

5 June, 2026

## **New Chairman of JRAIA**

As of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026, The Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association has appointed new chairman.



**TORU KUBO**

Chairman, The Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association (JRAIA)  
(Chairman, Carrier Japan Corporation)

I am deeply honored to have been appointed President of the Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association (JRAIA).

As our industry continues to serve as essential social infrastructure while playing an increasingly important role in mitigating climate change, I am keenly aware of the significant responsibility that accompanies this position. With the guidance and support of our members and stakeholders, I am committed to steadily advancing the mission and activities of our Association.

Looking back on the past fiscal year, despite ongoing uncertainties in the global economy, demand for refrigeration and air conditioning equipment in Japan remained solid, supported by continued capital investment and construction activities. Domestic shipments of residential air conditioners reached 10.028 million units, an increase of 6.5% year-on-year, while commercial air conditioners totaled 857,000 units, up 0.8% compared with the previous year. These results reflect a stable demand base across our major product segments.

Against this backdrop, mitigating environmental impact has remained at the core of JRAIA's activities. We have actively accelerated the transition to low-GWP refrigerants, supported implementation of Japan's Fluorocarbons Emissions Control Act, and encouraged the wider adoption of energy-efficient equipment. Through these efforts, we have achieved tangible progress in policy recommendations, standardization activities, and technical evaluations. In particular, we have solidified the industry's foundation through collaboration among industry, government, and academia in areas such as compliance with the Top Runner Program, evaluation of next-generation refrigerants, revisions of JRA and JIS standards, and the development of safety requirements.

In addition, we have taken a proactive role in addressing the emerging challenge of life-cycle carbon management for building owners. By participating in study groups led by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, we have contributed to discussions on future institutional frameworks from the equipment perspective.

Our efforts in information dissemination and industry engagement have also been highly successful. HVAC&R JAPAN 2026 and the International Symposium on New Refrigerants and Environmental Technology 2025 were both held on the largest scale in their histories, reflecting growing interest in the role of our industry and its contributions to society.

At the same time, our industry faces a number of structural headwinds, including labor shortages, changes in market structures, and growing complexity in international regulatory frameworks. Effectively navigating these trends will be essential to ensuring sustainable progress in the years ahead.

With these circumstances in mind, JRAIA has identified five key priorities that will guide our activities this year.

First, we will further accelerate our efforts to advance environmental and climate change initiatives. To achieve Japan's goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, ambitious targets have been established for the refrigeration and air conditioning sector, including reductions in energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 51% in the commercial segment and 66% in the residential segment, as well as a 44% reduction in emissions of HFCs and other fluorinated gases by 2030 compared with 2013 levels. In support of these objectives, JRAIA will continue to drive the market uptake of high-efficiency equipment, support the ongoing implementation of the Top Runner Program, and facilitate the transition to low-GWP and natural refrigerants.

We will also deepen collaboration with the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) on next-generation refrigerant development projects. Furthermore, in preparation for the introduction of a building life-cycle carbon assessment framework scheduled for fiscal year 2028, we will advance the development of product-specific CO<sub>2</sub> emission factors and establish the necessary foundations for Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs).

Second, we will proactively shape standards and regulatory frameworks in Japan while strengthening international cooperation. In addition to international standards developed by IEC and ISO, overseas regulations such as the European F-Gas Regulation, REACH, and the U.S. AIM Act are exerting an increasingly significant influence on our industry. JRAIA will continue to evolve JRA and JIS standards while actively participating in international standardization activities to ensure that Japanese technical expertise is appropriately reflected in global standards.

In parallel, we will work to enhance market confidence through greater transparency in product performance declarations and the proper operation of certification programs, while preparing for regulatory revisions anticipated after 2027.

Third, we will continue to elevate safety and reliability. As the adoption of low-GWP and flammable refrigerants expands, ensuring safety has become more important than ever. JRAIA will continue to clearly define safety requirements through the progress of JRA standards and guidelines while promoting risk assessment-based approaches to safety standardization.

We will also respond appropriately to developments related to the Electrical Appliance and Material Safety Act and the High Pressure Gas Safety Act, while enhancing accident analysis and safety awareness activities to support safe use of equipment throughout the market.

Fourth, we will spearhead the implementation of new technologies and promote their practical application in society. Advances in IoT and artificial intelligence are transforming refrigeration and air conditioning systems. JRAIA will support the wider adoption of 24/365 monitoring systems and advanced energy management solutions to improve both energy efficiency and operational safety.

In addition, we will work toward next-generation performance evaluation methodologies and engage actively in ISO standardization activities, helping establish assessment methods that better reflect actual operating conditions. These efforts will be carried forward through close collaboration among industry, government, and academia.

Fifth, we will reinforce the industry's foundation while strengthening our communication and engagement activities. JRAIA is currently formulating its Medium-Term Vision 2030, and during this fiscal year we will focus on its implementation and broader dissemination. We will also kick off preparations for HVAC&R JAPAN 2028 and advance planning for the International Symposium on New Refrigerants and Environmental Technology 2027.

Through the continued advancements of our communication platforms such as websites and newsletters, the expansion of member services, and more efficient committee operations, we will further enhance the value we deliver as an association.

The refrigeration and air conditioning industry underpins essential social infrastructure and plays an increasingly important role in addressing global environmental challenges. Leveraging the technological expertise and extensive networks cultivated over many decades, JRAIA will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to help shape a more sustainable future and support long-term, resilient growth.

Guided by our mission to foster the sound evolution of the industry, enhance our lives, and deliver greater value to society, we will continue to advance and broaden our activities.

I will carry out my duties as President with sincerity, dedication, and a strong sense of responsibility, mindful of the trust placed in me.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your continued understanding and support, and I look forward to our continued collaboration in the years ahead.

***Toru Kubo***

Chairman of the board

The Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association (JRAIA), Japan