

JGA News

1. Plans for setting up a booth at the 23rd World Gas Conference (WGC2006) in Amsterdam

The Japan Gas Association will set up a booth at the 23rd World Gas Conference (WGC2006), which will be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 5-9, 2006. With the aim of showcasing its efforts in Japan for promoting distributed energy, the main display will be a mockup of a fuel cell for residential use, which was released in 2005. The booth will show the growth of gas cogeneration in Japan and our vision of creating a society that takes advantage of natural gas and distributed energy systems.



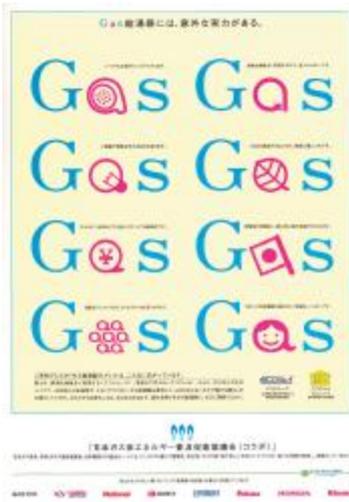
The rendering of JGA booth

2. Inauguration of the COLLABO

Together with the Conference of LP Gas Associated Organizations and Japan Community Gas Association, the Japan Gas Association formed the Japan Gas Energy Promotion Council (commonly named “COLLABO”) on October 20, 2005.

The COLLABO’s major tasks include providing advice on policies, distributing information, and making recommendations for the purpose of promoting highly efficient gas water heaters and safe gas cooking stoves, spreading information about intelligent use of gas and energy conservation, and promoting cooperation during emergencies such as in the event of an earthquake.

On November 30, the first meeting for promoting highly-efficient gas water heater was held within the COLLABO. At this meeting installation target numbers of high-efficient gas water heaters for FY2010 were agreed. The targets are 3,500,000 units for condensing water heaters (commonly named Eco-joze) and 235,000 units for gas-engine cogeneration systems for residential use (commonly named Eco-will). Both of these goes highly beyond the target set for pursuing the goal of the Kyoto Protocol. Thus, the COLLABO is planning to launch an industry-wide effort to



promote the use of highly efficient gas water heaters, so as to contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions in the residential sector.

Poster advertising

3. FY2004 CO₂ emission reported by Nippon Keidanren

Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), in the context of following up its Voluntary Environmental Action Plan, has issued a summary on CO₂ emissions by different industrial sectors for FY2004. CO₂ emissions from the production and supply of city gas, as reported by the Japan Gas Association, were included in the data. For the production and supply of city gas, recorded emissions in FY1990 were 1,160,000 t-CO₂. Recorded emissions in FY2004 were 760,000 t-CO₂, representing an approximately 34% reduction from the FY1990 level in spite of an approximately 94% growth in gas production. Thus, the Association is progressing smoothly toward the FY2010 target of 730,000 t-CO₂.

CO₂ emissions per 1 m³ of gas were also reduced to 25g-CO₂/m³, an approximately 66% reduction from the FY1990 level, thanks to the implementation of various measures including the use of high calorie gas (natural gas).

The follow-up review by Nippon Keidanren saw the participation of 35 industrial sectors; the total CO₂ emissions from all those sectors recorded a 0.5% reduction from the FY1990 level. A decrease in CO₂ emissions from the FY1990 level was achieved by 20 industrial sectors including the city gas sector.

4. Participation in the expert meeting for the fourth report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The Japan Gas Association participated in the industrial expert meeting for the development of the fourth report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), held from January 17-19, 2006, in Cape Town, South Africa.

The meeting was attended by 65 representatives from 19 countries. There were three representatives from Japan, one each from the electric power industry, the gas industry, and the cement industry.

Toward the development of the fourth report, the meeting included chapter-by-chapter presentations and group discussions. The Japan Gas Association, representing Japanese industries, asserted the effectiveness of the Voluntary Environmental Action Plan announced by the Nippon Keidanren.

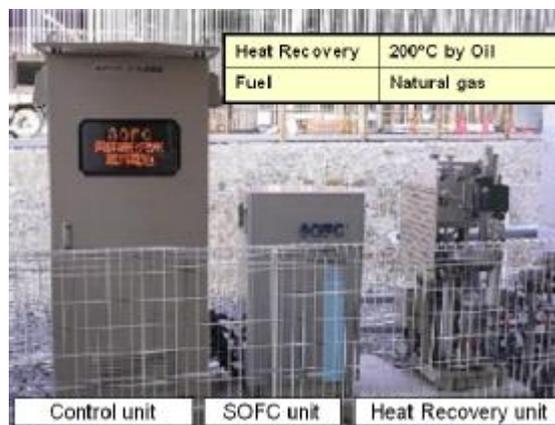
5. Closing of the Gas Pavilion at the Aichi EXPO site

EXPO 2005 AICHI came to a successful close on September 25, 2005. The EXPO had opened on March 25 and was held for 185 days. During the term of the EXPO, the Gas Pavilion received 2,476,041 visitors, far exceeding the target of 1.5 million visitors. The total number of visitors to the EXPO was 22,049,544.

The Japan Gas Association, with the cooperation and support from its member companies, built a pavilion at the EXPO. It set up the Fire Magic Theater at the pavilion, featuring a magic show with real fire, and exhibited such items as fuel cells for residential houses. In addition, the first field test of small, solid oxide fuel cells (SOFCs) was conducted at the Gas Pavilion. The test was concluded successfully without any major problems after 4,000 hours of trial operation.



GAS PAVILION



SOFC co-generation system installed
in Gas Pavilion at the EXPO 2005