

June 12, 2003

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of IGU and the National Organizing Committee for the 22nd World Gas Conference, I would like to convey our deep appreciation for your strong participation in, and support for, the outstanding success of our Conference and Exhibition in Tokyo last week.

We would also like to convey our deep appreciation to all of our friends and colleagues in the WHO SARS Affected Areas who -- through their unselfish and generous cooperation with our difficult decision to request their voluntary withdrawal in mid-April -- made an invaluable contribution to our ability to host the Conference and Exhibition in Tokyo as planned.

Now that the final numbers are in, I am pleased to inform you that we had 4,326 registered Delegates for the Conference; including 2,373 Delegates from Japan and 1,953 Delegates from overseas. We also had strong participation in our Accompanying Persons Programme with 434 registered participants from overseas and 109 participants from Japan. With the addition of 377 registered members of the Press, we had 5,246 participants for the Conference -- with 2,786 (53%) from Japan and 2,460 (47%) from 72 countries and regions overseas. The Exhibition had a total of 33,309 visitors from 38 countries and regions.

As those of you who participated will recall, we had a very high rate of participation by Delegates throughout the Conference and we were also very pleased to see such a high level of interest in the Technical Forum. The opportunity to engage in one-on-one discussions with the presenters in these Technical Sessions, as well as in the Strategic Roundtable Discussions and the Energy Odyssey Session generated a high level of interest and enthusiasm and, I believe, this is a very good sign of the growing potential for IGU's World Gas Conferences.

For this first WGC to be organized in the Asia-Pacific, we were particularly pleased to be able to draw on such strong participation from around the world and, since we know it was impossible for anyone to participate in all of the Sessions, we will be posting the Keynote Addresses, as well as brief 'Highlights' of many of the Session discussions -- including those of all seven

of the Strategic Roundtables. By early July, we will also post a "President's Summary" -- reflecting just one of the many possible perspectives of the Strategic and Technical highlights of the Conference.

As indicated by the participation of Their Imperial Highnesses, the Crown Prince and Princess, our Japanese friends and colleagues were very proud that you could participate -- in spite of what was, for many of you, a very long journey -- and we shall retain wonderful memories of your visit and the week's events for many years to come.

Moreover, in my Closing Address, I conveyed my belief that "partnerships" and "alliances" comprise the essence of what it will mean to 'Catalyse an Eco-Responsible Future' -- for these are central to a strategic environment in which we must build interfaces with other industries and fields to achieve the goal of mitigating the risks of climate change and the achievement of sustainable development for all.

Personally, I shall certainly remain deeply indebted for the many excellent partnerships and alliances we have been so fortunate to have been able to build and rely on during the past three years and I would like to encourage each of you to continue in your strong support for IGU as my able successor, George H. B. Verberg takes over the helm for the 2003-2006 triennium.

Sincerely yours,

*Hiroshi Urano
President of IGU
2000-2003*