

# CURRENT STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTHERMAL POWER GENERATION IN JAPAN

Fumio Yamaguchi<sup>(1)</sup> Kouhei Ohishi<sup>(1)</sup> Yuri Esaki<sup>(2)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Japan Geothermal Energy Association <sup>(2)</sup> Fuji Electric Co., Ltd.

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## Abstract

The current status of geothermal power plants, new site development and R & D in new technologies are presented. Installed capacity of geothermal power plants in Japan is 298,705kW as of July 1994. In the next two years, 230MW will be added making the total installed capacity 52911 by 1996. The Japanese Government is providing various programs to support the development and grants to cover a part of plant construction costs. The goal is to achieve a total capacity of 600MW in the year 2000, and 2,800MW by the year 2010.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The first experimental geothermal power generation in Japan was carried out in 1925 in Beppu, Kyushu. The first utility size commercial power generation started in 1966 at Yatsukava. With the "Oil crisis" in 1973 as a turning point, the development of new geothermal fields was accelerated. As a first result, Eatchobaru Unit 2 was completed in 1990 and several new geothermal power plants were put on line or are near to completion. Compared to the power generated by geothermal plants of 1,400GWh/yr during 1985 and 1989, it increased to 1,724GWh in 1990.

The Central Electric Power Council expects geothermal power generation be 4,000GWh in the year 2000, which will be 0.4% of the projected national gross power demand. Table 1 shows various types of

power generation in Japan both at present and in the future. Figure 1 shows locations of existing and planned power plants as well as sites of new development. Figure 2 depicts the locations where the promotion survey by NEDO are being carried out. Tables 2 and 3 contain detailed information concerning the sites shown in Figures 1 and 2. Table 4 shows the details of wells drilled from January 1990 to December 1994.

## 2. GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANTS

### 2.1 In Operation

Details of power plants are shown in Table 2. Data about reservoir and wells are shown in Tables 3 and 4. Followings are some topics about existing power plants.

- Yatsukava -

Since the replacement of the steam turbine and the rewinding of the generator stator in 1993, the plant output has increased from 22MW to 23.5MW.

- Uenotai -

This 27.5MW plant was put on line in March 1994. It is the newest geothermal power plant in Japan at the time of writing this article. To reduce the height of the power station in consideration of the impact on the surrounding landscape, special measures were taken including installation of the top exhaust steam turbine on the first floor and lower cooling tower with increased number of cells. Some of the production wells are steam dominated.

## - Onikobe -

New technology to utilize highly acidic brine was developed. Brine of pH as low as 3.3 can be used for power generation. The plant is remotely supervised from Isogo thermal power station in Yokohama which is about 400km away.

## - Eatchobaru -

Unit 2 was added in March 1990 making the plant total output 110MW. The plant is remotely supervised from Otake geothermal power plant which is 2km away. The plant output can be remotely controlled.

## 2.2 UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Details of planned power plants are shown in Table 2. Data about reservoirs and wells are shown in Tables 3 and 4.

## - Sumikawa -

The area is one of heavy snowfall where the accumulation reaches 450cm. This plant will employ hybrid cooling tower to prevent the freezing of steam plume on tree branches.

## - Yanaizu-Nishiyama -

This 65MW unit will be the biggest geothermal unit in Japan once completed.

## - Ogiri -

The construction of this plant was the first permitted in a National Park area since 1972.

## - Yamagawa -

This power plant is being built on flat land near the ocean while all other geothermal power plants in Japan are located in mountainous areas.

## 2.3 Sites of New Development

## - Hachiojima -

Tokyo Electric Power Co. has been conducting exploratory work since 1993 as a continuation of promotional survey work by MEDO which was carried out for three years on this small volcanic island 200km south of Tokyo. The installation of a 3Y1 unit is being considered.

## - Oguni -

Electric Power Development Co. has developed the field and a 20MW double flash power plant is planned.

## 3. PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS BY GOVERNMENT

The Japanese government provides various programs to promote the development of geothermal energy. The Agency of Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE) and The Agency of Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), both organizations in YITI, are heavily involved in geothermal development. Table 6 shows YITI budget related to geothermal development for FY 1994.

### 3.1 Grant for Exploratory Wells

ANRE grants 50% of the drilling cost of exploratory wells intended for power generation.

### 3.2 Grant for Power Plant Construction

ANRE grants 20% of tangible costs such as drilling of production and reinjection wells, construction of steam and hot water pipelines, the steam turbine and the

Table1. PRESENT AND PLANNED PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY

	Geothermal		Fossil Fuels*1		Hydro		Nuclear		Total	
	Capacity	Gross Prod.	Capacity	Gross Prod.	Capacity	Gross Prod.	Capacity	Gross Prod.	Capacity	Gross Prod.
	MWe	GWh/yr	MWe	GWh/yr	MWe	GWh/yr	MWe	GWh/yr	MWe	GWh/yr
In Operation in January 1995	299	1,722	113,160	550,257	38,592	105,674	38,376	249,256	190,427	906,909
Under construction in January 1995	230	-	16,590	-	5,320	-	6,710	-	28,850	-
Total projected use by 2000	600	4,000	148,100	538,000	45,500	96,000	45,100	308,000	239,300	946,000

generator. This program was applied at 13 power plants and for 69 wells during 1990 and 1993.

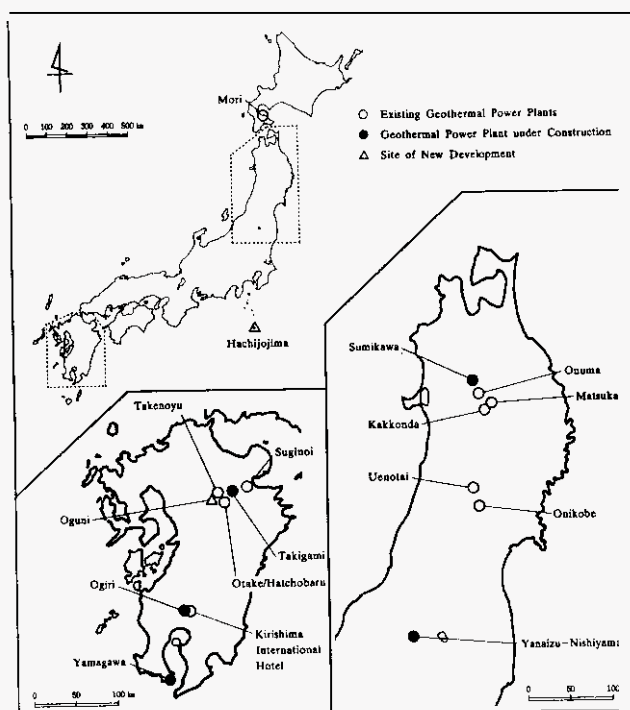


Fig.1 Geothermal areas for Power Generation

TABLE2. UTILIZATION OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY FOR ELECTRICAL GENERATION IN DECEMBER 1994

1) Type of Unit DS: Dry Steam, DF: Double Flash SF: Single Flash  
2) Data for 1994 if available, otherwise for 1993

Region	Power Plant name	Year Commissioned	No. of Units	Status	Type of Unit 1)	Unit Rating MW.	Total Installed Capacity MW.	Annual Energy Produced Wh/yr.	Total under Const. or Planned MW.
Tohoku	Mori	1982	1	operational	DF	50.0	50.0	176	-
	Matsukawa	1966	1	operational	DS	23.0	23.5	165	-
	Onuma	1974	1	Operational	SF	10.0	9.5	70	-
	Onikobe	1975	1	Operational	SF	25.0	12.5	93	-
	Kakkonda	1978	1	Operational	SF	50.0	50.0	375	-
	Kakkonda	1996	1	Under Const	SF	-	-	-	30.0
	Uenotai	1994	1	Operational	SF	27.5	27.5	42	-
	Sumikawa	1995	1	Under Const	SF	-	-	-	50.0
	Yanaizu-nishiyama	1995	1	under Const	SF	-	-	-	65.0
Yamaguchi	Otake	1967	1	Operational	SF	12.5	13.5	100	-
	Hatchobaru	1977	1	Operational	DF	55.0	55.0	328	-
	Hatchobaru	1990	1	Operational	OF	55.0	55.0	363	-
	Suginoi	1981	1	Operational	SF	3.0	3.0	10	-
	Kirishima	1984	1	Operational	SF	0.1	0.1	0	-
	Intr. Hotel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Takenoyu	1991	1	Operational	SF	0.2	0.105	0	-
	Yamagawa	1995	1	under Const	SF	-	-	-	30.0
	Ogiri	1996	1	under Const	SF	-	-	-	30.0
Total	Takigami	1996	1	Under Const	SF	-	-	-	25.0
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,722	-

includes drilling of production wells and estimates of reservoir characteristics. A total of 15 sites (Category A:2, B:11, C:2) were surveyed under this project from 1990 to 1993 as shown in Figure 2.

b) Small Geothermal Power Generation Unit  
NEDO sponsored the design, manufacture and demonstration testing of a 200kW condensing unit and a 300kW back pressure unit. The purpose was the popularization of small scale power generation using hot steam abundant in Japan.

c) Small Binary Geothermal Power Generation Systems

These systems will be suitable for brine temperature of 80 - 150deg.C. A 100kW system will be tested at the Otake area in FY 1994 and 95, and a 500kW system will be tested at the Takigami area in FY 1996 and 97.

d) Development of Reservoir Evaluation Technology

A computer simulation method for

wellfields was developed during FY 1984 and 92. Ogiri, Suaikawa, Mori and Oguni were selected as model fields for the simulation study.

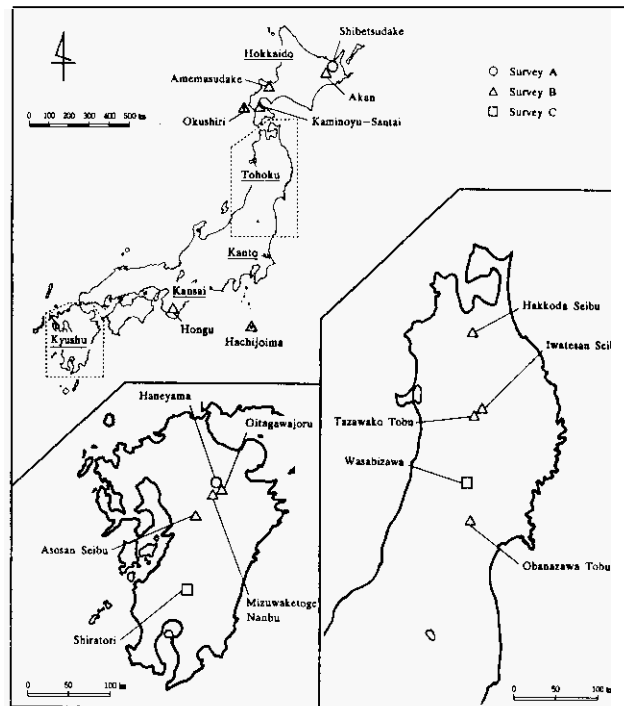


Fig.2 Location of Geothermal Development Promotion Survey Area

TABLE 3. INFORMATION ABOUT GEOTHERMAL LOCALITIES

- 1) Main type of rock
- 2) Total dissolved solids (TDS) in water before flashing. "v" is the symbol of vapor dominated
- 3) N=Identified geothermal locality, but no assessment information available  
F=Feasibility studies  
U=Commercial utilization

Locality	Location To Nearest 0.5 Degree		Reservoir		Status in January 1995	Reservoir Temp.	
	Latitude	Longitude	Rock 1)	Dissolved Solids mg/kg 2)		Estimated	Measured
Hokkaido							
Mori	42.0N	140.5E	Pre-Tertiary Limestone	10,000-16,000	U	250	240-280
Tohoku							
Matsukawa	40.0N	141.0E	Tertiary tuff	V	U	-	200-285
Onuma	40.0N	141.0E	Tertiary Volcanics	1,350	U	200-230	215
Onikobe	39.0N	140.5E	Tertiary	6,000-9,300	U	-	235-256
Kakkonda	40.0N	141.0E	Tertiary tuff, granite	2,000	U	-	210-350
Uenotai	39.0N	140.5E	Pretertiary metamorphic	770	U	290-315	283-307
Sumikawa	40.0N	141.0E	Tertiary Volcanic rocks	1,500	U	250-320	Max 317
Yanaizu-Nishiyama	37.5N	139.5E	Green tuff	18,946-3,225	U	260-320	Max 314
Kyushu							
Otake	33.0N	131.0E	Andesite	3,500	U	-	190-240
Hatchobaru	33.0N	131.0E	Andesite and Tuff breccia	4,200	U	-	220-280
Suginoi	33.5N	131.5E	Andesite	-	U	-	190-240
Kirishima	32.0N	131.0E	Andesite	-	U	220	-
Inte. Hotel	33.0N	131.0E	-	-	U	-	-
Takenoyu	31.0N	130.5E	Deisite	30,000	U	-	Max 374
Yamagawa	32.0N	131.0E	Pyroxene	2,185	U	-	Max 232
Ogiri	32.0N	131.0E	Andesite	-	U	-	-
Takigami	33.0N	131.5E	Desite and Andesite	2,100	U	200-260	Max 252
Oguni	33.0N	131.0E	Quaternary	-	F	-	Max 248

e)Confirmation Study of Effectiveness of Prospecting Techniques for Deep Resources  
From FY 1988 to 93 NEDO developed technologies to precisely delineate deep fracture systems. They include the array type CSYT system and related analysis software. reflection method using seismic waves. VSP, seismic tomography and practical data processing system and analysis software using micro earthquakes.

#### f)Survey of Deep-seated Geothermal Resources

This is a part of the New Sunshine project sponsored by YITI. To harvest deep-seated geothermal resources efficiently and safely, the R & D of drilling technologies and production technologies are being carried out. The Kakkonda area has been selected as the survey site and one 4,000m well will be drilled to explore the conditions and the characteristics of deep terrestrial heat.

#### g)Hot Dry Rock Power Generation System

A test to extract heat from the fracture artificially made at the depth of 1800m at the experimental site in Yamagata Prefecture was carried out in 1991. A circulation-heat extraction test with 2200m deep artificial reservoir is being prepared.

#### h)Development of 10MW Binary Cycle Power Plant

Preparatory work for the demonstration test including the test of components. observation of the fluctuation of underground water level at the test site and the development of a real time well data acquisition system are being carried out.

### 3.4 AIST Projects

Followings are organizations under AIST and the major subjects related to geothermal energy currently being studied.

TABLE 4. WELLS DRILLED FOR ELECTRICAL AND COMBINED USE OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES FROM JANUARY 1, 1990 TO DECEMBER 31, 1994

1) type or purpose of well

E-Exploration

P-Production

I-Injection

2) Total flow rate at given wellhead pressure (WHP)

Locality	Year Drilled	Well Number	Type of Well	Total Depth m	Max Temp.	Fluid Enthalpy kJ/kg	Well Head Flow Rate kg/s	WHP bar
<b>Hokkaido</b>								
Mori	1991-1994	2	P	6,226	270-285	2,791	80	13
	1992	1	I	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Ihokoku</b>								
Matsukawa	1990	1	P	1,130	200	2,757	40	4
Onuma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Onikobe	1990-1994	3	P	4,015	180-214	2,786	100	9-20
	1991	1	I	800	-	-	-	-
Kakkonda	1990-1993	3	P	7,186	over 300	2,770	230	1-7
						-2,78		
Genotai	1991	2	P	4,141	197	2,795	56	15
	1990-1992	6	I	7,352	-	-	-	-
	1990-1992	1	E	1,493	-	-	-	-
Sumikawa	1990	1	P	2,512	274	2,757	35	6
	1990-1994	5	I	8,605	-	-	-	-
Yanaizu-Nishiyama	1990-1993	7	P, I	13,458	181-319	2,543	47-131	7-11
						-2,14		
<b>Iyashu</b>								
Otake	1990-1994	6	I	3,568	-	-	-	-
Hatchobaru	1990-1994	4	P	7,670	244	1,793	140	6-9
		5	I	6,298	-	-	-	-
Hatchobaru	1990-1994	2	P	3,625	270	1,483	78	6-8
		1	I	1,500	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suginoi								
Kirishima	1994	1	P	300	140	2,736	5	3
Inte. Hotel								
Takenoyu								
Yamagawa	1994	2	P	3,910	-	1,844	56	10
	1994	1	I	1,245	-	-	-	-
Ogiri	1990-1991	7	P	9,135	232	2,726	252	4
	1990-1991	7	I	8,096	-	-	-	-
Takigami	1993	1	P	2,151	240	-	15	2
	1990-1994	2	I	3,402	-	-	-	-
Oguni	1990-1994	7	E	7,810	159-164	2,749	80	5-6

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	1992	1	I	-	-	-	-	-
Tohoku								
Matsukawa	1990	1	P	1,130	200	2,757	40	4
Onuma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Onikobe	1990-1994	3	P	4,015	180-214	2,786	100	9-20
	1991	1	I	800	-	-	-	-
Kakkonda	1990-1993	3	P	7,186	over 300	2,770	230	11-73
						-2,782		
Oenotai	1991	2	P	4,141	197	2,795	56	15
	1990-1992	6	I	7,352	-	-	-	-
	1990-1992	1	E	1,493	-	-	-	-
Sumikawa	1990	1	P	2,512	274	2,757	35	6
	1990-1994	5	I	8,605	-	-	-	-
Yanaizu-	1990-1993	7	P, I	13,458	181-319	2,543	47-131	7-11
Nishiyama						-2,145		
Kyushu								
Otake	1990-1994	6	I	3,568	-	-	-	-
Hatchobaru	1990-1994	4	P	7,670	244	1,793	140	6-9
		5	I	6,298	-	-	-	-
Hatchobaru	1990-1994	2	P	3,625	270	1,483	78	6-8
		1	I	1,500	-	-	-	-
Suginoi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kirishima	1994	1	P	300	140	2,736	5	3
Inte. Hotel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Takenoyu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yamagawa	1994	2	P	3,910	-	1,844	56	10
	1994	1	I	1,245	-	-	-	-
Ogiri	1990-1991	7	P	9,135	232	2,726	252	4
	1990-1991	7	I	8,096	-	-	-	-
Takigami	1993	1	P	2,151	240	-	15	2
	1990-1994	2	I	3,402	-	-	-	-
Oguni	1990-1994	7	E	7,810	159-164	2,749	80	5-6

- Geological Survey of Japan
- a) Research on Exploration Technologies of Deep-seated Geothermal Resources
- b) Analysis and Evaluation of Data Acquired by the Confirmation Study of the Effectiveness of Prospecting Techniques for Deep-seated Geothermal Resources
- Institute for Resources and Environment
- a) Extraction Technologies for Geothermal Energy
- b) Hot Dry Rock Pore Generation System
- c) Analysis and Evaluation of the Condition-Monitoring System related to Well Drilling

- d) Analysis and Evaluation of Hot Dry Rock Heat Extraction System
- e) Analysis and Evaluation of Deep Geothermal Resources Extraction Technologies
- Tohoku Industrial Research Institute
- a) Research on Geothermal Materials
- b) Analysis and Assessment of Hydrothermal Systems

TABLE 5 WELLS DRILLED FOR PROMOTING GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT FROM JANUARY 1, 1990

\* ( ) : Plan of completion until March 31, 1994

	Locality	Area km <sup>2</sup>	Year Drilled	Location		Well		
				To Nearest	0.5 Degree	Thermal Gradient	Exploration	Max Temp. °C
				Latitude	Longitude			
Survey A	Shibetudake	300	1994~Continue	43.5N	144.5E	800m×3	—	92
	Haneyama	300	1993~Continue	33.5N	131.5E	400m×3	(1400m×1)	57
						600m×2	(1600m×1)	
Survey B	Akan	75	1988~1990	43.5N	144.0E	900m×1		292
						500m×2	1000m×2	
							1200m×2	
							1500m×2	
							1700m×1	
	Okushiri	70	1990~1992	42.0N	139.5E	400m×2	1200m×5	181
							1500m×1	
	Kaminoyu Santai	70	1990~1992	42.0N	140.5E	400m×3	1000m×2	197
							1200m×1	
							1500m×2	
							1800m×2	
	Amanasudake	70	1991~Continue	43.0N	141.0E	400m×6	1000m×1	205
							1300m×2	
							1485m×1	
							1500m×1	
	Hakkoda Seibu	55	1989~1991	40.5N	141.0E	—	1000m×4	219
							1500m×3	
							1564m×1	
	Iwatesan Seibu	60	1989~1991	40.0N	141.0E	—	1000m×3	316
							1200m×3	
							1500m×1	
Survey C	Tazawako Tobu	65	1988~1990	40.0N	140.5E	—	1700m×1	289
							1000m×4	
	Obanazawa Tobu	65	1988~1989	38.5N	140.5E	400m×7	1000m×1	142
							1360m×1	
							1703m×1	
	Hachijyojima	70	1989~1991	33.0N	140.0E	—	510m×1	316
							1000m×3	
							1200m×1	
							1300m×1	
							1500m×2	
	Hongu	70	1991~1992	34.0N	135.5E	200m×7	1000m×2	105
						400m×3		
	Mizuwaketoge Nanbu	80	1990~1992	33.0N	131.5E	—	1000m×3	243
							1200m×1	
							1300m×1	
							1500m×2	
							1700m×1	
Survey D	Oitagawa Joryu	70	1988~1989	33.0N	131.0E	400m×3	2000m×1	103
							1000m×2	
							1500m×1	
	Asosan Seibu	70	1991~1993	33.0N	131.0E	400m×3	1700m×1	216
							1000m×1	
							1200m×3	
							1700m×2	
							1800m×1	
Survey E	Wasabizawa	7.8	1993~Continue	39.0N	140.5E	—	1400m×1	286
	Shiratori	7.5	1992~Continue	32.0N	131.0E	—	1500m×1 (1500m×1)	
							(2000m×3)	

### 3.5 Other Organizations

#### -New Energy Foundation (NEF)

The NEF is a privately funded organization that promotes utilization of new types of energy, and is working closely with MITI and NEDO. The NEF Geothermal Division, which has a staff of 25, does survey work both domestic and international, organizes several committees and publishes activity reports. The Geothermal Committee submits Recommendations regarding policy for geothermal energy development to the government. NEF publishes CEINETSU ENERGY magazine four times a year.

#### -Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI)

CRIEPI is carrying out the research on Hot Dry Rock power generation. It succeeded in forming multiple stage fractures in 1000m wells in 1991 at Ogachi, Akita.

The Japan Geothermal Energy Association (JGEA) and the Geothermal Research Society of Japan (GRSJ) also publish magazines and conduct tours, seminars and annual meetings. Table 7 shows memberships of both JGEA and GRSJ.

## 4. CONCLUSION

By the end of 1996, the installed capacity of geothermal power plants in Japan will reach 53011. Though this is still only 0.2% of the total power generating capacity, geothermal is an important national energy resource for Japan. Efforts will be continued to increase the utilization of geothermal energy in both government and private sectors.

Table 6. TOTAL INVESTMENT IN GEOTHERMAL IN (1994)US\$ BY JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MITI)

Period	The Agency of Natural Resources and Energy, (ANRE)	Agency of Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)	Total
FY1975-FY1984	595	384	979
FY1985-FY1994	1,113	519	1,632

Year	JAPAN GEOTHERMAL ENERGY ASSOCIATION (JGEA)		GEOTHERMAL RESEARCH SOCIETY OF JAPAN (GRSJ)	
	Corporate	Individuals	Corporate	Individuals
1990	101	480	114	840
1991	105	493	117	842
1992	106	496	115	836
1993	108	482	117	823
1994	111	466	116	828