

Financial Results Briefing Material for 2Q of FY Ending in Mar. 2018 (FYE 03/18)

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1. Summary

Significant Increase of Customers with Income as Planned. Further Rise in Dividend

◆ Significant increase (YoY) of net customer growth after deregulation of retail City Gas. Nippon Gas ("NICIGAS") has increased 71K new customers in six months.

(1,000 households)	1H of FYE 03/17	1H of FYE 03/18	+/-
LP Gas customers	16	17	+1
Existing City Gas customers	6	5	▲1
New City Gas customers	-	49	+49
Total	22	71	+49

Operating Income of 2Q was ¥1.5B, in line with the plan.

(¥100M)	Half year of FYE 03/18 (F)	Half year of FYE 03/18 (A)	
Operating Income	15	15	In line with
Net Income	10	11	the plan.

Plan to rise in dividend increase from ¥4 to ¥8. Divested cross-shareholding stocks for the second consecutive year. Will enhance return to shareholders using cash generated by selling cross-shareholding stocks.

	FYE 03/15(A)	FYE 03/16 (A)	FYE 03/17 (A)	FYE 03/18 (Previous forecast)	FYE 03/18 (Current forecast)
Dividend Per Share	Dividend Per Share (¥) 26			38	42
(¥)		30	34	Interim dividend: 19	Interim dividend: 19
(-)				Year-end dividend: 19	Year-end dividend: 23

2. Financial Results / Summary (17/4 - 17/9)

Significant Customer Growth. Operating Income was in Line with the Plan.

Achieved **71,000** net customer growth with increased gas sales volume (+7,000 ton, YoY) in six months after deregulation of retail City Gas. Decrease in Gross Profit and increase in SG&A Expenses, mainly CTA and Advertising Expenses were in line with the plan. As planned, Operating Income of 2Q was ¥1.5B.

Total of all segments	2Q of FYE 03/17 (Apr Sep.)	2Q of FYE 03/18 (Apr Sep.)	+/-	+/-(%)
PL (¥100M)				
Net Sales	489	485	▲4	▲0.8%
- LP Gas business	291	274	▲ 17	▲ 5.8%
- Existing City Gas business	197	197	+0	+0.0%
- New City Gas business	-	13.6	+13.6	-
Gross Profit	256	247	▲ 9	▲3.5%
SG&A Expenses	208	231	+23	+11.1%
- Cost to Acquire*(CTA)	27	37	+10	+37.0%
- Advertising Expenses	5	13	+8	+160.0%
Operating Income	48	15	▲33	▲68.8%
- LP Gas business	34	12	▲22	▲ 64.7%
- Existing City Gas business	14	14	+0	+0.0%
- New City Gas business	-	▲11	▲11	-
Net Income	31	11	▲20	▲ 64.5%
Business scale				
Net Customers Growth (households)	21,873	71,073	+49,200	+224.9%
Customers (households)	1,175,650	1,271,626	+95,976	+8.2%
Gas sales volume (1,000 t)	279	286	+7	+2.5%
- LP Gas business	135	141	+6	+4.4%
- Existing City Gas business	144	142	▲2	▲ 1.4%
- New City Gas business	-	3.1	+3.1	-

^{*} CTA: cost for acquisition and retention of LP Gas customers, including gas cylinders, meters, services and personnel costs.

^{*}Calculated after rounding of actual values and adjusted as necessary.

^{*+/-/+/-} (%) is calculated after adjusting to ¥100M units.

2. Financial Results / LP Gas Business

Customer Increase and Profit Level are in Line with the Plan.

Gas sales volume increased (+6,000 tons YoY) with customers' growth. **Gross Profit was almost in line with the plan**, while it negatively affected by higher raw material cost. Despite increase in CTA (+¥1B YoY), SG&A Expenses was also in line with the plan, resulting in Operating Income was within an expected range.

(¥100M)

LP Gas Business	2Q of FYE 03/17 (Apr Sep.)	%	2Q of FYE 03/18 (Apr Sep.)	%	+/- / +/-(%)	Remarks
Net Sales	291	100.0%	274	100.0%	▲17/▲5.8%	
- Gas	219		238		+19/+8.7%	- Resulting from larger gas sales volume
- Equipment sales, etc.	72		36		▲36/▲50.0%	- Decreased due to exit from cassette cartridge business.
Gross Profit	169	58.1%	158	57.7%	▲11/▲6.5%	- Negatively affected by higher raw material cost.
SG&A Expenses	135	46.4%	146	53.3%	+11/+8.1%	
- Personnel Cost	40		42		+2/+5.0%	- Number of employees increased. Increased in base pay.
- Cost to Acquire* (CTA)	27		37			- Increasing competition with major competitors .
- D&A Expense	14		15		+1/+7.1%	
Operating Income	34	11.7%	12		▲22/▲64.7 %	
Operating Income exc. CTA	61		49		▲ 12/ ▲ 19.7%	- NICIGAS' new KPI (which eliminates the effects from fluctuation of CTA amounts)
Net customer growth (households)	16,149		17,286		+1,137/+7.0%	
Total customers (households)	776,528		812,954		+36,426/+4.7%	
Gas sales volume (1,000 t)	135		141		+6/+4.4%	- Resulting from Increase in customers
- Residential use	75		80		+5/+6.7%	
- Commercial use	60		61		+1/+1.7%	

^{*} CTA: cost for acquisition and retention of LP Gas customers, including gas cylinders, meters, services and personnel costs.

^{*}Calculated after rounding of actual values and adjusted as necessary.

*+/-/ +/- (%) is calculated after adjusting to ¥100M units.

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2. Financial Results / Existing City Gas Business

Gas Sales Volume for Residential Increased. Operating Income was Same Level.

Increase in sales volume for residential customers (+2,000 tons YoY) and lower raw material cost absorbed decrease in Gross Profit from equipment sales and negative impact on slide time lag (▲¥330M YoY), resulting in Gross Margin (YoY) at the same level. SG&A Expenses was also flat (YoY), resulting in Operating Income (YoY) at the same level.

(¥100M)

Existing City Gas Business	2Q of FYE 03/17 (Apr Sep.)	%	2Q of FYE 03/18 (Apr Sep.)	%	+/- / +/-(%)	Remarks
Net Sales	197	100.0%	197	100.0%	+0/+0.0%	
- Gas	151		158			- Resulting from increase in gas selling price
- Equipment sales, etc.	46		39		▲7/▲15.2%	 Due to one time large gas equipment sales for large customers in FYE 03/17
Gross Profit	87	44.2%	87	44.2%	+0/+0.0%	- Resulting from increase in gas sales volume for residential customers
SG&A Expenses	73	37.1%	73	37.1%	+0/+0.0%	
- D&A Expense	34		33		▲1/▲2.9 %	
- Personnel Cost	21		20		▲1/▲4.8 %	
Operating Income	14	7.1%	14	7.1%	+0/+0.0%	
Net customer growth (households)	5,724		5,261		▲463/▲8.1%	
Total customers (households)	399,122		410,146		+11,024/+2.8%	
Gas sales volume (1,000 t)	144		142		▲2/▲1.4%	
- Residential use	44		46		+2/+4.5%	
- Commercial use	100		96		▲ 4/ ▲ 4.0%	
Slide time lag	2.4		▲0.9		▲3.3/-	



^{*}Calculated after rounding of actual values and adjusting as necessary.

^{*+/-}/ +/- (%) is calculated after adjusting to ¥100M units.

2. Financial Results / New City Gas Business

Spent Advertising Expenses as Planned. Operating Income was in Line with the Plan

- After deregulation of retail City Gas, increased 49,000 customers (already switched) and received 56,000 application by Sep. 30, 2017. Gas equipment sales for prospective new customers contributed to profit.
- Advertising Expenses was ¥1B which was within planned range. Operation Expenses will increase with increasing customers. Operating Income was in line with the plan.

(¥100M)

New City Gas Business	FYE 03/18 (F)*	2Q of FYE 03/18 (Apr Sep.)	%	Remarks
Net Sales	-	13.6	100.0%	
- Gas	-	3.9		
- Equipment sales, etc.	-	9.7		- Mainly sales of water heaters and gas stoves
Gross Profit	8	1.6	11.8%	- Net sales after deduction of raw material cost, pipeline charge paid to Tokyo Gas, and first year discount.
SG&A Expenses	34	12.6	92.6%	
- Operating Expenses	10	2.4		- Including CTA, Personnel Cost, and Overhead Expenses
- Advertising Expenses	20	10.0		- Mainly expenses of TVCM. Almost as planned.
- IT, etc.	4	0.2		
Operating Income	▲26	▲11	▲80.9%	
Net customer growth (households)	110,000	48,526		- The number of application was 56,000
Gas sales volume (1,000 t)	18	3.1		
- Residential use	-	2.3		
- Commercial use	-	0.8		

^{*} Figures of three-year plan.



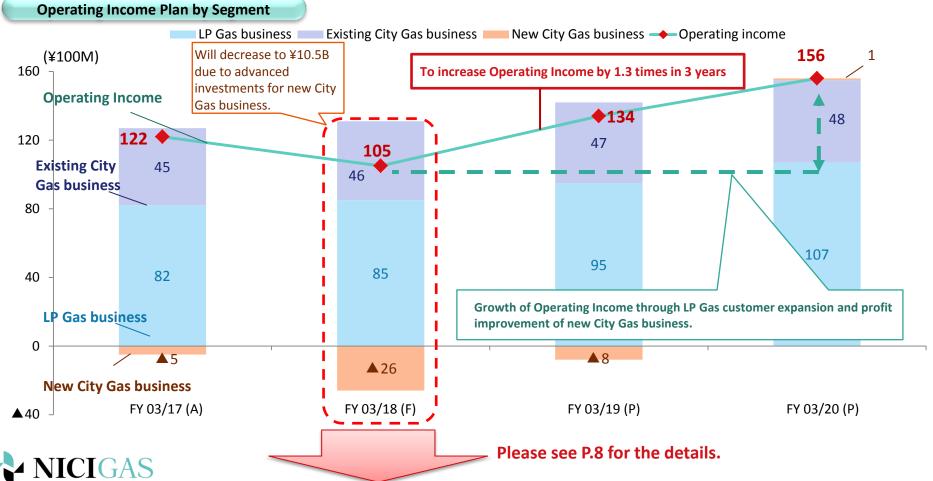
^{*}Calculated after rounding of actual values and adjusting as necessary.

^{*+/-}/ +/- (%) is calculated after adjusting to ¥100M units.

3. Progress of Three-Year Plan / Operating Income by Segment Expand profit in each segment from FYE 03/19.

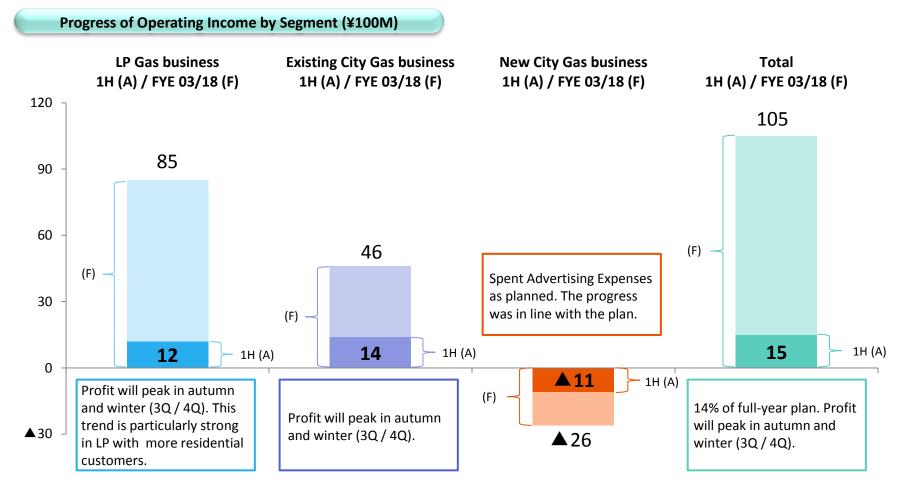
 Planning to achieve ¥10.5B operating income for FYE 03/18 with an increase in initial investments for new City Gas business*. Thereafter Operating Income will significantly improve with increased profit in LP Gas business and improved profitability of new City Gas business. Planning to generate ¥13.4B and ¥15.6B of Operating Income for FYE 03/19 and FYE 03/20, respectively.

*City Gas business in the area where NICIGAS could enter only after deregulation of retail City Gas.



3. Progress of Three-Year Plan / Progress by Segment in FYE 03/18 1H Result was in line with the Plan. Revenue and Profit will Peak in Autumn and Winter.

- 1H Operating Income was within an expected range. Each segment was in line with the plan.
- Operating Income of 1H was ¥1.5B, which is 14% of full-year plan (¥10.5B). It is because most of full-year profit to be achieved by peak season of autumn and winter (3Q / 4Q).





3. Progress of Three-Year Plan / Customer Acquisition

Acquiring Customers in Each Segment for Achieving Full-year Plan.

- Net customer growth in the first half of FYE 03/18 was 71,000, remarkably increased the result of last year (YoY). Total customer number exceeded 1,270,000.
- Increased 17,000 LP Gas customers during 1H, better progress compared with last year (16,000 customers (YoY)). Increased 5,000 existing City Gas customers versus full-year plan of 10,000.
- By Sep. 30, 2017, received 56,000 applications for New City Gas, of which 49,000 customers were already switched. Smooth progress towards full-year plan of 110,000.

Progress of customer acquisition (1,000 households)

	FYE 03/18 (F)	1H of FYE 03/18 (A)	1H of FYE 03/17 (Appendix)
LP Gas net customer growth	40	17	16
Existing City Gas ^{*1} net customer growth	10	5	6
New City Gas ^{*2} net customer growth	110	49 (Application as of Sep. 17: 56)	-
Total customer growth	160	71	22
Total customer number	1,361	1,272	1,176

^{*1:} City Gas business in the area where NICIGAS is already supplying gas



^{*2:} City Gas business in the area where NICIGAS could enter only after deregulation of retail City Gas.

^{*}Calculated after rounding of actual values and adjusting as necessary.

3. Progress of Three-Year Plan / Appendix: Breakdown of Operating Income by Segment: New City Gas business will be profitable in three years.

		Deregulation of City Gas re		ail	
(¥100M)	FYE 03/17 (A)	FYE 03/18 (F)	FYE 03/19 (P)	FYE 03/20 (P)	
		1 st year of deregulation	2 nd year of deregulation	3 rd year of deregulation	
P Gas business					
Net customer growth (1,000 households)	35	40	45	5	
Customers (1,000 households)	796	836	881	93	
Gas sales volume (1,000 t)	315	324	335	34	
Gross Profit	375	380	395	41	
SG&A Expenses	293	295	300	30	
Operating Income	82	85	95	10	
xisting City Gas business (NICIGAS' exclusiv	e area)				
Net customer growth (1,000 households)	12	10	10	1	
Customers (1,000 households)	405	415	425	43	
Gas sales volume (1,000 t)	325	317	320	32	
Gross Profit	188	189	192	19	
SG&A Expenses	143	143	145	14	
Operating Income	45	46	47		
ew City Gas business (Other retailers' exclu	sive area)				
Net customer growth (1,000 households)	-	110	200	20	
Customers (1,000 households)	-	110	310	5:	
Gas sales volume (1,000 t)	-	18	71	14	
Gross Profit	6	8	23		
SG&A Expenses	11	34	31	To improve profit by	
Operation Expenses	1	Investments for new City Gas	18		
Advertising Expenses	10	business. 20	9	to achieve Net Profit.	
IT	0	4	4		
Operating Income	▲ 5	▲26	▲ 8		



4. Return to Shareholders

Divested cross-shareholdings stock for 2nd consecutive year. Plan to rise in dividend increase from ¥4 to ¥8.

- Planning to rise in dividend increase from ¥4 to ¥8, resulting in ¥42 full-year dividend per share in FYE 03/18, while FYE 03/17 full-year dividend was ¥34.
- Following the previous year, reviewing the policy of cross-shareholdings stocks and divested 2 stocks to procure cash (¥360M) in the 1st half of FYE 03/18. While NICIGAS is in the growth stage, we will focus on our return to shareholders based on corresponding cash & deposit and shareholders' equity ratio using cash generated by selling cross-shareholding stocks.

	FYE 03/13(A)	FYE 03/14(A)	FYE 03/15(A)	FYE 03/16 (A)	FYE 03/17 (A)	FYE 03/18 (Previous forecast)	FYE 03/18 (Current forecast)
Dividend Per Share (¥)	13	26	26	30	34	38 Interim dividend: 19 Year-end dividend: 19	19 Year-end dividend:
Dividend Amount	631	1,120	903	1,185	1,461	1,623	1,805
Payout Ratio (Net Income Per Share)	16.7% (78.01)					23.2% (163.95)	25.6% (163.95)
Treasury Share Repurchase Amount	1	10,239 ^{*1}	14,394 ^{*2}	2	2	_	1

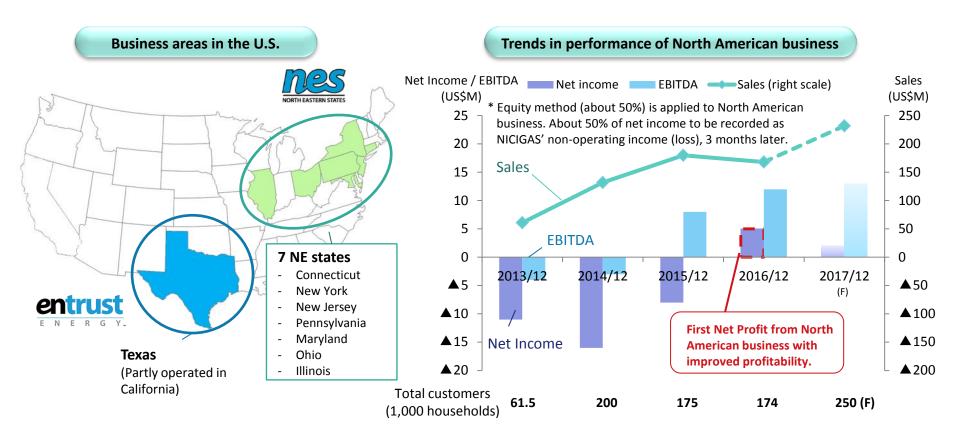
^{*}Dividend Amounts are as approved by board resolution.
Payout Ratio = Dividend Per Share / Net Income Per Share

^{*1} From Iwatani Corp., etc. *2 From OEP

5. Overseas Business

Achieved net profit in FYE 12/16. Will expand customer base in FYE 12/17.

- Sales from our North American business for FYE 12/16 was about US\$168M. EBITDA was about US\$12M, and Net Income was about US\$5M. North American business recorded their first Net Profit. About 50% of Net Income was recorded as NICIGAS' Non-operating Income for FYE 03/17 by equity method.
- Implementing initiatives such as enhancement of sales force and launch of new products for expanding customer base in FYE 12/17. The number of customers at the end of Jun. 2017 was 217,000.

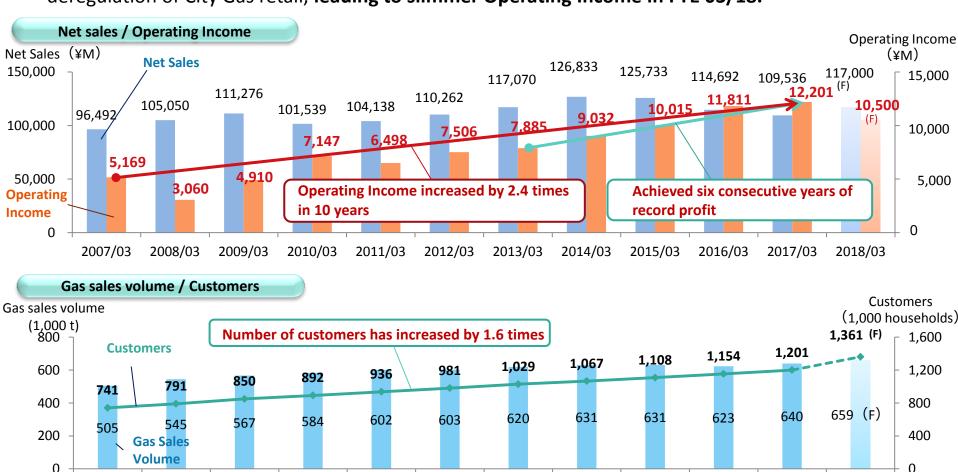




6. Financial Highlights / Profit and Customer Growth

Operating Income increased by 2.4 times in 10 years.

Operating Income and number of customers increased by 2.4 times and 1.6 times respectively in 10 years. Achieved six consecutive years of record Operating Income. Accelerating investments for deregulation of City Gas retail, leading to slimmer Operating Income in FYE 03/18.





2007/03

2008/03

2009/03

2011/03

2010/03

2012/03

2013/03

2014/03

2015/03

2017/03

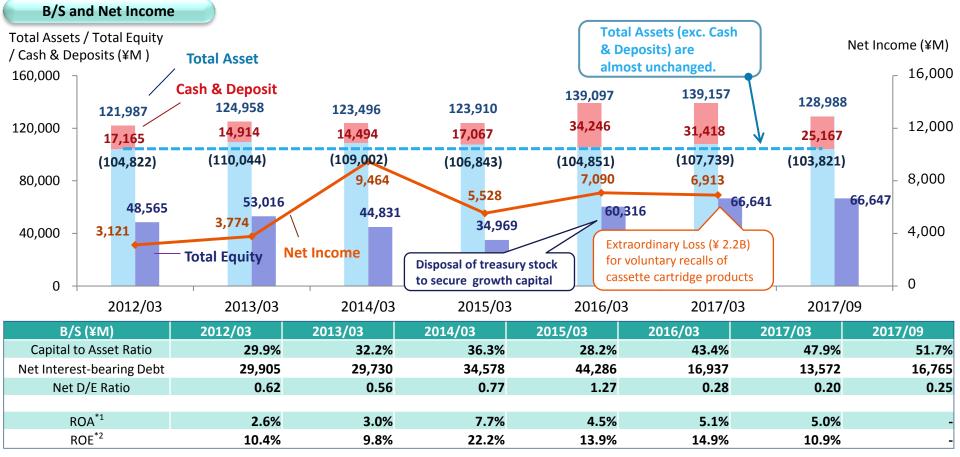
2018/03

2016/03

6. Financial Highlights / B/S:

Increased Profits with Stable Asset Size. Strengthened Financial Capacity.

- Total asset size (excl. cash and deposits) remained almost unchanged since FYE 03/12. Despite a decrease in net income due to extraordinary loss (¥2.2B) in FYE 03/17, profit level continues to improve.
- Improved total equity for Strong Balance Sheet. Capital to asset ratio was 51.7% as of Sep. 2017.





^{*1} ROA= Net Income / Total Assets × 100

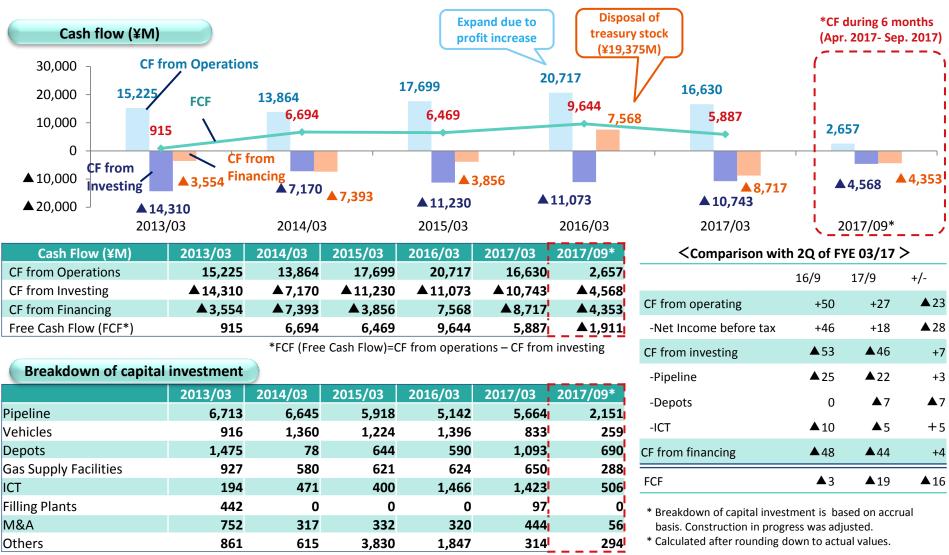
^{*}Calculated after rounding down to actual values.

^{*2} ROE= Net Income (current year) / (average of Equity Capital of the current and previous FY) × 100

6. Financial Highlight / Cash Flow

Continue Aggressive Growth Investments in FYE 03/18. Focusing on Investing in ICT.

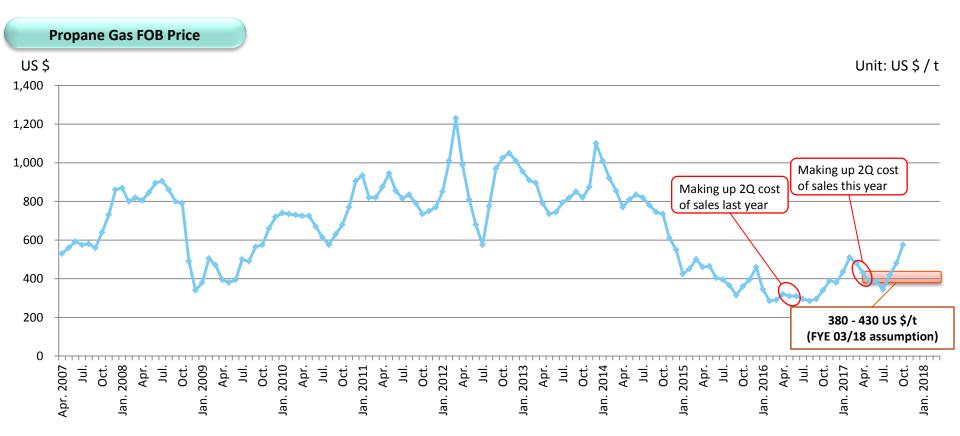
Continue aggressive growth investments in FYE 03/18 and to focus on investing in ICT.



7. Appendix / LP Gas Raw Material Price

Price is Upward Trend, higher than FYE 03/18 Assumption.

- While LP Gas raw material price showed decreasing trend since Jan. 2017, current price is upward trend.
- Raw material price in 2Q of FY 03/18 was at higher level than that of 2Q of FY 03/17.



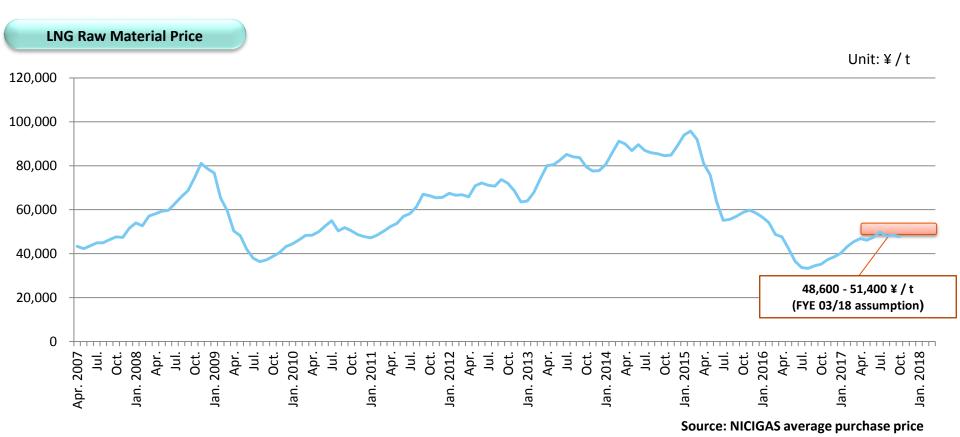


Source: Japan LP Gas Association website

7. Appendix / LNG Raw Material Price

Current Price is Nearly Flat. Current Price is within an Expected Range.

• LNG raw material price, which makes up the cost of City Gas retail business, is nearly flat after upward trend since mid-2016. Current price is within an expected range.





7. Appendix / Performance (07/17-09/17)

Gas Sales Volume Remained Flat. CTA and Advertising Expenses increased.

• Gas sales volume was flat (YoY) due to increasing that for New City Gas customers despite decreasing that for Existing City Gas commercial customers. Slight decrease of Gross Profit and increase of CTA and Advertising Expenses resulted in decrease of Operating Income to ▲¥600M.

LP Gas + City Gas	FYE 03/17 2Q only (Jul Sep.)	FYE 03/18 2Q only (Jul Sep.)	+/-	+/-(%)
(¥100M)				
Net Sales	211	217	+6	+2.8%
- LP Gas business	129	118	▲11	▲8.5%
- Existing City Gas business	82	91	+9	+11.0%
- New City Gas business	-	7.9	+7.9	
Gross Profit	110	107	▲3	▲2.7%
SG&A Expenses	108	113	+5	+4.6%
- Cost to Acquire*(CTA)	14	18	+4	+28.6%
- Advertising Expenses	2	4	+2	+100.0%
Operating Income	3	▲ 6	▲ 9	
- LP Gas business	3	▲3	▲6	
- Existing City Gas business	0	▲1	▲1	
- New City Gas business	-	▲2	▲2	
Net Income	2	▲ 6	▲ 8	
siness scale				
Customers (households; net growth)	12,033	23,864	+11,831	+98.3%
Customers (households)	1,175,650	1,271,626	+95,976	+8.2%
Gas sales volume (1,000 t)	126	126	+0	+0.0%
- LP Gas business	58	59	+1	+1.7%
- Existing City Gas business	68	65	▲3	▲ 4.4%
- New City Gas business	-	2.4	+2.4	

^{*} CTA: cost for acquisition and retention of LP Gas customers, including gas cylinders, meters, services and personnel costs.

^{*}Calculated after rounding of actual values and adjusted as necessary.

^{*+/-/+/-} (%) is calculated after adjusting to ¥100M units.