



18 March 2021

## **Press conference for the Change of JGA Chair**

### 1. Summary of remarks of JGA Chair of HIROSE Michiaki

At the JGA Board meeting held today (18 March), I will retire from the Chair of JGA at the end of March this year, and today the Board meeting decided that Mr. HONJO, Takehiro, the Chair of Osaka Gas, who has supported me as a Vice Chair of JGA, will take over my position of JGA.

Looking back on the three years I served as JGA Chair, in the first half of the period, competition due to the liberalization of electricity and gas became full-scale. In response to such situation, it became apparent that city gas utilities would choose new management forms and business structures. Along with that, JGA also implemented reforms of the organization and amended the articles of association. In the latter half of the period, especially the last year (2020) was a difficult year due to the COVID-19 disasters, but we have worked on various issues facing the gas business, such as carbon neutralization, resilience, and regional revitalization which is an issue for local gas companies.

For the past three years, I have kept close communication with the media. I would like to express my sincere gratitude.

I would also like to thank the member gas companies and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and other authorities, experts, and related organizations. I would like to ask for your continued support for the new officers of JGA.

## 2. Summary of remarks of JGA Vice Chair of HONJO, Takehiro

From 1 April , I will be appointed the Chairman of JGA after Mr. Hirose.

The city gas industry is now in the wake of Prime Minister Suga's "2050 Carbon Neutral Declaration," while focusing on intense energy competition after the full liberalization of gas retailing and responding to the COVID-19 infection. We have just taken on the challenge of contributing to the realization of a carbon-free society.

At a time when the city gas industry is facing a very important phase, I will do my best and keep that in mind as the new Chair of JGA,

During the period, Mr. Hirose worked to strengthen resilience such as responding to COVID-19 infections and responding to frequent natural disasters, while also focusing on support for the sustainable development of local gas companies.

In November of the last year (2020) , Mr. Hirose showed the way the city gas industry should take to achieve carbon neutrality in 2050, both internally and externally. I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude for the achievements of Mr. Hirose.

While focusing on the mission of energy companies, such as stable supply and strengthening resilience, I will steadily advance efforts toward advanced utilization of natural gas and carbon neutrality, which contribute to low carbonization, and further regional revitalization. I would like to satisfy "customers," "society," and "city gas companies," with sincerity and efforts such as strengthening support for local gas companies that contribute to regional revitalization.

We would like to ask the government, related organizations, and the media companies gathered today for their further understanding and support for the efforts of JGA and the city gas industry.