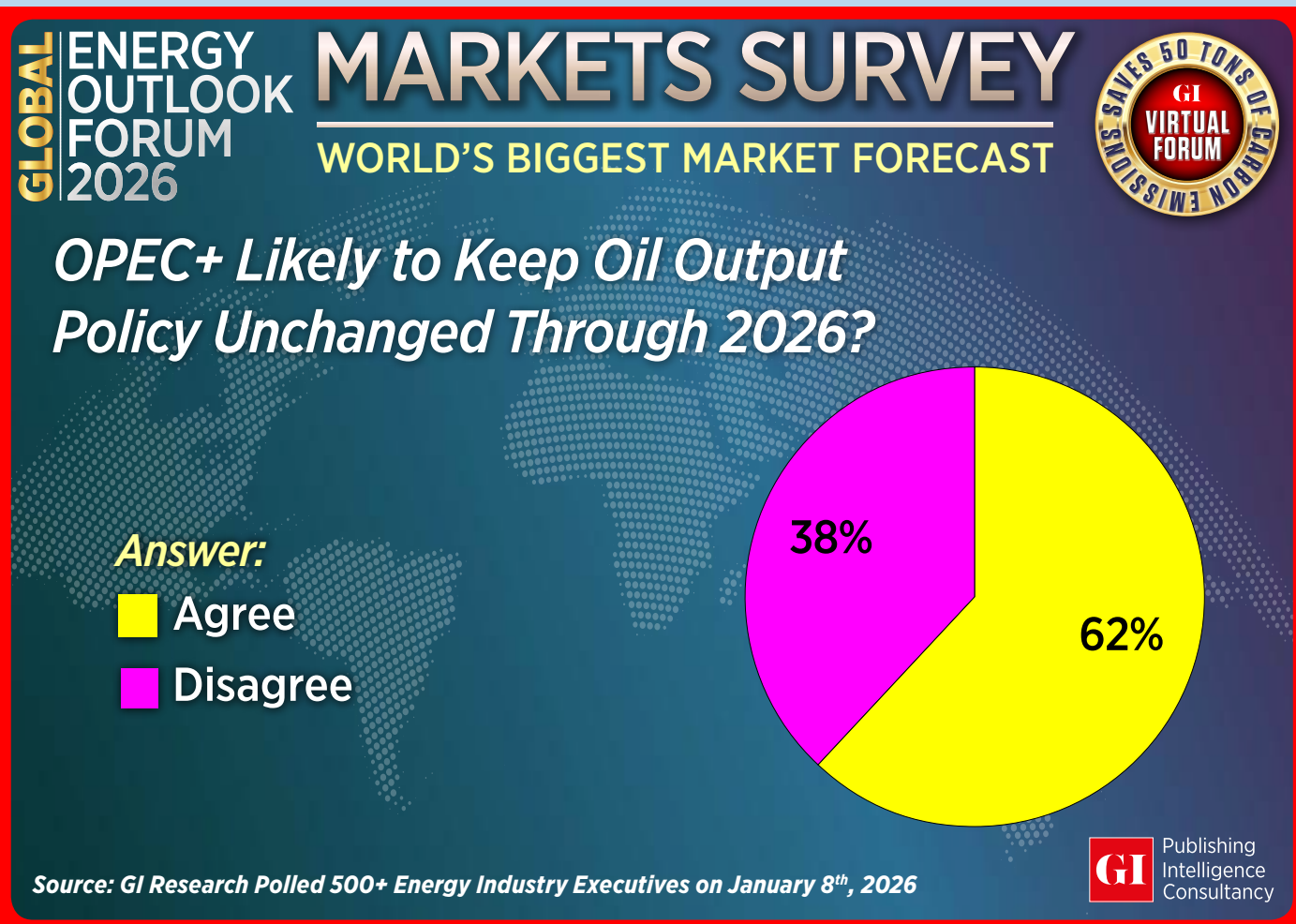
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"By 2028, India will face recurring curtailment of renewable generation unless grid scale storage exceeds 50 gigawatts. Policy will pivot toward pumped hydro, real time power markets, and capacity payments, while cross border electricity trade will shift from bilateral contracts to market clearing mechanisms."

Vibhuti Garg
Director - South Asia, IEEFA

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"Whether a strong American influence on Venezuela ultimately forces the country to leave OPEC or stay within the group but turn a blind eye to its quota - either scenario will cause more challenges for OPEC."

Dr. Carole Nakhle
Secretary General, Arab Energy Club

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"The oil market will move into balance through 2026, not sustained oversupply. While a modest surplus may appear early in 2026 --around one million barrels per day-- improving demand recognition and slower non-OPEC supply growth will bring the market back into balance as the year progresses."

Neil Atkinson
Former Head of Oil Markets Division, International Energy Agency

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"The oil market will naturally experience a price floor supported by OPEC+ and a price cap driven by additional non-OPEC supply. Global oil demand will continue to increase over the coming years and will not plateau in the next five years, but it could potentially after a 10-15 year horizon."

H.E. Khamis Al Mazrouei
CEO
Sharjah National Oil Corporation (SNOC)

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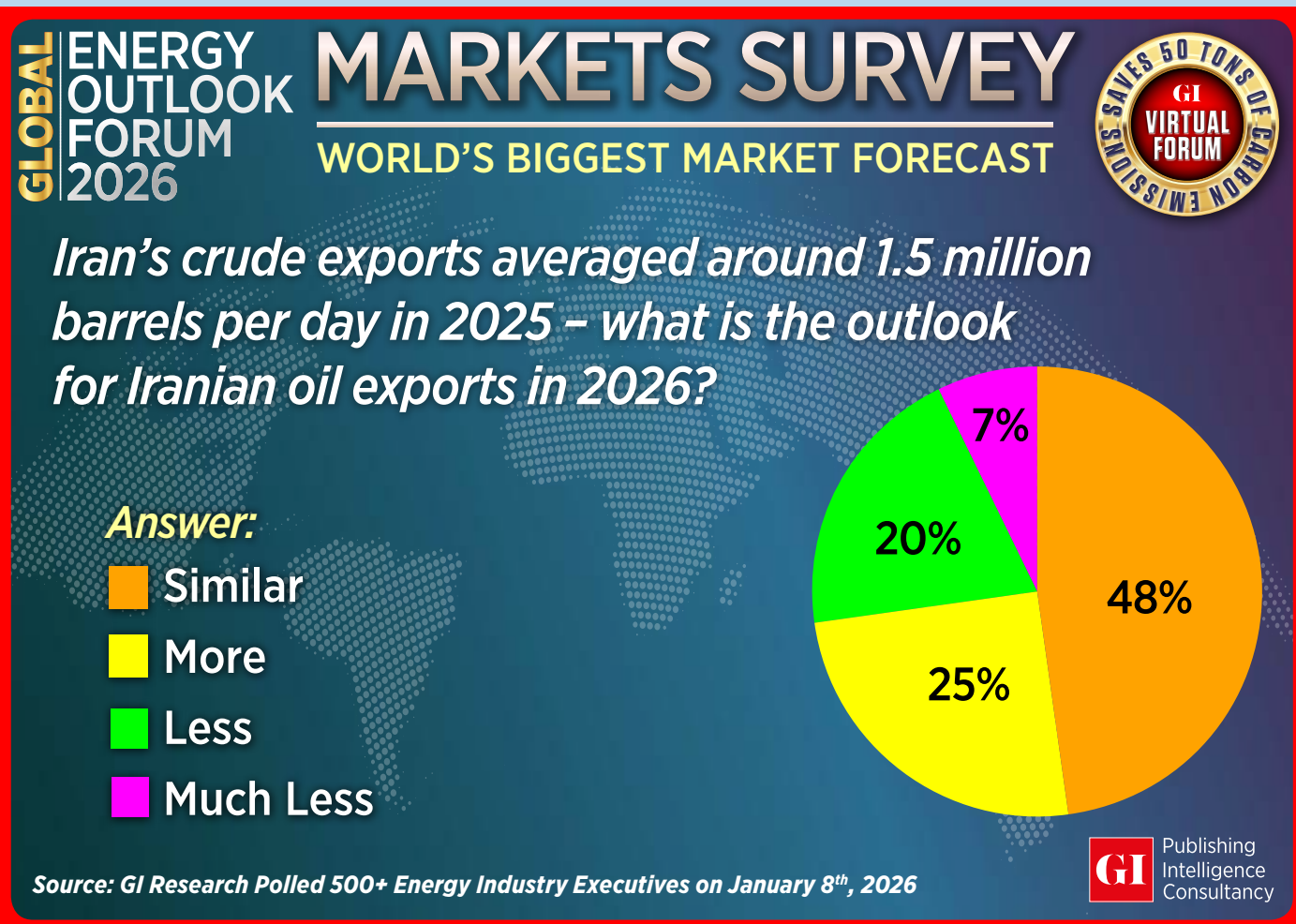
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"Market direction this year hinges on binary geopolitical outcomes rather than OPEC+ decisions. Russia sanctions escalation, Iran regime instability versus military action, or sudden policy reversals could swing prices sharply, while OPEC+ behavior is largely known and priced in."

Omar Najia
Derivatives Trader
BB Energy

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"Trump's National Security Strategy tells the Middle East that the U.S. is stepping back, not walking away—rewarding stability, punishing disorder, and forcing regional actors to choose pragmatism over perpetual confrontation."

Fuad Siniora
Former Prime Minister of Lebanon

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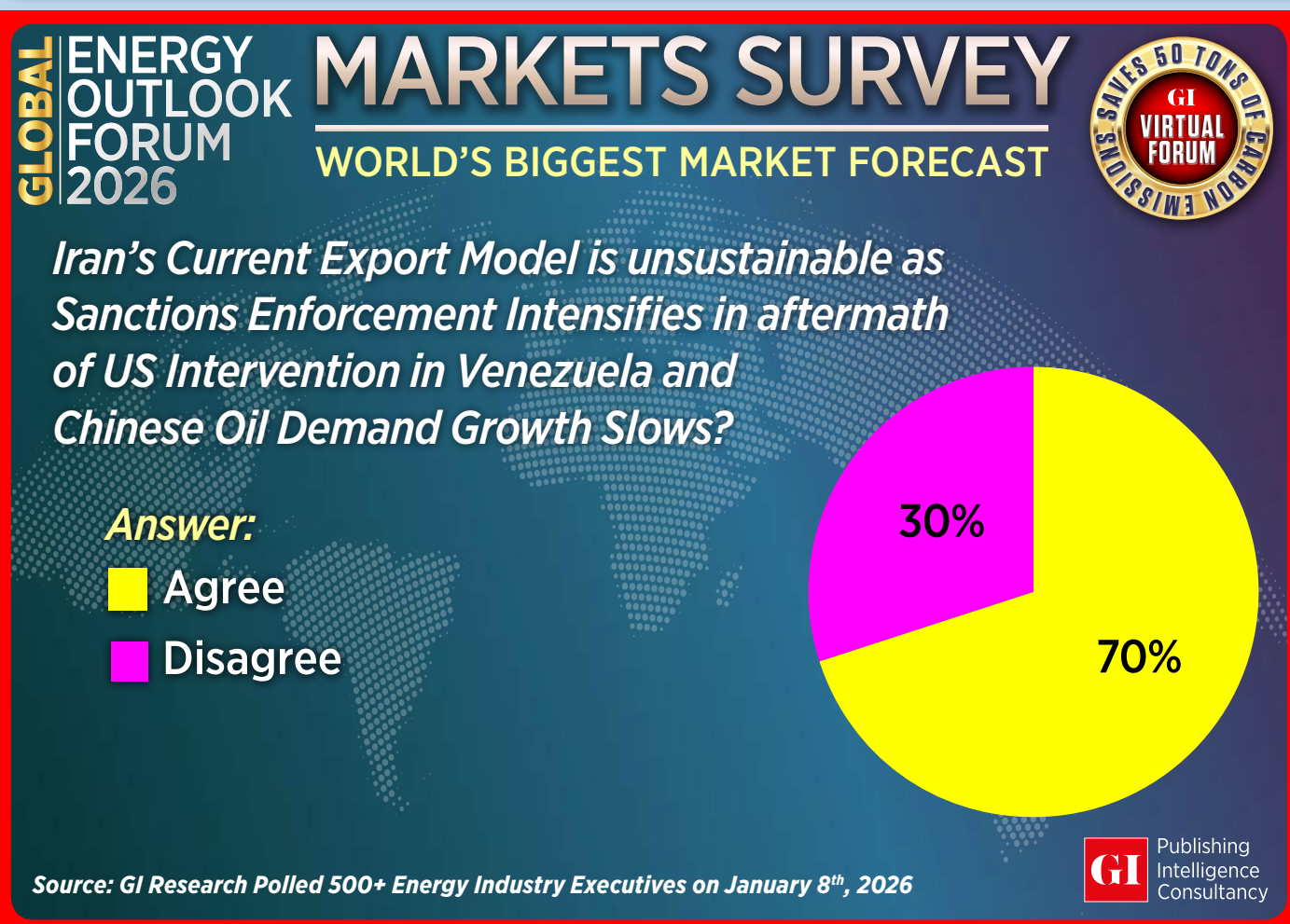
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"China likely to add another 150 million barrels of oil approx to storage in 2026 if crude prices remain near current levels."

Kieran Gallagher
Head of Asia – Vitol
Member, Vitol Executive Committee

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"Rapid growth in electricity demand from artificial intelligence and data centers – mirrored by Saudi Arabia's aggressive gas development – will increasingly divert gas toward domestic power generation rather than exports."

Kate Dourian
MEES Contributing Editor &
Non-Resident Fellow,
The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington

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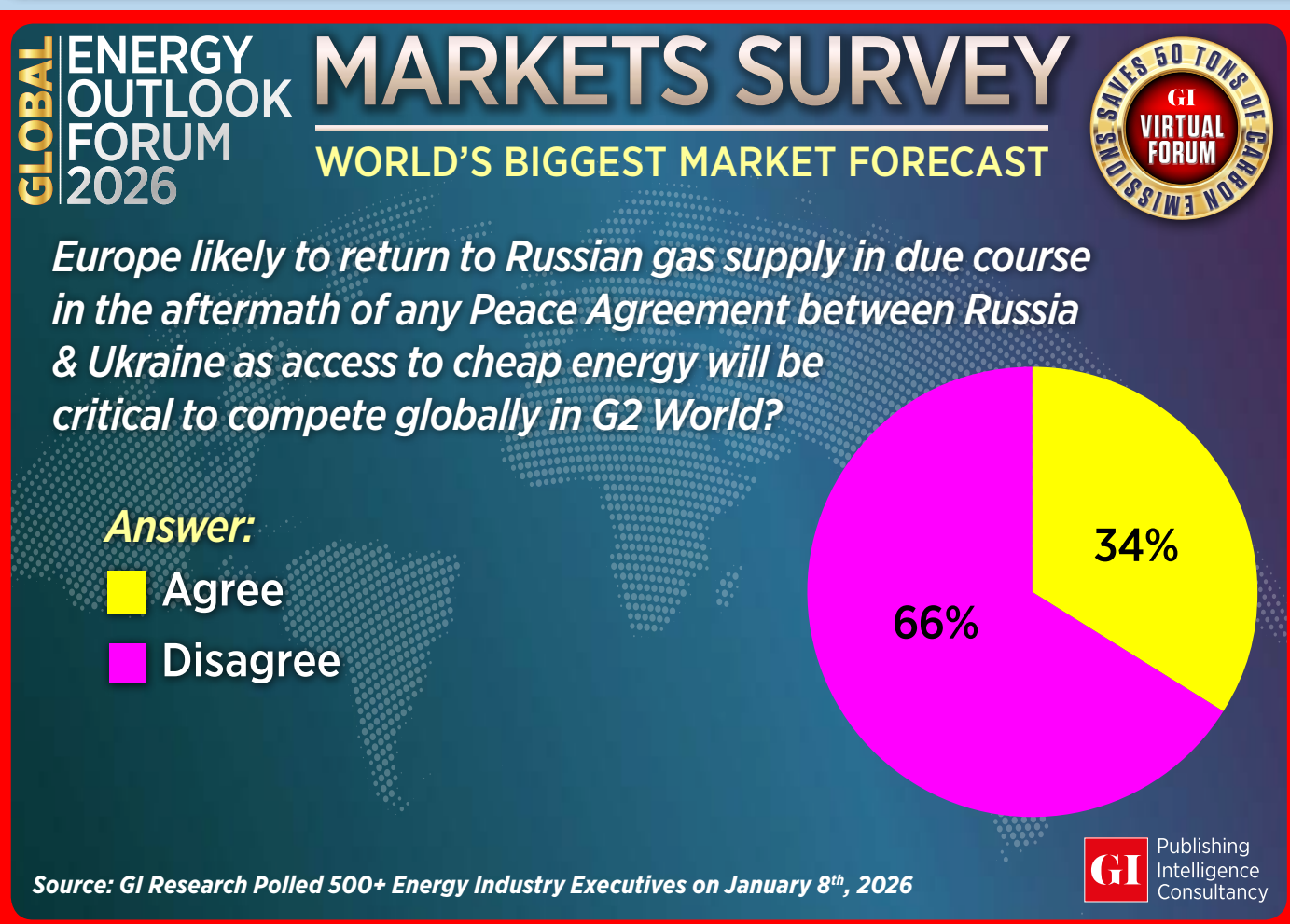
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"Iran will remain the primary trigger for U.S. re-engagement in the Middle East, with Washington intervening selectively during acute crises rather than maintaining a consistent deterrence posture. Iran-related conflicts are likely to be managed episodically, reinforcing instability rather than restoring regional equilibrium, as U.S. policy remains reactive and personality-driven, dependent on presidential decision-making rather than institutional strategy."

Karen Young
Senior Research Scholar
Center on Global Energy Policy
Columbia University

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"Due to rising sabotage, by 2026-2027, European power markets will shift investment from large interconnected transmission, toward more local resilience such as microgrids and enhanced physical security for subsea cables."

Nadia Martin Wigger
Director, Svelland Capital

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"We expect European LNG demand to remain broadly flat in 2026, while Asian demand is poised for a meaningful recovery of around 5%-10%. This rebound will be led by more price-sensitive buyers, especially across the Indian subcontinent, with average spot LNG prices expected to fall to around \$9-10/MMBtu in 2026, from approximately \$12/MMBtu last year."

Marc Howson
Head of APAC & Global LNG Welligence Analytics

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"Most of the additional LNG coming to the market in 2026 - predominantly from the US - is going to go to Asia rather than Europe."

Anne-Sophie Corbeau
Global Research Scholar, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University

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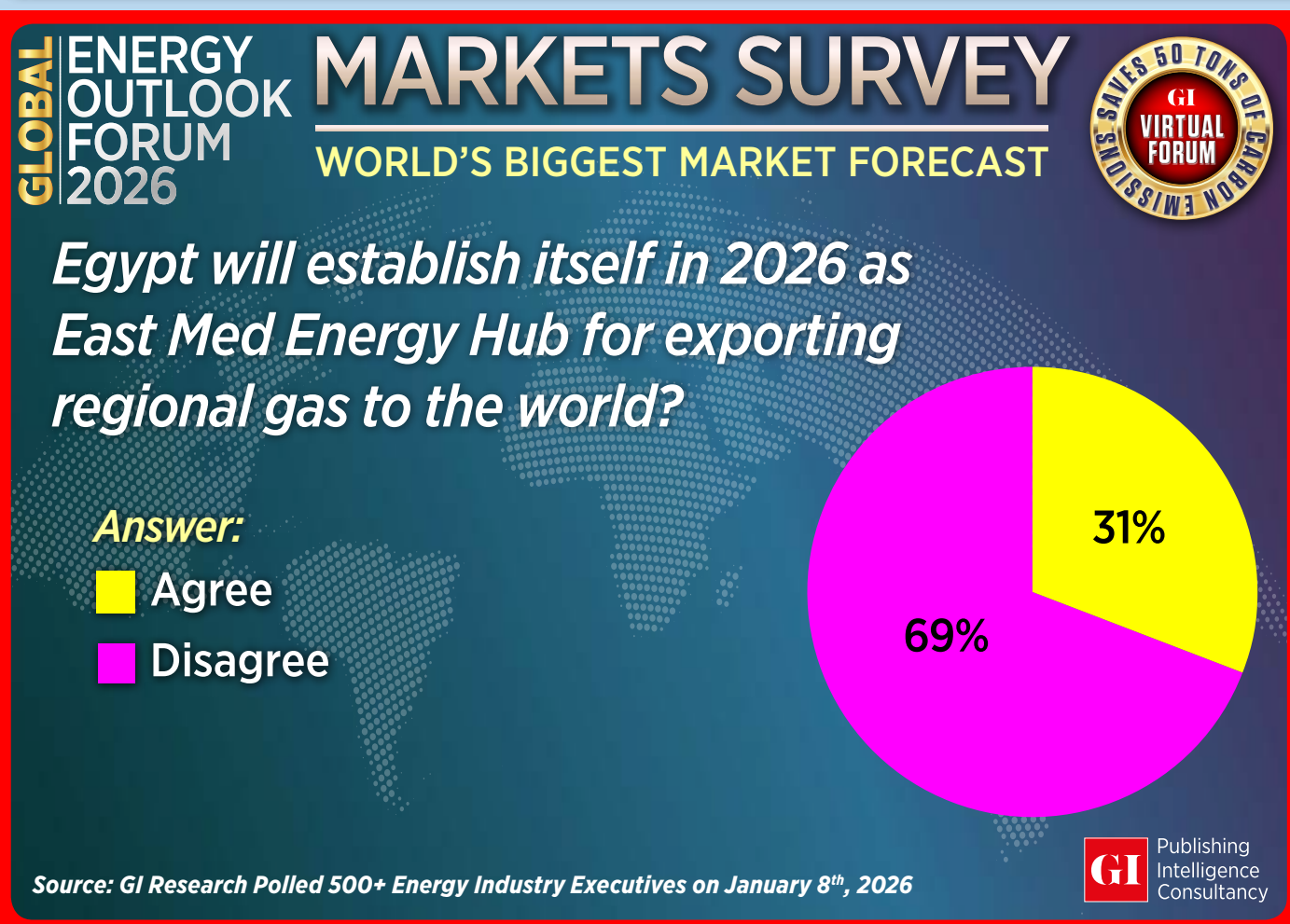
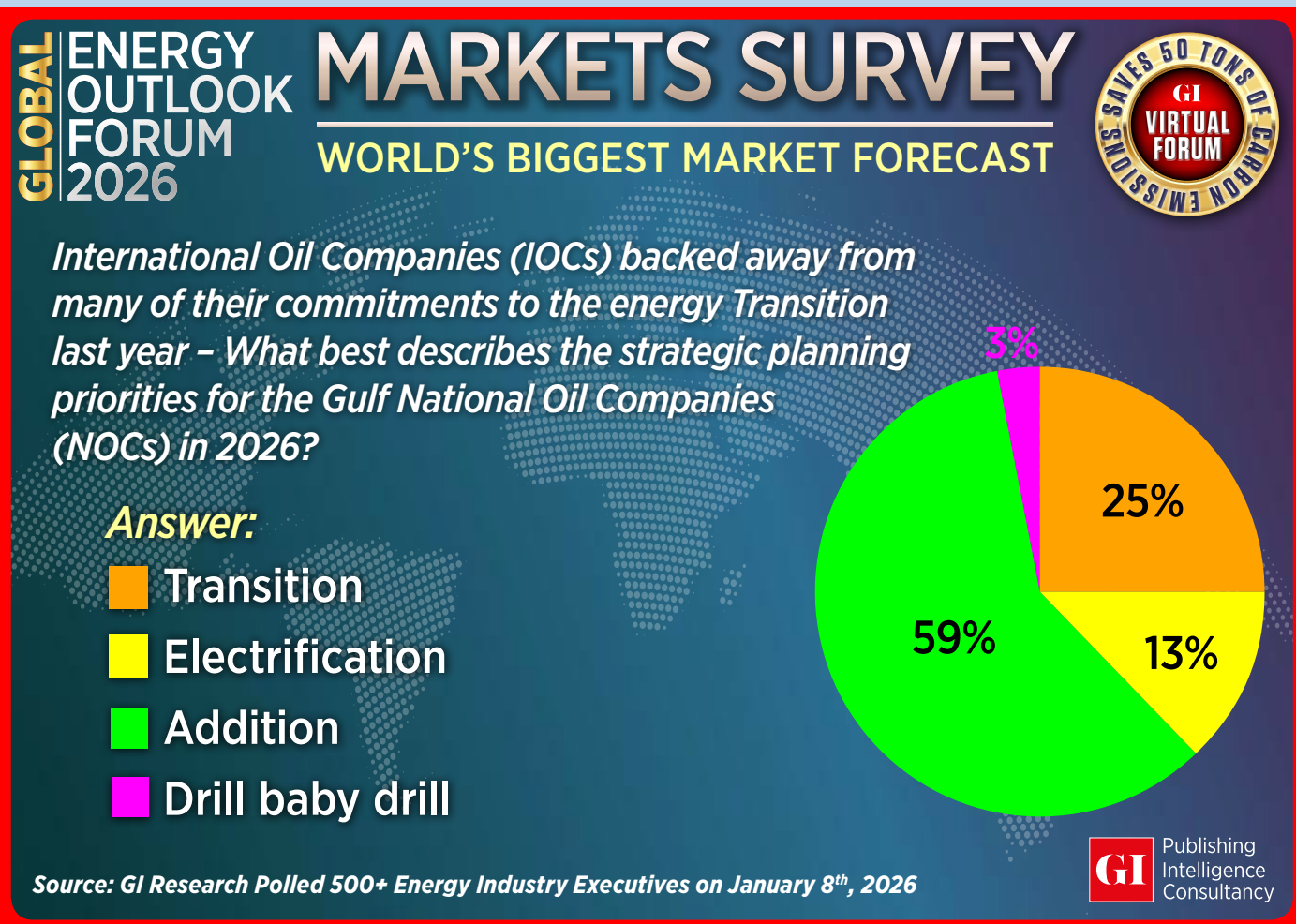
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"I don't think the war in Ukraine will end this year, and I'm not even sure it's in Europe's interest that the war ends, because I think the pressure on Russia is growing immensely. The money Russia gets currently for its oil and gas is very little, and the pressure of the Russian economy is growing very strongly, and perhaps it's good if that continues for some time."

David Wech, Chief Economist, Vortexa

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"While Saudi Arabia will add significant solar capacity—potentially over 10 gigawatts in the near term—and ramp up gas output through Jafurah, the impact on reducing domestic oil burn will be gradual. The transition away from oil-fired power is more likely to become clearly visible from 2027 onward rather than fully materializing in 2026."

Toby Iles
Chief Economist
Jadwa Investment

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"U.S. energy dominance and affordability policies will exert downward pressure on prices through political channels, particularly around elections. However, maintaining oil prices at politically desirable levels will be difficult to sustain into 2026 without supply discipline, as producers cannot afford prolonged sub-economic pricing."

Sara Akbar
Chairperson & CEO, OilSERV, Kuwait

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"East-Med Regional energy integration will determine winners, not national self-sufficiency. Eastern Mediterranean gas development must be treated as a single regional system. Countries pursuing isolated, domestic-only strategies will be marginalized as capital flows toward integrated cross-border solutions."

Laury Haytayan
MENA Director,
Natural Resource Governance Institute

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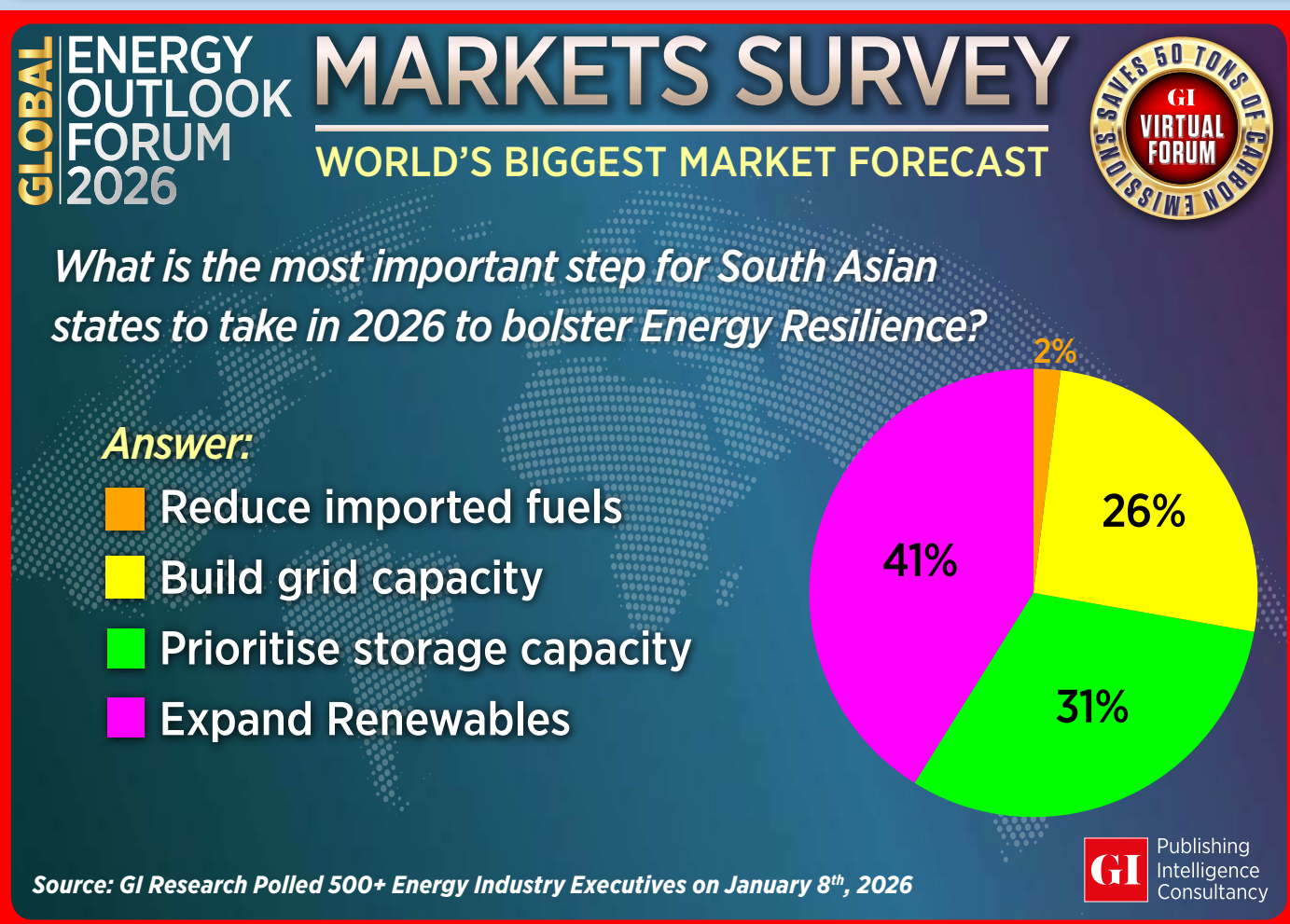
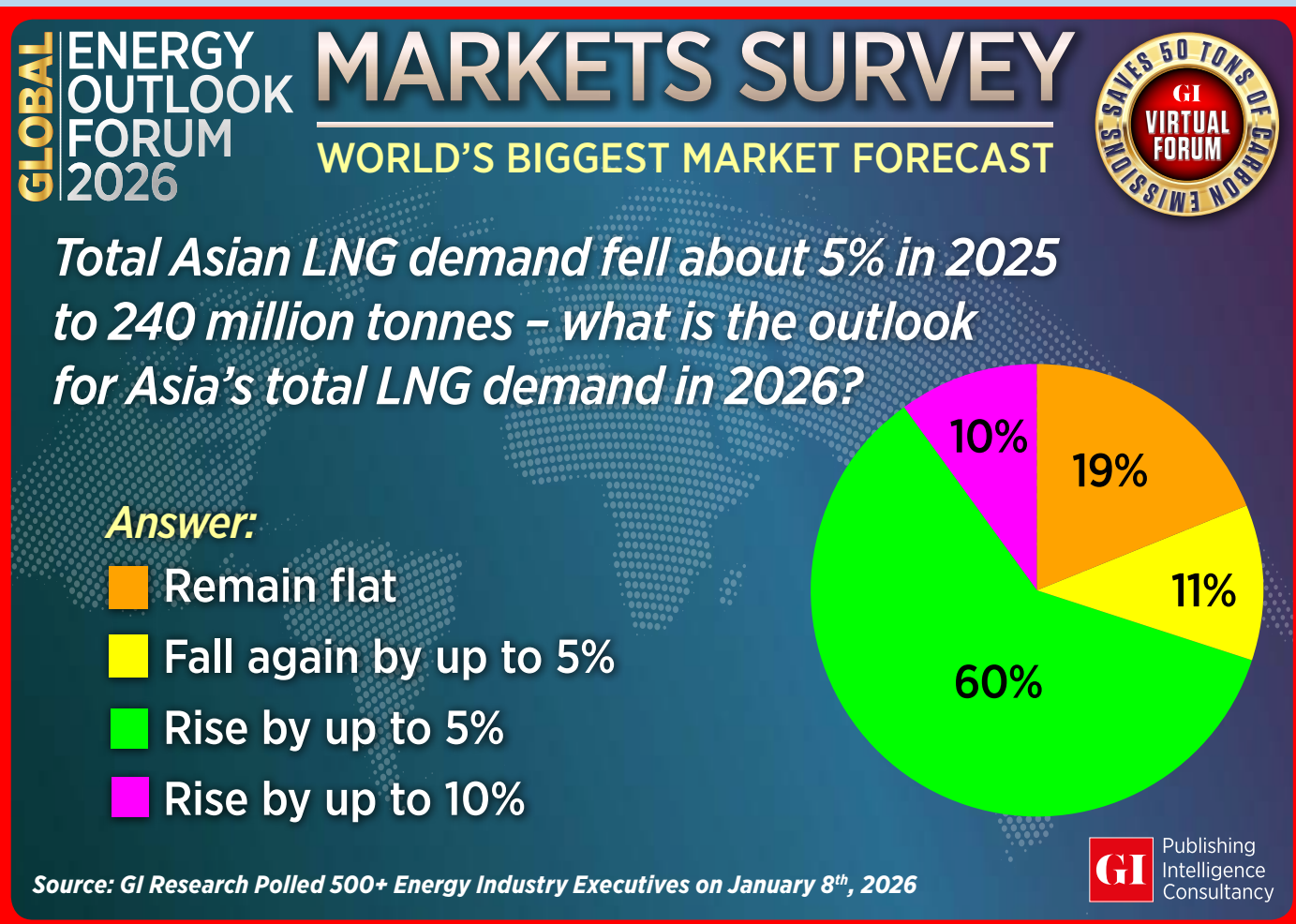
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"In 2026, I think the UK's political position will just become continuously untenable and they will have to move back to maximizing domestic resources as a part of a diversified energy security strategy. And Europe, I think, in 2026 will continue to get closer and closer together in a coalition of the willing around energy security and energy pricing."

James McCallum
CEO of Xergy Group, & Professor of
Energy at Strathclyde University

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"China to double its LNG import terminals by 2030 from 34 today to 68 in next five years."

Ashore Wei
Analyst - Natural Gas Markets, Mysteel OilChem

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"Nuclear restarts in Japan will continue to be a key driver of LNG displacement in 2026 with the restart of the 1.35 GW reactor at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa in Q1, which alone could displace about 1 mtpa of LNG demand."

Yuri Humber, Founder & President, Japan NRG Platform/Yuri Group

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"What's happening is a lot of goods that used to be exported are now travelling long distances within India. That means more road transport, and that will generate more diesel demand."

Mukesh Sahdev
Founder & CEO, X-Analysts

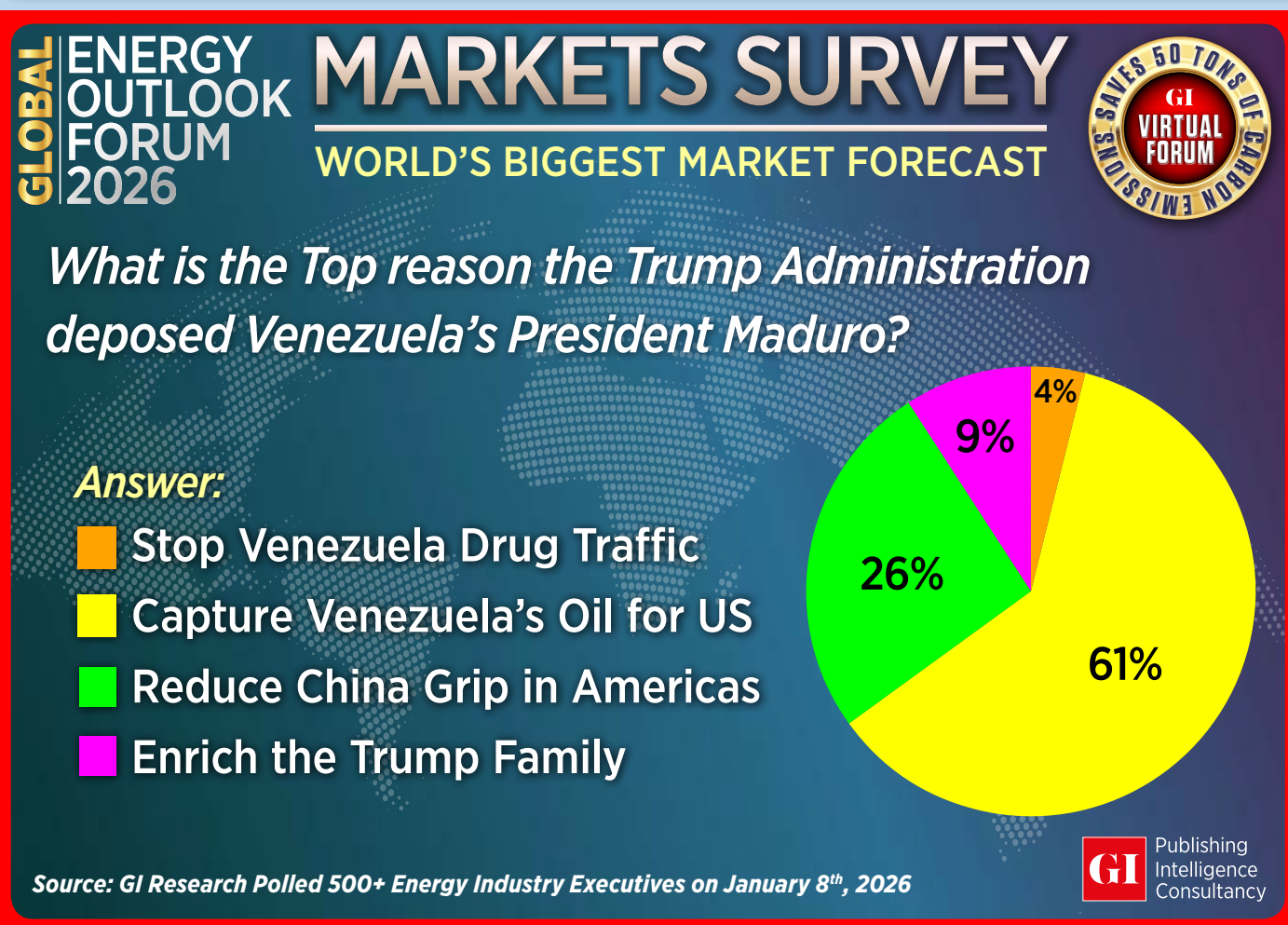
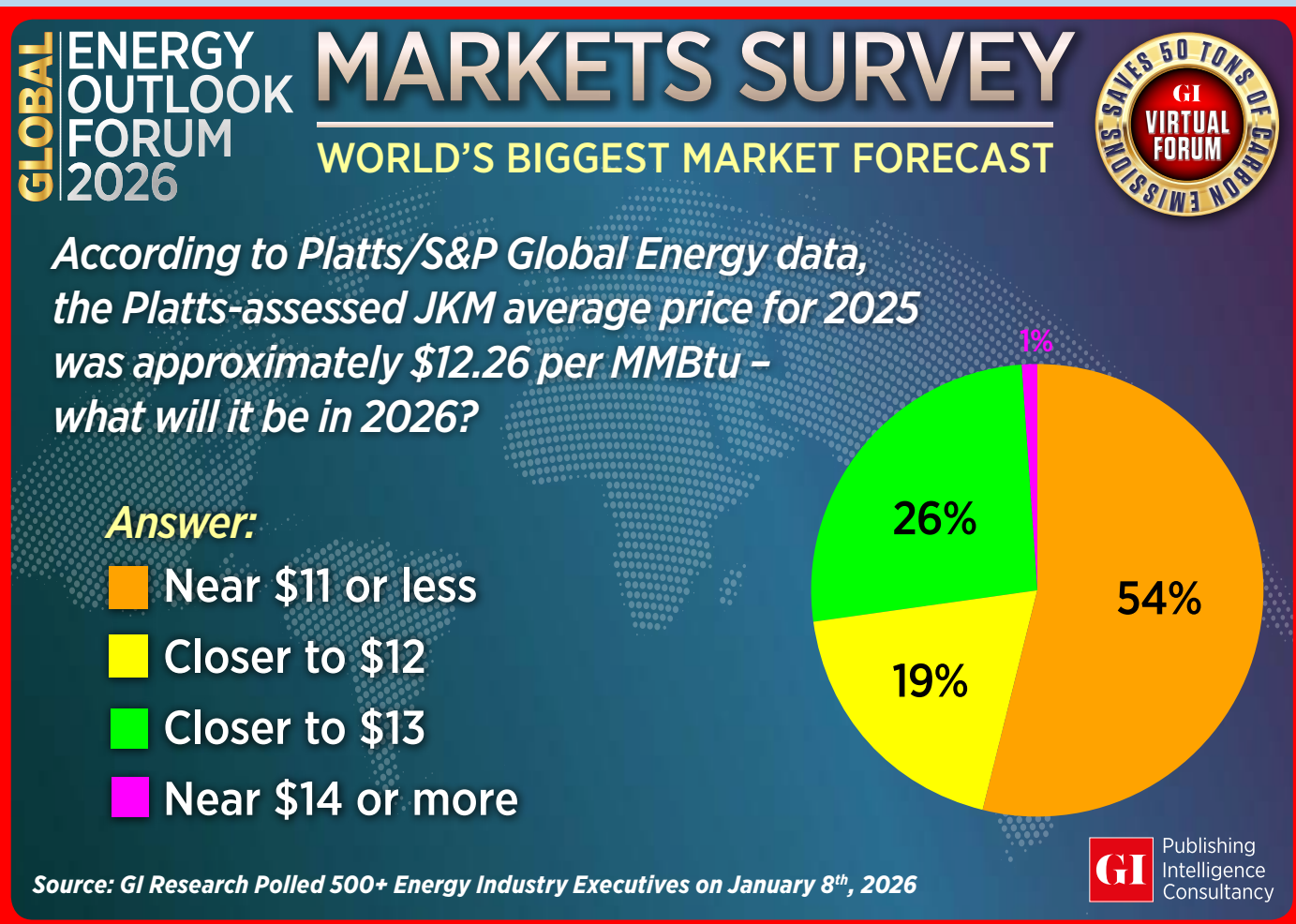
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"By 2027, Pakistan will formally prioritize refinery upgrades over new power capacity, introducing fiscal incentives for hydrocracking units. Without this shift, refined fuel imports will rise despite surplus generation capacity."

Osama Rizvi
Global Market and Product Strategist, Primary Vision

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"While oil prices are likely to recover relatively quickly, probably in 2027, after near-term weakness, the LNG market faces a much longer downturn. Significant new LNG supply will trigger pretty significant softening in the LNG market towards the end of the year and very much in 2027, creating an extended bear market for gas that outlasts the oil cycle."

Robin Mills
CEO, Qamar Energy

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"Over the next six months, the US will institutionalize escrow style control over Venezuelan oil revenues, prioritizing U.S. firms while restricting cash flows to Caracas. This will deter broad international participation and reinforce a de facto blockade aimed at limiting Chinese involvement rather than accelerating Venezuelan supply growth."

Rachel Ziemba, Adjunct Fellow
Center for a New American Security

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"Europe will struggle to sustain unified sanctions enforcement through 2026 without US OFAC alignment as financial institutions and banks will not risk exposure to OFAC penalties."

Arne Lohmann Rasmussen
Chief Analyst and Head of Research, Global Risk Management

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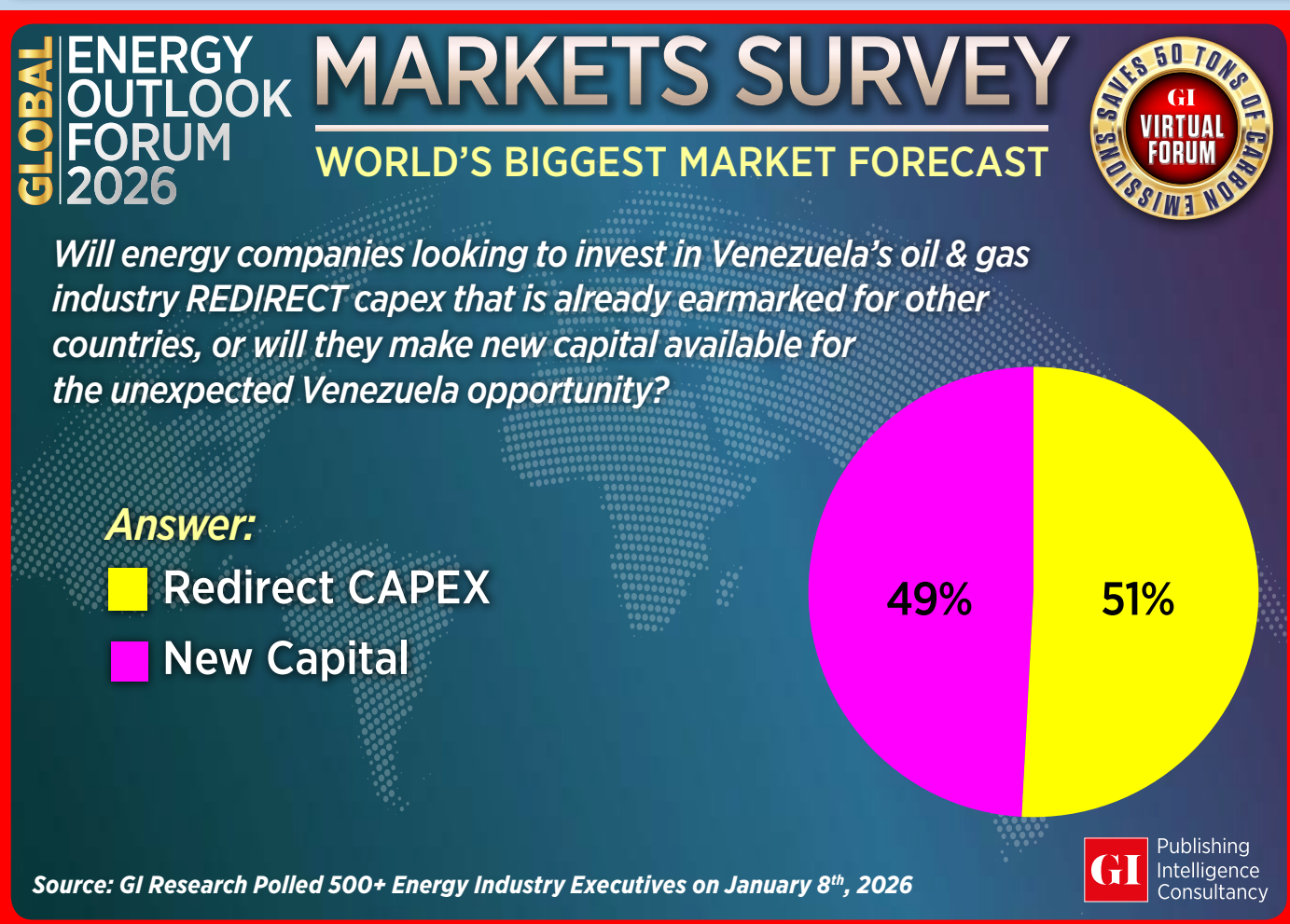
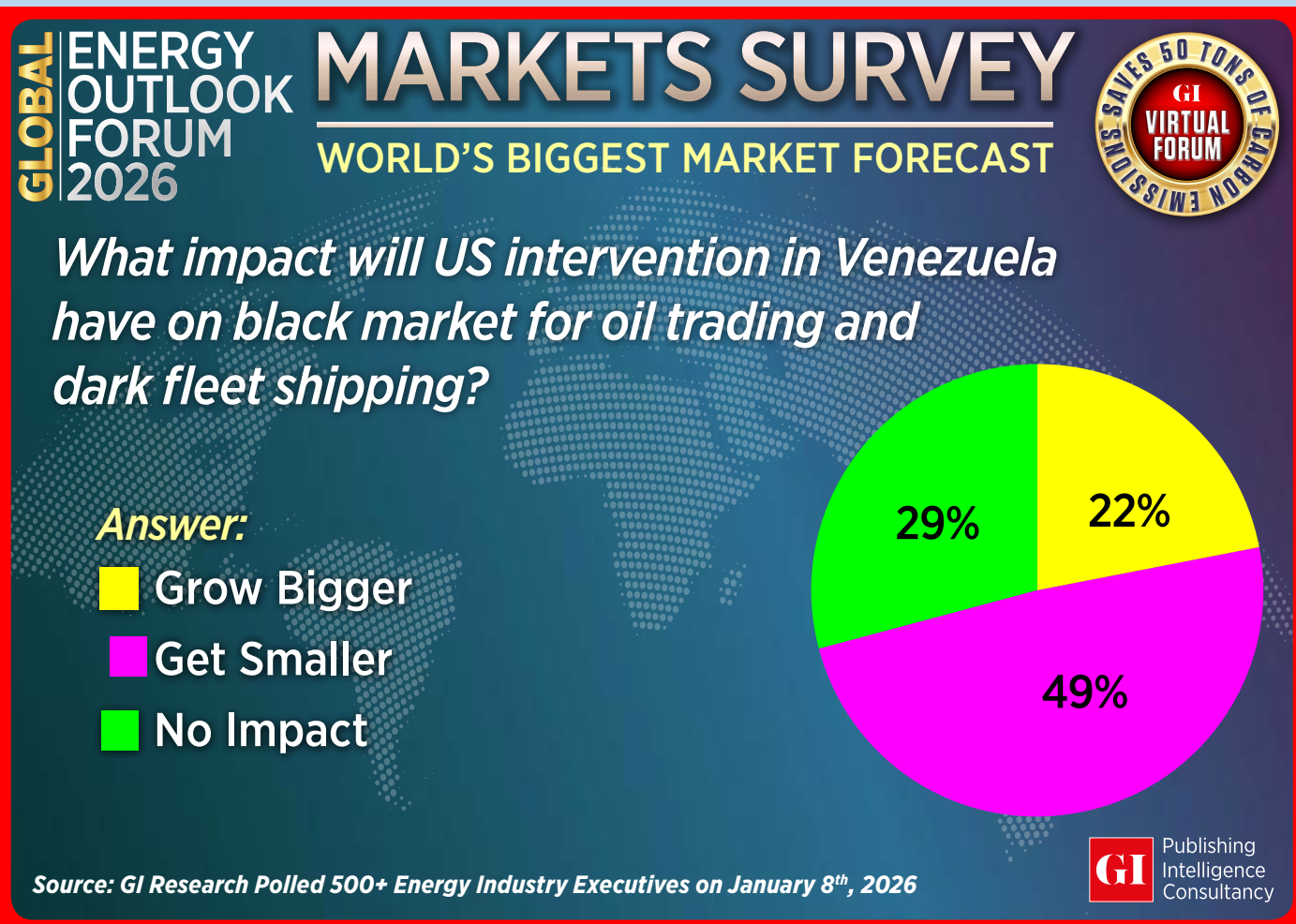
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"By 2027, the US will formalize control over Venezuelan oil revenues through a New York-based custodial mechanism, using disbursement as political leverage, and lack of planning will cap production recovery below one million b/d through 2030."

Dr. Raad Alkadiri
Managing Partner, 3TEN32 Associates

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"Within the next 12-18 months, Venezuela's oil sector will remain structurally paralyzed despite any political transition. Without control of the armed forces and a full overhaul of PDVSA management, foreign investment will stay minimal."

Jose Chalhoub
Analyst, Jose Parejo & Associates

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"China's Oil Imports to Grow by 2% in 2026 – up from 11.5 million barrels per day in 2025"

Victor Yang
Senior Analyst
JLC Network Technology

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ON EXPECTATIONS FOR FED RATE CUTS

"We're anticipating at least one FED rate cut this year. The market has been talking about two to three, but we believe there might be one, if there is."

Sajjad Jafri
Head of Energy and Commodities
Mashreq

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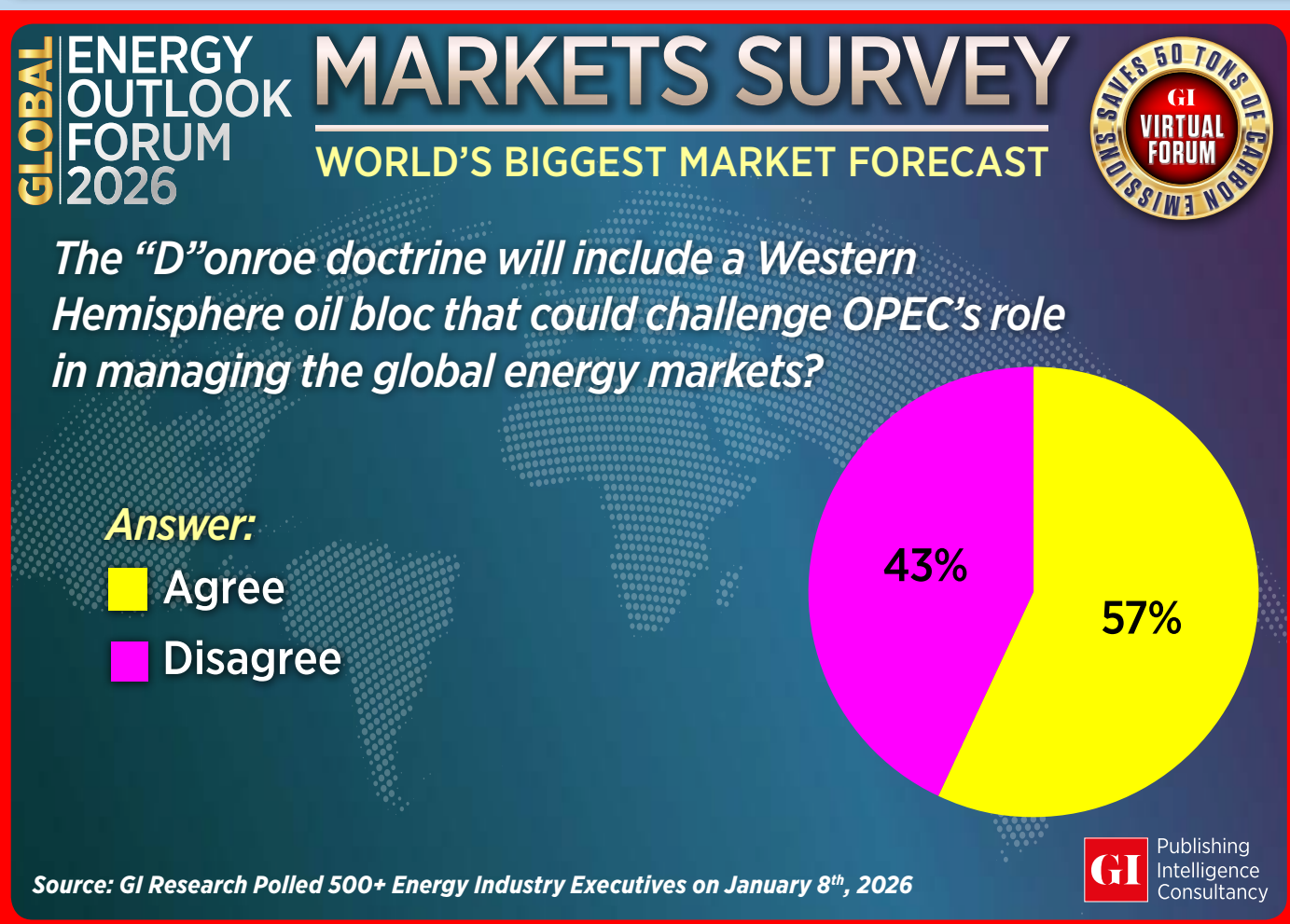
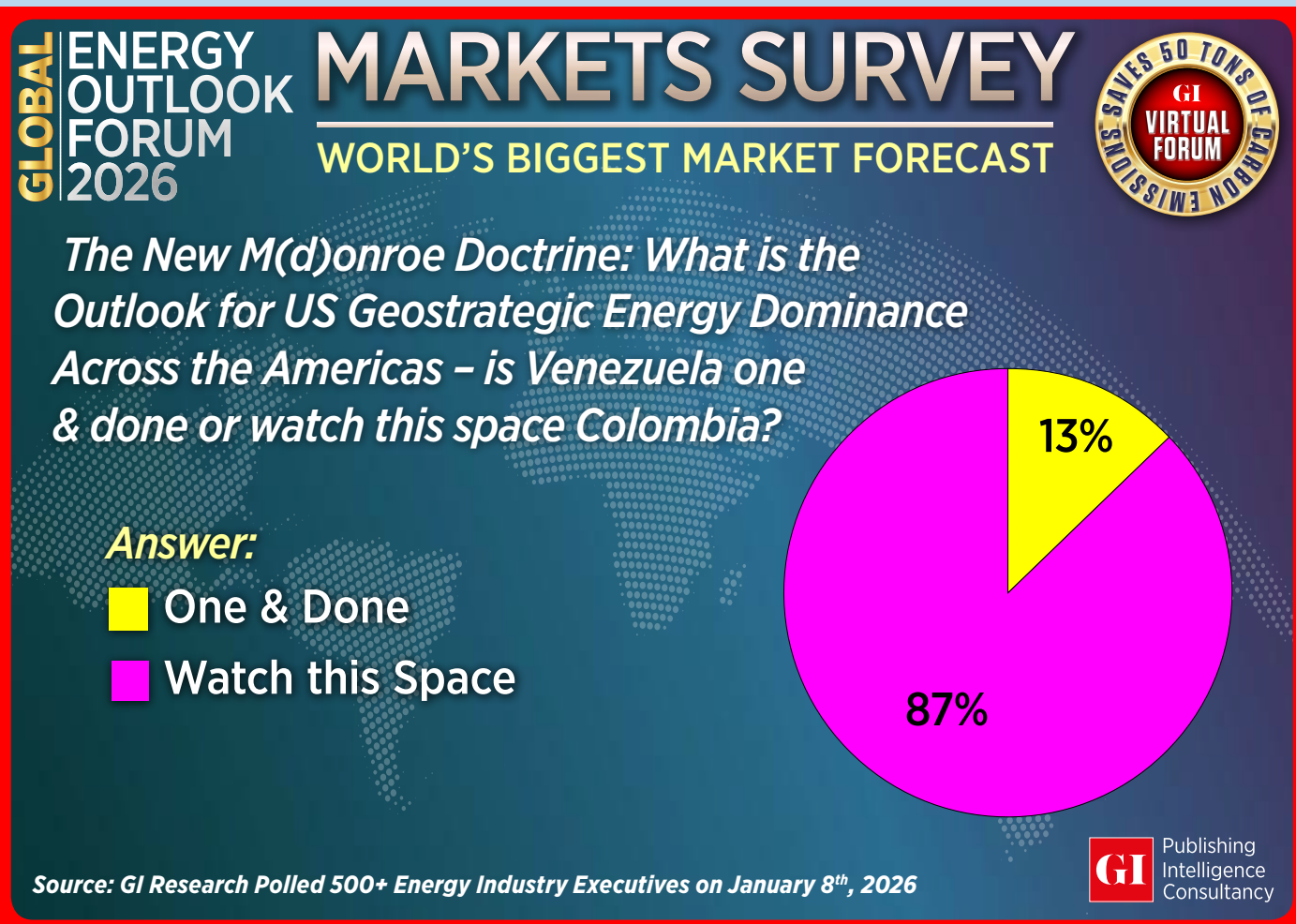
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VENEZUELA TO LEAVE OPEC

"Venezuela will be out of OPEC very soon and Join a new U.S.-led Western Hemisphere oil bloc!"

Narendra Taneja
India's Leading Energy Expert

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“Precious metals rally to continue in 2026, with Gold likely to reach \$5,200 and Silver to hit \$120 within first half of the year.”

Peter McGuire
CEO Australia. Trading.com

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“China and Russia’s energy partnership to deepen in 2026 with cooperation in the development of nuclear-powered LNG tankers and icebreakers capable of operating year-round through the Artic Northern Passage.”

Anas Al Hajji
Managing Partner
Energy Outlook Advisors

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“US oil supply has peaked and is not putting on any incremental growth. That’s a big change in the dynamic — Non-opec supply growth this year will be virtually nothing.”

Paul Horsnell
Chairman of the Board,
The Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

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“I’m definitely bearish for the first six months of 2026 with WTI prices possibly falling into the \$40s, but then after most OPEC capacity comes back online, oil prices will need to rise to above \$80 to see any meaningful new supply increases out of the US.”

Brian Pieri
Founder, Energy Rogue

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"China's oil demand will continue to grow modestly in 2026 by around 150,000–200,000 bpd, but this growth is structurally driven by petrochemicals rather than transportation fuels. As China accelerates electrification of transport, incremental crude demand is being pulled by a deliberate push toward petrochemical self-sufficiency."

Yan Chong Yaw
Director – Research, Wood Mackenzie



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"I don't think the war will end. Russia cannot afford to exit a war economy, its financial system is too fragile, and any settlement is likely to result only in a frozen conflict, with underlying tensions persisting rather than resolving."

Marc Ostwald
Chief Economist & Global Strategist,
ADM Investor Services International



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"Venezuela's oil future is not constrained by geology but by policy, institutions, and legitimacy; without a stable framework defined with Venezuelan participation, investment will remain fragile and the episode will matter more for the international order than for global oil supply."

Aldo Flores-Quiroga
Former Deputy Secretary of Energy for
Hydrocarbons, Mexico's Ministry of Energy &
Non-Resident Fellow, Baker Institute



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"The bottom line macro for crude oil is we're probably going to get to that low-price cure this year, with Brent getting below \$50 and a \$40 handle in WTI. Below \$55 finally gets that production shut-down, and I don't think we're going to see recovery."

Mike McGlone
Senior Commodities Strategist,
Bloomberg Intelligence



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