

43rd Ordinary General Assembly held - A business plan in fiscal 2011 approved -



On June 3, JRAIA held its 43rd ordinary general assembly at Hotel Laforet Tokyo.

In the meeting, a business report and financial results in fiscal 2010 as well as a business and budget plan in fiscal 2011 were deliberated and

adopted. Katsuhiko Fujiwara, senior vice-president of Panasonic Home Appliances Co., was appointed the new chairman, replacing the previous chairman Hidetoshi Arima of Sanyo Electric Co.,Ltd.

Chairman Fujiwara gave an inauguration speech as follows;

Thank you for participating in the general assembly today. I greatly appreciate your continued support for JRAIA activities. First of all, I'd like to express my deep sympathies for those who were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11. A triple calamity of huge quake, massive tsunami and nuclear plant crisis is still causing extensive damage throughout Japan, especially eastern areas, even three months after the disaster. Supply-chain disruption and electrical power shortage require us to make a sweeping review of the way of business. In making efforts together to promote the recovery and reconstruction of our country, we are determined to take vital and prompt actions to rebuild the country in visible ways.

During the past year, the following have been mainly done; 1)JRAIA built a study framework for refrigerant containment and next-generation refrigerants for further tackling the global environmental issues; 2)Japan Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Testing Laboratory (JATL) was established; 3)JRAIA Secretariat was reorganized to strengthen our international activities. This year, JRAIA continues to address the following; 1)improve energy efficiency of our products; 2)provide accurate product information for users; 3)develop JRAIA standards; 4)ensure product safety.

Now, our business environment is far from being optimistic due to unclear global economic trends, financial crisis in some countries, the price-hike of raw materials, and so on. Nevertheless our



New Chairman Fujiwara

refrigeration and air-conditioning industry is expected to achieve consistent growth owing to favorable demand both at home and abroad. Meanwhile, our major contribution to global environmental issues is highly required and it's our responsibility to find solutions to them in collaboration with associations abroad. As Chairman, I'd like to be fully committed to accomplishing our missions in close cooperation with our members.

During the meeting, the awards were presented to eight members who contributed to their committee activities.



Awards Presentation

Risk Assessment of Lower Flammable Refrigerants started

In Japan, HCFC had long and widely been used as refrigerant for refrigeration and air conditioning equipment until the Montreal Protocol was enacted in 1987. Since then, production of HCFC has been regulated, and conversion to HFC has been accelerated.

JRAIA is committed to solving the issues of HFC emissions and to studying refrigerants with a low GWP replacing R410. However, next-generation refrigerants like HFO1234yf/ze and R32 have some weak points such as flammability. Even now we have not found new refrigerants that meet all the requirements.

In some emerging countries, conversion from HCFC to HFC is being studied with the use of the UNIDO Multilateral Fund, and it is reported that they plan to mainly use R32 as an alternative. R32 has excellent properties but is slightly flammable. It must be used with caution.

To reduce the effects of global warming due to refrigerant emissions, we are forced to use refrigerants with lower flammability as one of options. Thus we started risk assessment of those refrigerants jointly with research institutes and universities in our country. The main items of risk assessment are flammability and safety when leaked.

RAC and PAC Domestic Shipments

A lot of people engaged in the air conditioning industry were concerned about RAC sales after the Great East Japan Earthquake in March, predicting lower production volume due to lack of key components and electric power shortage and decline in consumer confidence.

In fact, however, the shipments continuously increased in April, May and June on a year-on-year basis, as shown in the table below. In particular, the RAC shipments in June recorded the highest volume since we started our statistics of domestic shipments. Increasing awareness of electricity saving to cope with the expected power shortage in this summer most likely boosted replacing older air conditioners with new higher-efficiency models. In addition, extreme heat in June pushed up RAC sales. Supply of products during the period from April to June does not appear to have been

affected significantly by the disaster thanks to the inventories. In March, last-minute buying in the expiry of economic measure driven by METI, namely Eco-point system, considerably decreased the inventories in the hands of retailers.

Accordingly shipments in April from manufacturers increased 80% from the same month of the previous year. The inventories in the distribution channel and manufacturers' warehouses seem likely to have contributed to covering increased demand. On the other hand, with rapid recovery of parts supply chain, the manufacturers of air conditioners are expected to restore their production very soon in spite of the ongoing power shortage.

PAC shipments are nearing pre-financial-crisis levels.

	April 2011		May 2011		June 2011	
	units	Y on Y basis %	units	Y on Y basis %	units	Y on Y basis %
RAC	560,537	179.6	806,748	140.6	1,470,346	113.1
PAC	51,536	122.2	65,333	129.2	83,577	124.8

※ RAC: Residential Air-conditioners PAC: Commercial Air-conditioners

HVAC&R JAPAN 2012

2012. Feb.14 (tue.) to Feb.17 (fri.)

10:00 to 17:00 (*16:00 on the last day)

Tokyo Big Sight East Exhibition Hall 1,2

You can access here for more details

<http://www.hvacr.jp/eng/index.html>



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