

Preface

The role of natural gas in energy supply is increasing in the East Asia Summit (EAS) region where energy demands are steadily growing. The driving factors of this trend include the effective use of domestic resource, diversification of energy source, and reducing environmental load. At the same time, rising import dependency of natural gas supply is seen in many member countries, which is casting energy security concern.

As such, there is a need to implement necessary and appropriate policy measures that can respond to this changing natural gas supply–demand structure. What will be required to achieve sustainable development of natural gas market, and thus, contribute to the economic growth of the region and of the countries? It is our hope that this study succeeds in finding and presenting some clues to answer this important and difficult question.

Ichiro Kutani

Leader of the Working Group

June 2015