



March 19, 2024

## **Summary of Remarks by JGA Chair HONJO Takehiro**

The Board of Directors has informally decided that I will resign as Chairperson of The Japan Gas Association at the end of March this year, and that Mr. Uchida, Chairperson of the Board of Tokyo Gas, who has supported me as Vice Chairperson, will succeed me as Chairperson of The Japan Gas Association.

Looking back on my tenure, it was a drastically-changing three years for the gas industry, with the acceleration of the global trend toward carbon neutrality, the COVID-19 pandemic, the global tight LNG supply and demand situation following Russia-Ukraine conflict and the resulting price hikes, and the legal separation of the three major Japanese gas companies' pipeline divisions.

Even under such circumstances, we have been working to ensure a stable supply and security of city gas in cooperation with our member utilities by thoroughly preparing for both supply and demand in the event of an LNG supply disruption and mock training of responding to large-scale feedstock supply disruptions, while realizing a stable supply of city gas.

In addition, in order to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 NDC ( Nationally Determined Contribution ) , we have formulated and

announced Carbon Neutral Challenge 2050 Action Plan, and will continue to introduce policies to shift to natural gas in the transition phase in the near term.

At the same time, we are working on the establishment of a support system for the future social implementation of e-methane and the design of rules for acquiring environmental value of e-methane, and I believe that such activities made important progress for the future gas industry.

Furthermore, we have also focused our efforts on supporting carbon neutrality and regional revitalization efforts by our members in accordance with the characteristics of each region, and we have seen a positive response to these efforts.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Gas Pavilion for the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, was held last year, and construction is underway for completion in October of this year.

The city gas industry has just begun to confront a major transformation, a "third founding" of the gas business, with the aim of realizing a carbon neutral society. Although we are halfway through this period of transition, I hope that the new organization, led by new Chairperson Uchida, will continue to move forward strongly.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the press who have been active in disseminating information about the JGA and the city gas industry's efforts over the past three years.

I would like to conclude my farewell address by asking for your continued support for The Japan Gas Association under the new leadership of new Chairperson Uchida.

Thank you very much.



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## **Summary of Remarks by JGA Vice Chair UCHIDA Takashi**

I am Uchida, who will succeed Mr. Honjo as Chairman of The Japan Gas Association from April 1st, 2024.

I believe that the city gas industry is currently in its third founding period. The first founding period was when the gas business was launched, the second period was when companies moved to unify gas types and calorific values, including LNG, and the third period is when the industry is actively responding to environmental issues and converting to e-methane etc. We are in the midst of these major reforms, and I am asked to serve as Chairperson at this very important time, and I am humbled by the importance of this responsibility.

During his tenure, Chairperson Honjo has shown the gas industry a concrete path toward the social implementation of e-methane, and he has made steady progress in this direction. I would first like to express my gratitude to his accomplishments.

Also, in the midst of the drastically changing environment surrounding the energy industry, he has made efforts to ensure stable supply and security, which are the essential parts of the gas business.

In addition to the stable supply of gas by individual gas companies, he has worked hard to ensure stable supply in the larger sense of how to maintain stable supply in the event of LNG supply disruptions from the

perspective of Japan's energy security.

I would also like to express my sincere respect for the wide range of achievements he has made in strengthening local gas businesses and supporting their efforts to become carbon neutral.

I am committed to advancing efforts to realize advanced use of natural gas and a carbon-neutral society, while respecting the "S+3E" (safety as the foundation of our energy business, while satisfying environmental, economic, and supply stability requirements), as well as strengthening our support for local city gas businesses that contribute to the carbon neutralization of rural areas and regional revitalization.

I would like to ask the government, related organizations, and members of the press gathered here today for further understanding and support of the JGA and the city gas industry's efforts.