

JRAIA

The Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association

3 June, 2022

New Chairman of JRAIA

As of 3rd June 2022, The Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association has appointed new chairman.



SO SUZUKI

Chairman, The Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association (JRAIA)
(Executive Officer, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation)

We are expecting a full-fledged recovery from economic impacts due to Covid-19 from now on with the progress of vaccination and the government's large-scale economic measures, although the situation regarding Covid-19 remains unpredictable in Japan. On the other hand, the global economy, not only Japan, is becoming increasingly uncertain due to increasing oil prices, difficulties in procuring various materials including semiconductors, and the Ukraine issue.

Under these circumstances, we are determined to tackle the challenges facing the industry, focusing on "appropriate response to environmental issues," "compliance with standards and norms," "safety initiatives," "promotion of deregulation and response to new technologies," and "international activities." Among these, we will place the highest priority on environment-related measures, such as measures to prevent global warming. We will also focus on the direction of new refrigerants to comply with refrigerants GWP regulations, product safety measures, and strengthening of international efforts.

In particular, in terms of environment-related measures, the industry will keep on focusing on the "carbon neutrality by 2050" declared by Japan in 2020, which is a major theme for the industry. As an industry association, two important themes are "energy conservation" and production and consumption quantity reduction of HFC refrigerants".

As for the "further pursuit of thorough energy conservation" as stated in the Sixth Basic Energy Plan and efforts of raising up the products performance baseline of "the Top Runner Program" we will conduct activities based on the principle of providing consumers and users with high-efficiency equipment and fair and highly transparent information about such equipment at all times. With regard to the Top Runner Program, specifically, we will promote activities to achieve the newly set targets for residential air conditioners and residential heat pump water heaters.

With regard to the reduction of production and consumption of HFC refrigerants, extremely strict measures are required, although the upper limit forecasts for the use of HFC refrigerants for 2024 and 2029 were announced by a Working Group of the Industrial Structure Council in February 2020. In addition, the scope of products designated by the GWP regulations is expected to be enlarged in the future as new installation of multi air conditioners for buildings were decided to be a designated product for GWP regulations.

In order to ensure that we meet our annual reduction targets, we will continue our efforts to

comply with Japan's international commitments, including the consideration of new refrigerants and new technologies, the addition of designated products, and the setting of target values.

We recognize that environmental issues have triggered a variety of technological innovations and global cooperation in our industry. We believe that this is an excellent opportunity for our members, who possess the world's top-level energy-saving and refrigerant technologies, to lead the industry on a global scale and contribute more than ever before to the prevention of global warming.

Under these circumstances, I am deeply humbled by my appointment as Chairman of this association. I will do my utmost to contribute to solving global environmental issues to enhance the competitiveness and presence of Japanese companies, and to further develop our industry and improve its standing together with our member companies.

So Suzuki

Chairman of the board

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