

**Middle East Business Seminar**  
**“Future Vision of Oil and Gas: Environmental Aspects and Reserves”**

Venue: Hotel Grand Arc Hanzomon, 3rd floor “Hikari” Room  
Date/Time: Feb. 6, 2014 (Thu.) 15:30 – 17:30  
Speaker: Mr. Akira Ishii, Senior Visiting Reseacher(Oil& Gas Business Environment)  
Oil& Gas Up stream Business Unit, Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation

(Presentation overview)

JCCME has heretofore held “Middle East Seminars,” but this seminar was organized as a “Middle East Business Seminar” to provide information that could be even more beneficial to businesses, and as its speaker welcomed Mr. Akira Ishii, an energy analyst and representative of the Energy and Environment Research Institute.

In his presentation, Mr. Ishii noted that using photovoltaic panels to secure 40,000kW of power, equivalent to the capacity of an engine of a jumbo jet, requires a site as large as an entire airport, and would also impact the water-retaining capacity of the land as a result of the ecosystem of the area being deprived of most of its sunlight. He also mentioned that Japan had a surprisingly large number of bare mountains during the Edo to early Meiji Periods due to a strong dependency on fire wood, but abundant forests exist today owing to afforestation efforts and the change in Japan’s energy policy. Thus, according to Mr. Ishii, there are flaws in the stereotypical notion that “renewable energy is clean and green.”

Mr. Ishii also provided other important information, such as about the peak oil theory, which was once a hot topic but has died down with the discovery of oil and gas resources trapped in the shale below crude oil and natural gas reserves where oil and gas have conventionally been produced, although the amounts of shale oil and gas in Middle East and Central Asian countries have only been surveyed on a small scale as yet, and about the development of technologies for the alternative utilization of easily liquefiedLPG, despite the fact that development was said to require large volumes of water.

Since the 2000s, strong attention has been given to the discrepancy between the rise in concentration of greenhouse gases and global temperature change (no rise has been seen in average temperature), but notwithstanding this situation, there is still validity to partially replacing the use of fossil fuels with gas as a “realistic” strategy, when comprehensively considering environmental burden, energy density, cost, and other such factors.

(Result)

The seminar was well received by most of the participants.

They gave comments that included the following: “The comparison with the firewood era was extremely easy to understand, and the entire content provided useful knowledge”; “The fact that Japan’s natural environment was actually being destroyed in the past should be made more widely known”; “The notion of the environmental burden of energy provided a new and enlightening perspective.” The participants also seemed to appreciate how photos were used to facilitate their understanding.

As we also received possible themes for future seminars, such as “Oil & gas and Middle East politics,” “Situations in the Middle East by country,” “Differences in legal regulations,” and “Social infrastructures,” we will make our best effort to continue providing Middle East Business Seminars that respond to such interests and concerns in the future.

(Mitsugi, Project Manager)



