

Q. As for the content of the reform of the system of officers' remuneration, what is the reason for abolition of retirement benefits?

A. We have been taking steps to strengthen corporate governance by such means as the reduction of the number of directors, the introduction of a system of executive officers, the appointment of outside directors, and the introduction of a system of one-year terms for officers. Regarding the retirement benefits, some investors and shareholders pointed out that the relationship between the retirement benefits and business performance is not clear, and we decided to abolish it as a part of reform of the System of Officers' Remuneration.

Q. With the prospect for the achievement of the current medium-term management plan, 'Frontier 2007', within FY2005, what will the new medium-term management plan be?

A. Although we have just started to make the next medium-term management plan covering FY2006-2010 and its details have not been finalized, the key issue is how and in what field we should spend free cash flow for further development as a corporate group. We would like to consider how to make sustainable growth by strengthening the tie with our customers. Basic strategies or policies on investment in existing business, new business development in adjacent fields of gas business, financial structure, and return to shareholders through dividend and repurchase of its own share will be incorporated.