

26th World Gas Conference

1 – 5 June 2015, Paris, France



Boom and Bust: Uncertainty regarding the Role of Natural Gas
in Korea's Power Generation

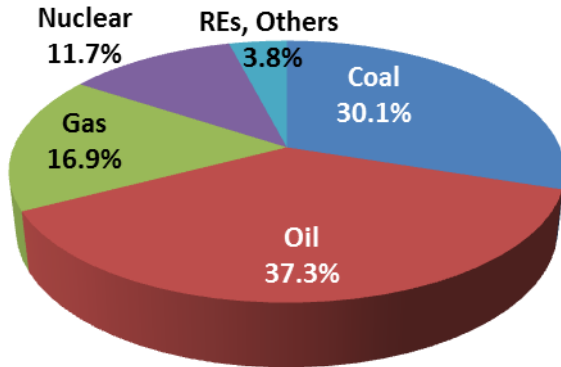
LEE, Ho-Mu
Korea Energy Economics Institute



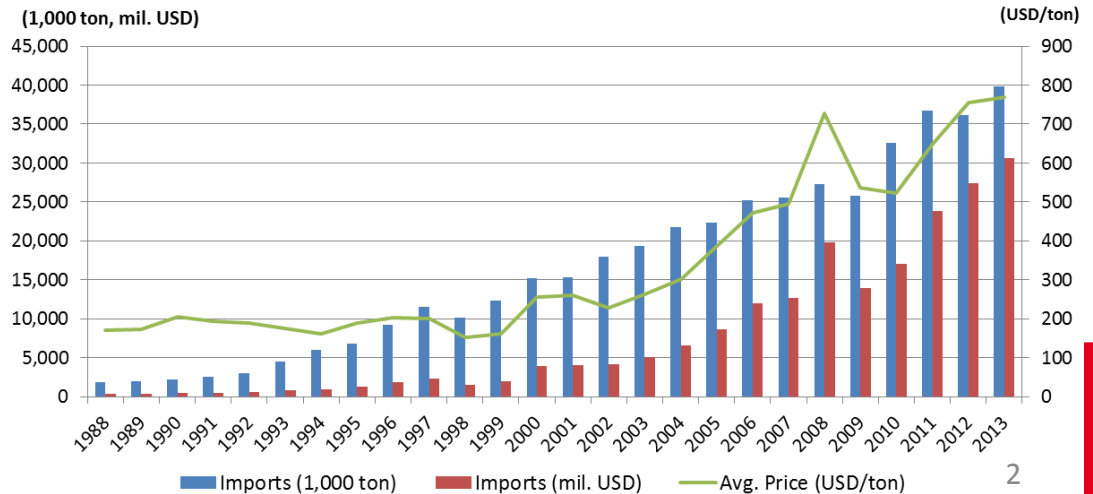
Natural Gas in Korean Energy Sector

- Fast-grown Primary Energy Source
 - 3rd largest energy source: 16.9% after oil, coal (2014)
 - Demand has grown 8% p.a. for the last decade

Total Primary Energy Supply (2014)

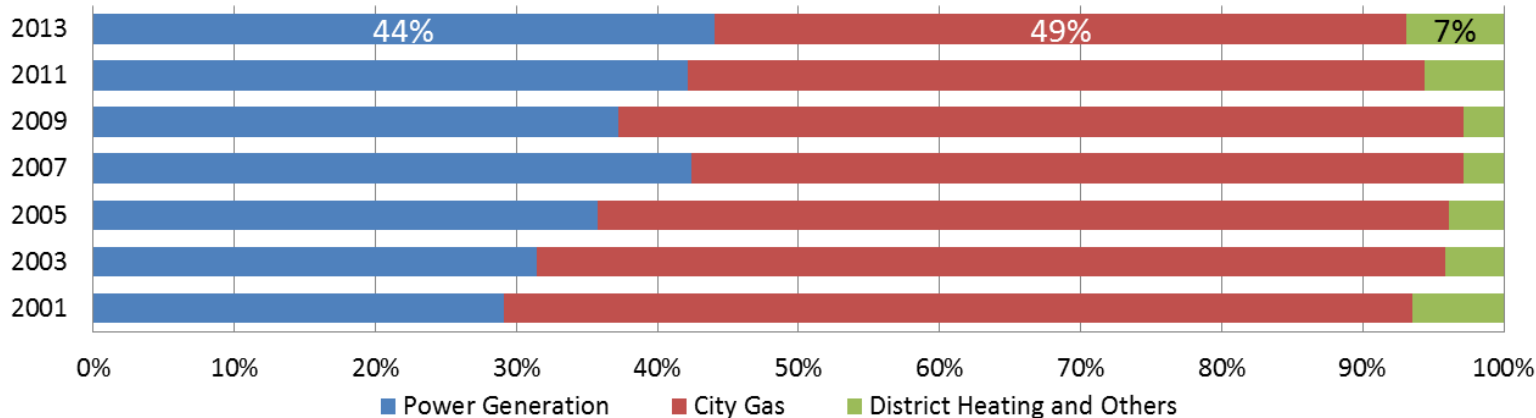


Natural Gas (LNG) Import & Average Price



Characteristics of Natural Gas Demand

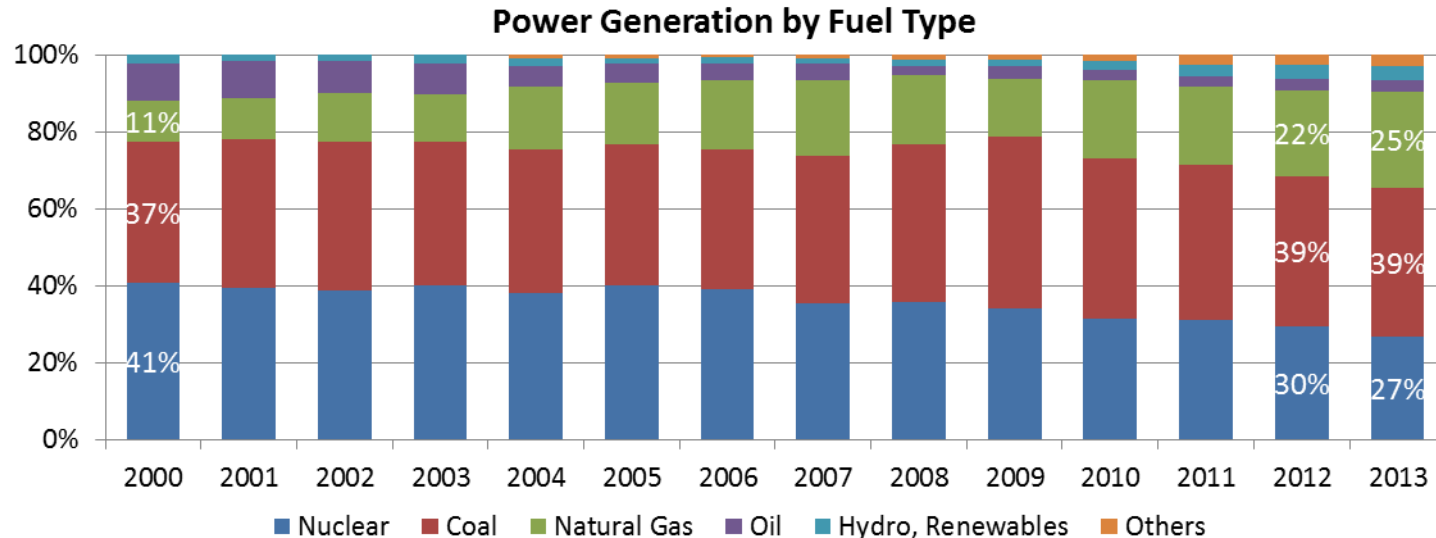
- Balanced between City Gas & Power Generation
- High Seasonality
 - Heating demand during winter (in both city gas and electricity)
- Spurred by Power Sector
 - 4.4 MMt (30%) in 2000 → 17.6 MMt (44%) in 2013



Natural Gas Demand by Use

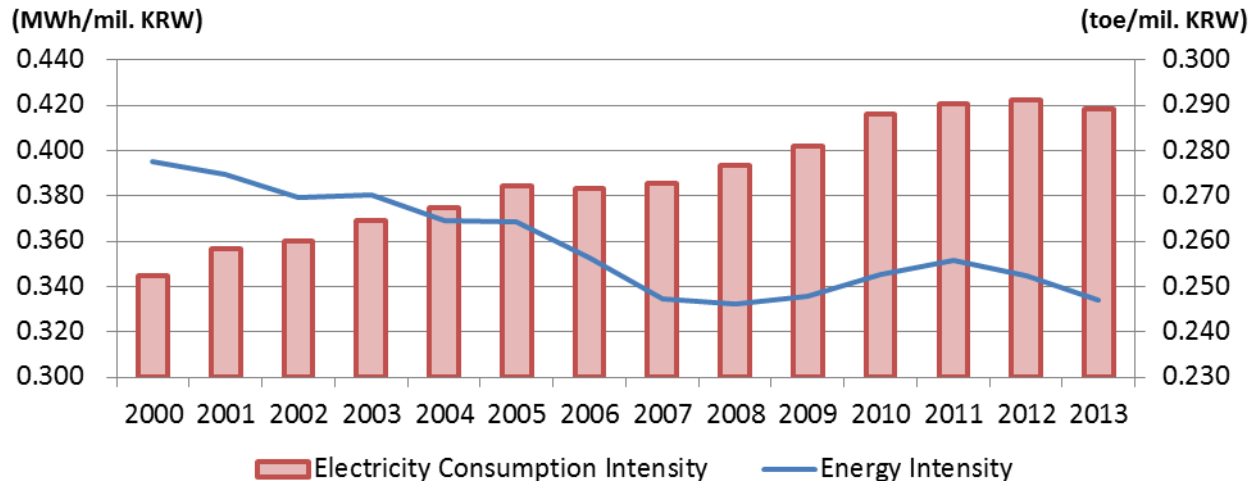
Rapid Growth of Gas-fired Generation

- Share in Power Generation Doubled since 2000
 - Capacity: 12.8GW (2000) → 24.3GW (2013)
 - Generation: 28.1TWh (11%, 2000) → 127.7TWh (25%, 2013)



Rapid Growth of Gas-fired Generation

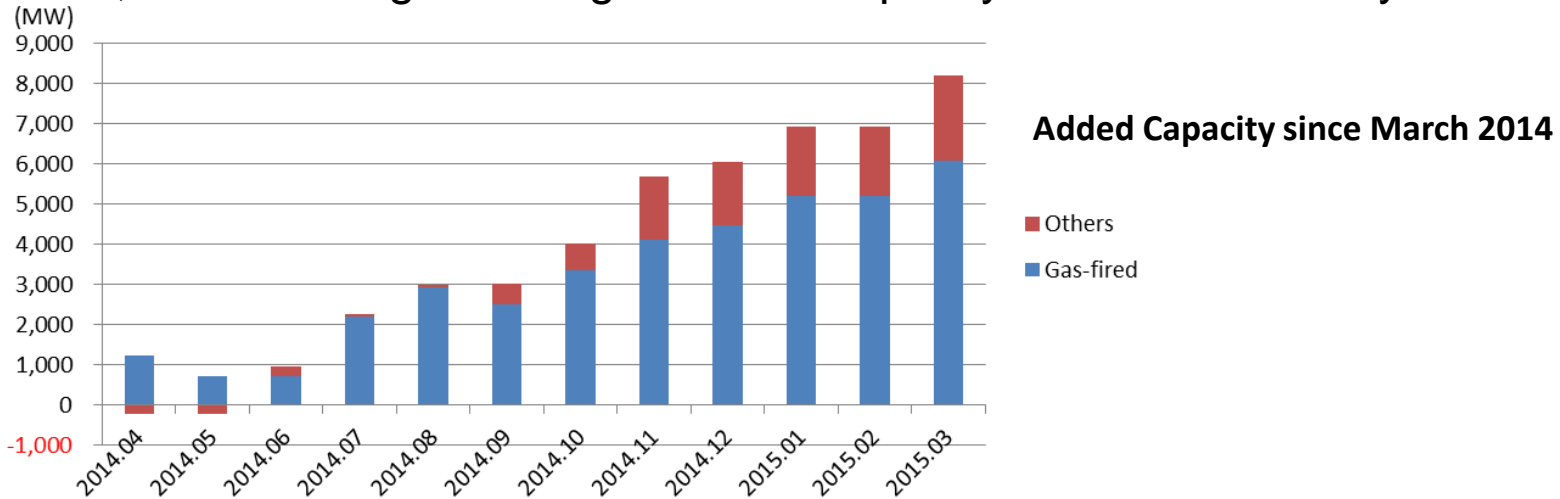
- Quick Fix for Power Supply Crunch
 - Government-set electricity demand management targets often missed
 - “More supply” usually preferred to “less demand” (by high price)
 - Gas power: best available option (short lead time, less pollutants)



Electricity Consumption Intensity & Energy Intensity 2000-2013

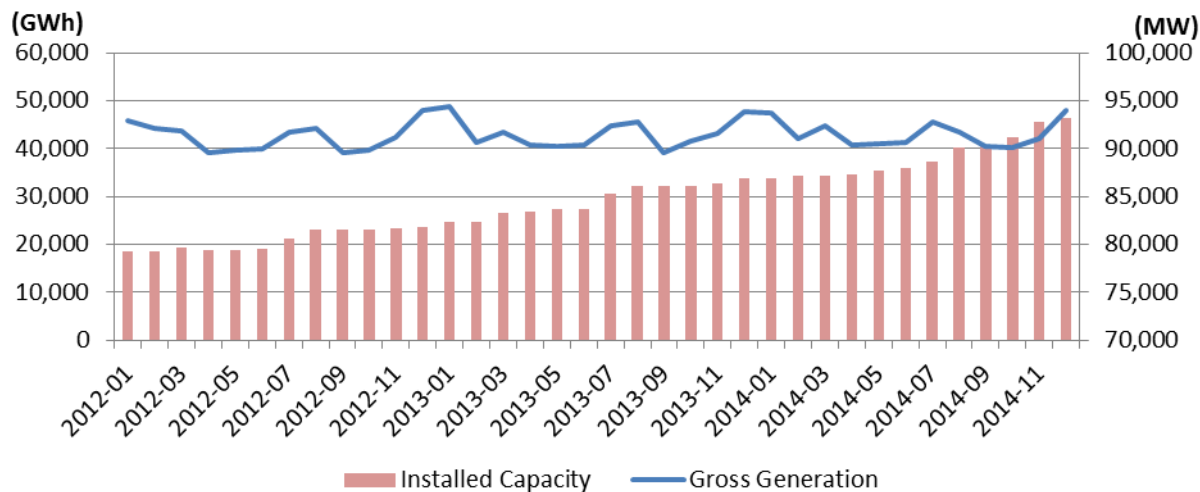
Gas-fired Capacity Being Stacked Up...

- Gas Power Generation: Lucrative Business for Several Years
 - Wholesale electricity price remained high due to high LNG price
 - High utilization rate with new nuclear & coal capacity getting delayed
- Power Companies Made Huge Investment
 - 6,000+MW of gas-fired generation capacity added since last year



While Electricity Demand Slows...

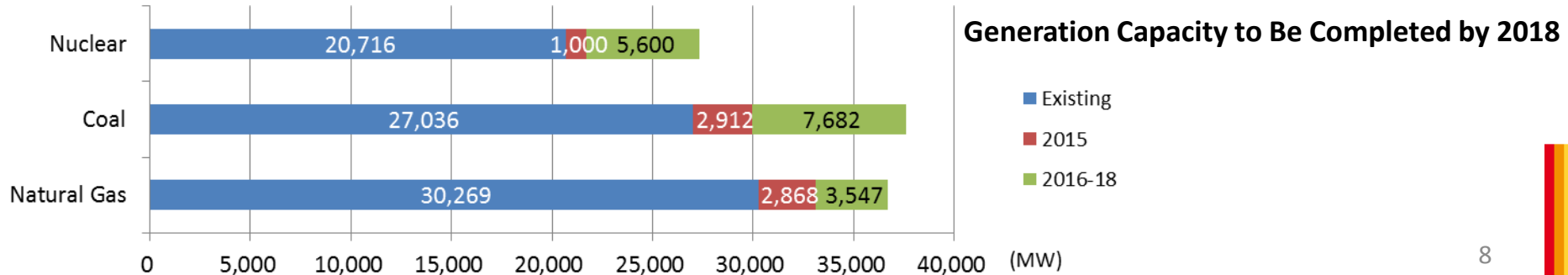
- Recently Market Getting Pessimistic on Future Electricity Demand
 - Stagnant economy (short-run); industry becoming less energy-intensive and rationalization of electricity price (long-run)
 - Demand almost unchanged but capacity up by 13.5GW since 2012



Installed Generation Capacity & Gross Generation 2012-2014 (Monthly)

And New Power Plants Get on the Ring

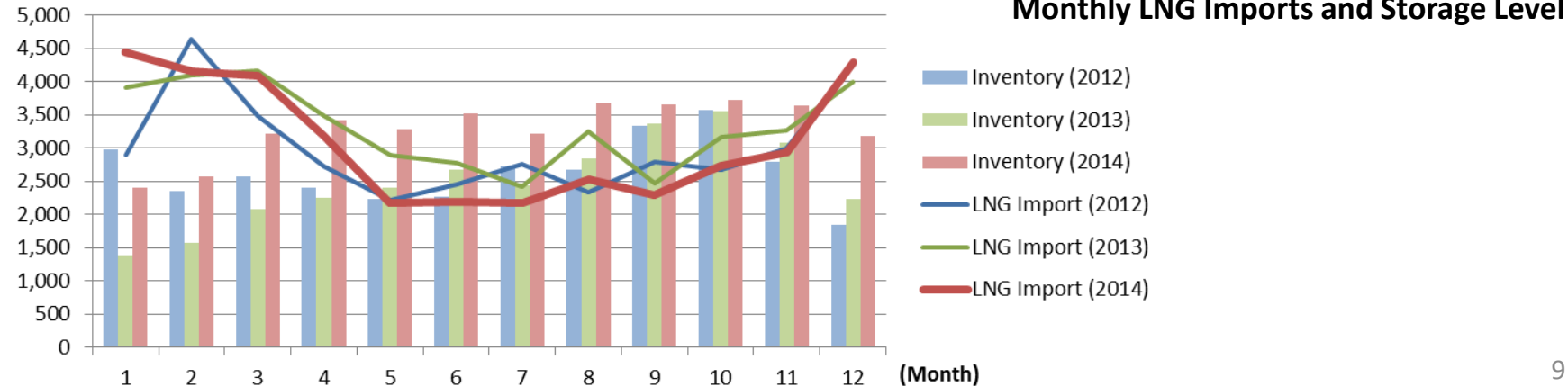
- Significant Increase in Base Load Capacity Ahead
 - Government favorably approved them for the sake of supply security after the nation-wide blackout in 2011
 - Gas-fired generators already being marginalized in the merit order
- More Efficient Gas Power Stations under Construction
 - KOGAS supplies them mostly on identical terms
 - The same fuel price leads to fierce efficiency competition: the old die out



Sluggish Natural Gas Demand in 2014

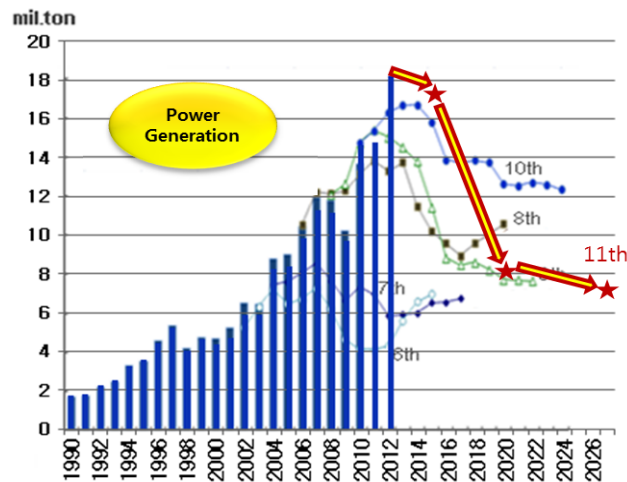
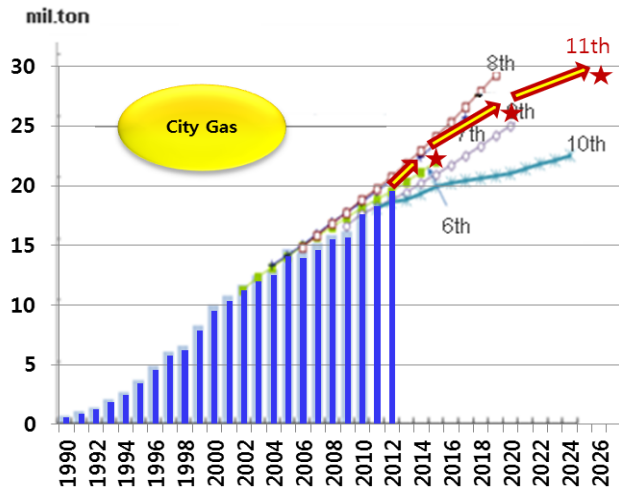
- Problematic Nuclear Reactors Back on the Grid
 - Reactors with counterfeit parts halted in H1 2013
- Good Weather for People, Bad for Gas Business
 - Warm winter, mild summer: low space heating & air conditioning
- Spot Purchase Minimized with Overflowing Inventory

(1,000 ton)



Outlook for Gas Demand of Power Generation

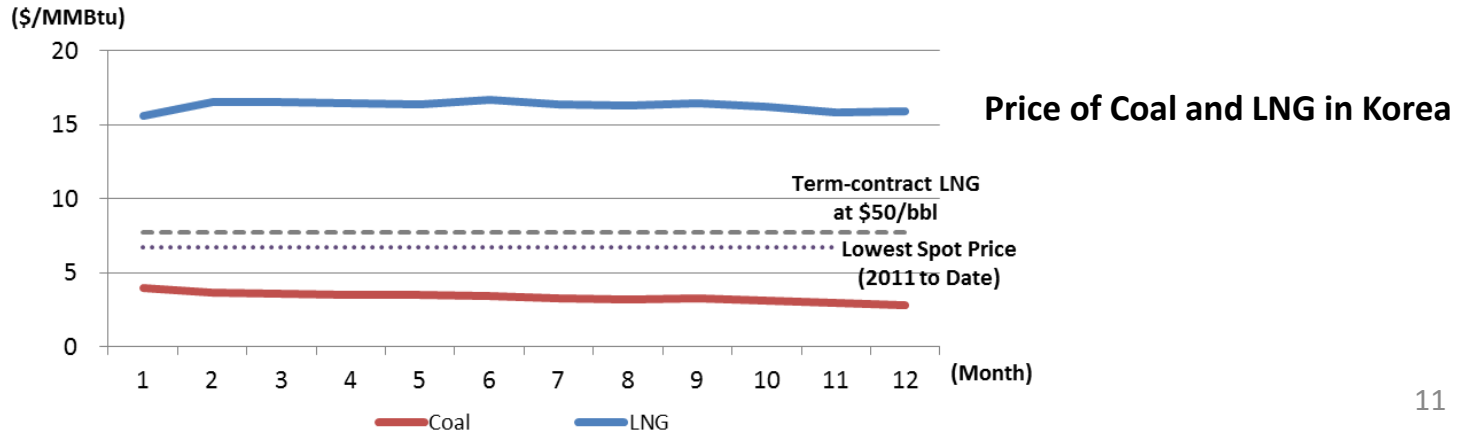
- Latest Demand Outlook (2013): Power Sector Demand to Shrink -5.5%/yr
 - Previous outlooks also said gas-fired generation was doomed
 - Many market players now believe it could be different this time
- New Outlook Due in H2 2015 (12th Long-term Natural Gas Supply Plan)




Gas Demand Outlook of
11th Long-term LNG Supply Plan

Role of Gas-fired Generation in Korea

- Power Sector Needs Versatility of Natural Gas
 - Less carbon, less air pollution
 - Location near demand centers, fuel for distributed generation
- All Generation Fuels Should Be on a Level Playing Field
 - Natural gas unable to beat coal in terms of fuel price
 - All implicit costs/benefits need to be counted in





Thank You!
감사합니다.