



September 16, 2026

Summary of Remarks by JGA Chair UCHIDA Takashi

Today, I would like to cover two key topics: (1) Disaster Response in the City Gas Industry, and (2) the Summary of the Review of Gas System Reforms.

1. Disaster Response in the City Gas Industry

I would like to express my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives by natural disasters that have struck across the country, including the 2026 Kumamoto Earthquake and the Heavy Rain in Chiba and the Hokuriku region, and I extend my heartfelt sympathies to all those affected.

The city gas industry has been working to strengthen the “Three Pillars of Earthquake Preparedness.”

The first pillar is “Facility Measures”—preemptive measures to prepare for disasters, such as retrofitting gas pipelines and other critical infrastructure to make them earthquake-resistant.

The second pillar is “Emergency Measures”—actions taken during a disaster, such as the expanded introduction of microcomputer gas meters and the segmenting of low-pressure pipelines into blocks.

The third pillar is “Recovery Measures”—actions taken after a disaster, such as establishing rapid recovery systems through mutual assistance among gas utilities nationwide.

In the large-scale earthquakes that have occurred over the past year, there has been no significant damage to the city gas supply.

However, during the Kumamoto Earthquake, city gas supply was suspended in Yatsushiro City and Kumamoto City to prevent secondary damage. The Japan Gas Association immediately set up a Disaster Response Headquarters following the earthquake. and, in response to a request for assistance from Kyushu dispatched a relief team of approximately 650 personnel from Saibu Gas Co., Nihon Gas Co., Miyazaki Gas Co., Oita Gas Co., Chikushi Gas Co., and Osaka Gas Network Co. This falls under “Restoration Measures,” one of the “Three Pillars of Earthquake Preparedness,” which focuses on post-disaster response.

Under challenging conditions where water ingress into gas pipelines was confirmed at multiple locations, numerous restoration personnel worked day and night. Through a system of mutual support that transcended regional boundaries, the city gas industry worked as one to achieve an early restoration.

Similarly, during the heavy rain in Chiba in August, in response to a request for assistance from Otaki Gas Co., the JGA dispatched a relief team of approximately 770 personnel from Tokyo Gas Network Co., Tokyo Gas Co., Keiyo Gas Co., Energy Sola Platforms Co., Keiwa Gas Co., and the Narashino City Enterprise Bureau to support restoration efforts.

We believe we were able to achieve a swift recovery in both disasters. We will continue to strive to ensure the safe, reliable, and stable supply of city gas and to further improve our disaster response capabilities.

2. Summary of the Review of Gas System Reform

Approximately nine years have passed since the full liberalization of the retail gas market and four years since the legal unbundling of the pipeline sector under Japan’s gas system reform. Against this backdrop, the

Working Group on the Improvement of the Gas Business Environment, a governmental advisory body, conducted a comprehensive review of the reforms. On August 10, 2026, it released a report entitled “Results of the Evaluation of Gas System Reform and Future Directions”.

The report concluded that the reforms have achieved “certain results” in light of their original objectives. It also identified three key policy directions for the future gas system: (1) ensuring a stable and secure gas supply, (2) contributing to the realization of a GX (Green Transformation) society, and (3) maintaining a fair and competitive market environment.

The Japan Gas Association views the report as an important milestone that sets the direction for building a sustainable gas system. In particular, we welcome the recognition of fuel switching to natural gas as a measure that contributes to Japan’s GX initiatives. We also consider it highly significant that regional gas utilities are expected to play a vital role in supporting local economies and communities.

Going forward, the city gas industry will continue to fulfill the role expected of it while steadily advancing the development of a sustainable gas system in line with the recommendations of the report.