



December 12, 2025

Summary of Remarks by JGA Chair UCHIDA Takashi

1. Introduction

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to all those affected by the earthquake that occurred off the east Coast of Aomori Prefecture on December 8. While a maximum seismic intensity of 6 upper was observed within the city gas supply area, there was no interruption to city gas supply, and no particular damage to city gas facilities was confirmed. We will continue and strengthen our efforts to enhance resilience as a disaster-resistant energy source.

Next, I will address the large-scale city gas supply interruption incident that occurred in Ube City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, on December 4. This incident occurred when abnormal gas pressure was detected within the supply area of the Ube Branch of Yamaguchi Gohdoh Gas Co.,Ltd, leading to the suspension of city gas supply to all 12,494 customers in Ube City. Over 50 fires broke out, and injuries from burns were reported. We deeply apologize to the customers affected by this incident and extend our sympathies. We also sincerely apologize for the significant inconvenience and trouble caused to many customers. All city gas supplies were restored by December 7, three days after the accident occurred. To restore gas supplies, we established a support system with neighboring city gas providers—Hiroshima Gas, Okayama Gas, and Shikoku Gas—and resumed gas supply only after confirming the safety of each customer's premises.

This accident was caused by a malfunction in the pressure regulating function of the governor, preventing normal pressure supply. To the best of our knowledge based on records, no similar governor-related pressure increases accidents have been confirmed in the past. Currently, Yamaguchi Gohdoh Gas Co.,Ltd, and the governor manufacturer are investigating the cause of the accident. Based on the findings of this investigation, the city gas industry as a whole will take appropriate measures.

Today, I will explain two points: ① Trends in the City Gas Industry for 2025 and ② A Review of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

2. Trends in the City Gas Industry for 2025

In the 7th Strategic Energy Plan approved by the Cabinet in February 2025, natural gas was clearly positioned as "an important energy source even after achieving carbon neutrality," and e-methane as "a key energy source for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050." Based on this, the Japan Gas Association newly formulated "Gas Vision 2050" in June 2025, outlining the future vision for the city gas industry by 2050, and "Action Plan 2030," detailing specific initiatives to achieve this vision by 2030.

Furthermore, at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan that opened in April 2025, we exhibited the Gas Pavilion, communicating our efforts toward the social implementation of e-methane. We also believe that the initiatives of local gas providers contributing to regional carbon neutrality have steadily progressed.

In 2026, the city gas industry will continue to unite all operators for a shared purpose. While flexibly responding to domestic and international

trends and various environmental changes, we will reliably meet the demand for stable supply. We will provide optimal solutions for our customers, firmly working toward realizing affluent lifestyles, advancing society, industry, and regional development, and achieving a carbon-neutral society.

Regarding Gas Market Reform, full retail liberalization started from April 2017, and the legal separation of major pipeline divisions of three major gas companies¹ were implemented in April 2022. The amended law stipulates that a review of the gas system reform must be conducted by March 2027. Based on this, discussions for the review commenced August 2025 within the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy's Working Group on the Improvement of the Gas Business Environment. We expect these discussions to address challenges such as workforce shortages, rising prices, and achieving nationwide carbon neutrality for city gas.

3. Review of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan

During the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan held from April to October 2025, we communicated the city gas industry's efforts toward gas carbon neutrality to audiences both domestically and internationally. This was achieved through experiential attractions, collaboration with international conferences, and partnerships with Osaka Gas's methanation demonstration facility, thereby promoting greater understanding.

In line with the Expo's concept of "People's Living Lab", we also undertook new initiatives, such as the first large-scale adoption of radiative cooling material Space Cool in buildings and demonstration research

¹ Tokyo Gas, Osaka Gas and Toho Gas

aimed at creating environments for senior employment. These efforts were recognized with multiple awards, and we are also working on the effective utilization of Expo legacies, such as construction materials.