

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEBA_113524
Title of the Manuscript:	Beyond economic growth: Does natural gas consumption and price promote trade in top gas producing African nations? Evidence from time series analysis
Type of the Article	

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p>Compulsory REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</p> <p>2. Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p> <p>3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</p> <p>4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p> <p>5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</p> <p>6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</p> <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<p>Yes, it is important.</p> <p>Yes, it is suitable</p> <p>Yes, It is.</p> <p>The subsections are appropriate.</p> <p>It is, and it is consistent with past studies on the subject.</p> <p>The references are sufficient and they are current. However, the author(s) cited some references that were not included in the final references list at the end of the article, for example, Bala et al. (2019). This anomaly should be corrected.</p>	
<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>Yes, the language is suitable.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>Excellent. Accept manuscript for publication.</p> <p>1. Excellent research, whose main aim was to investigate the impact of natural gas use on promoting commerce among the leading gas-producing nations in Africa. It examined the role of natural gas consumption and price in enhancing trade among top gas producing nations in Africa.</p> <p>2. The authors employed data on natural gas consumption, natural gas price, and gasoline motor fuel (used as a reference variable) was gathered from the World Bank and the International Energy Agency. These data were then analysed using the panel ARDL methodology to examine the relationship between trade openness and natural gas consumption and price in the six leading gas producing nations in Africa – Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, and Gabon.</p> <p>3. The research revealed that the link between natural gas consumption and trade openness was not statistically significant. However, natural gas pricing had a substantial beneficial influence on trade openness. Conversely, the use of petrol motor fuel had a significant negative effect on trade openness. The observed correlation between natural gas consumption and trade openness contradicted the outcomes of Shahbaz et al. (2014) and Bonsu and Wang (2022), who identified a mutual causal link between trade openness and energy consumption. But the upshots of this research about the influence of natural gas prices on trade openness align with the outcomes of Bala et al. (2019), who indicated that an increase in oil prices has a substantial effect on trade openness.</p> <p>4. The study discovered that an escalation in the price of natural gas contributes to the enhancement of commerce and economic development in the leading gas-producing nations in Africa. As the price rises, there is a corresponding increase in commerce, particularly in exports, which leads to a growth in monetary terms.</p> <p>5. Additionally, the energy industry plays a significant role in contributing to the overall economic development. Trade openness is enhanced by the combination of trade and economic development, with the price of natural gas playing a crucial role in this improvement. However, it noted that the trade facilitation in the chosen gas-producing African nations was greatly hindered by</p>	

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	the high natural gas prices and increased demand of gasoline motor fuel. 6. It is recommended that to encourage competition, stabilise prices, strengthen gas infrastructure, and boost trade and development in gas-producing nations in the African sub-region, the oil and gas sector in nations that produce gas must be liberalised. 7. Overall: Excellent.	
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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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