

The Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association

Vol. 12-01

1. Chairman's Speech at New Year's Party

JRAIA gave its new year's party on January 13, 2012 at Laforet Tokyo. Mr. Fujiwara, JRAIA Chairman, delivered a speech, of which excerpt is as follows.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Looking back on 2011, we encountered globally connected phenomena, such as the supply chain disruptions due to the Great East Japan Earthquake and the massive floods in Thailand, and the spread of the credit uncertainty in EU stemming from Greece. Developed countries, especially EU, have been trapped in economic stagnation, while economies of emerging countries like China, India and Brazil have robustly been growing in spite of the deepening linkage with the developed countries struggling for strong economy.

When we see our country, the declined economy after the earthquake is rapidly recovering and consumer confidence is also improving, however, our business environment continues to be severely affected by historically sharp appreciation of the yen and rising costs of raw materials, including rare earth. Despite these negative circumstances, shipments of room air conditioners exceeded the level of the previous year when the record sales had been achieved thanks to the summer heat. This is also because the replacement by the latest model with high energy-efficiency was accelerated by rising awareness of energy-saving among consumers. In the meantime, car air conditioners and heat pump water heaters showed a downturn in sales.

For the global economy in 2012, low growth is predicted to continue in the developed countries. However, the developing countries are expected to make an economic expansion backed by the strong domestic demand. It is hoped in Japan that economic growth is boosted by reconstruction demand. On the other hand, we need to watch carefully the movements in the energy policy review in connection with nuclear power plants, since the energy policy has a significant impact on our



HVAC&R products. In addition, the global environmental protection efforts will be further strengthened. We, as the industry using refrigerants, have to be engaged in and contribute to activities to protect the global environment.

With the above-mentioned in the background, we will mainly tackle the following three;

(1) Environmental issues

Refrigerants leakage reduction and recovery of HFCs; study of next-generation refrigerants; development of highly energy-efficient equipment.

(2) International activities

Participation in development of international standards; timely and appropriate actions in EU through JRAIA Brussels office.

(3) Performance certification program

Extension of test range for package air-conditioners; introduction of certification program for gas engine-driven heat pumps; study of certification program for heat pump water heaters.

This year, the 37th HVAC&R 2012 will be held for four days from February 14 to 17 at Tokyo Big Sight, showcasing the world-leading advanced technologies and latest eco-friendly products. As a side event, seminars will be given where government, academic and business activities are presented. HVAC&R & EXPO will provide the best opportunity for both exhibitors and visitors to exchange variable information on new products and technologies. ICARHMA (International Council of Air

Conditioning, Refrigeration, and Heating Manufacturers' Associations) will have its annual meeting in Kyoto from October 23 to 25. We continuously assert our position in the ICARHMA meeting. In addition, the International Symposium on New Refrigerants and Environmental Technology will be held on November 8 and 9 in Kobe. We would like to draw the world's attention to our technologies during Kobe Symposium.



We would like to ask for your continuous support in the years to come.

2. Meeting with ASHRAE

Mr. Ronald Jarnagin, the president of ASHRAE, together with Mr. Thomas Watson, the president-elect, visited Japan and met representatives of Japanese associations and major companies on February 1, 2012 at the facility of Daikin in Tottori, Japan.

The two ASHRAE people were welcomed by Mr. Kishimoto, the president of JRAIA, who coordinated the meeting at the request of ASHRAE. Also present at the meeting were Dr. Kagawa of the Japan Society of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers, Dr. Kato of the Society of Heating, Air-Conditioning and Sanitary Engineers of Japan, and representatives of Hitachi, Panasonic, Mitsubishi Electric, and Daikin. As a guest speaker, Mr. Sadatani of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry was invited to this meeting.

Main theme of discussion was refrigerant issues. Mr. Kishimoto presented key points of alternative refrigerant issues and actions of JRAIA while Mr. Fujimoto of Daikin explained progress of A2L refrigerant risk assessment in Japan. Mr. Jarnagin introduced the refrigerant management system in the US. Mr. Sadatani presented a successful partnership project between public and private sectors for alternative refrigerant issue. Finally, future partnership enhancement between the US and Japan was discussed. Under heavy snowfalls, hot discussion developed.

3. RAC and PAC Domestic Shipments

2011	RAC		PAC	
	Units	Y on Y basis %	Units	Y on Y basis %
Jan	489,603	130.5	52,924	122.8
Feb	486,745	106.8	58,009	127.2
Mar	606,214	92.5	71,336	119.1
Apr	560,537	179.6	51,536	122.2
May	806,748	140.6	65,333	129.2
Jun	1,470,346	113.1	83,577	124.8
Jul	1,506,207	92.7	87,401	109.0
Aug	646,501	76.4	67,615	95.5
Sep	431,237	87.4	62,833	101.4
Oct	284,838	73.1	56,326	104.5
Nov	411,140	71.8	59,460	99.9
Dec	578,924	90.2	61,372	113.0
Total	8,279,040	100.4	777,722	113.1

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

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