

17 April 2012

Groundbreaking Ceremony of
Natural Gas Trunk Pipeline (Toyama Line), Japan

INPEX CORPORATION today held a groundbreaking ceremony for the 102km long Natural Gas Trunk Pipeline (Toyama line) extending from Itoigawa City, Niigata Prefecture to Toyama City, Toyama Prefecture, Japan, at the nearby construction site in Uozu City, Toyama Prefecture. Many local guests were invited to this ceremony from Niigata Prefecture and Toyama Prefecture and other stakeholders with wishes for safety and no incident of the construction. Following the ceremony, full-scale construction work will commence for Toyama Line.

Toyama Line is a natural gas trunk pipeline which will stably and efficiently carry LNG sourced natural gas to Nihonkai Gas Co, Ltd. and other customers along the Line, starting in late 2014. The LNG will be imported and offloaded at INPEX's Naoetsu LNG Receiving Terminal in Joetsu City, Niigata Prefecture, which is now under construction.

While INPEX obtaining the necessary approvals for the construction of Toyama Line, INPEX continues to secure the understanding and support from the communities in the area. INPEX holds the creed of safety first throughout the construction phase of the project.



Groundbreaking ceremony in Uozu City



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1. History and planned schedule of Toyama Line

12 October 2010:	Commenced the feasibility study
23 May 2011:	Final Investment Decision
17 April 2012:	Groundbreaking Ceremony
At the end of December 2014 (planned):	Operation Start

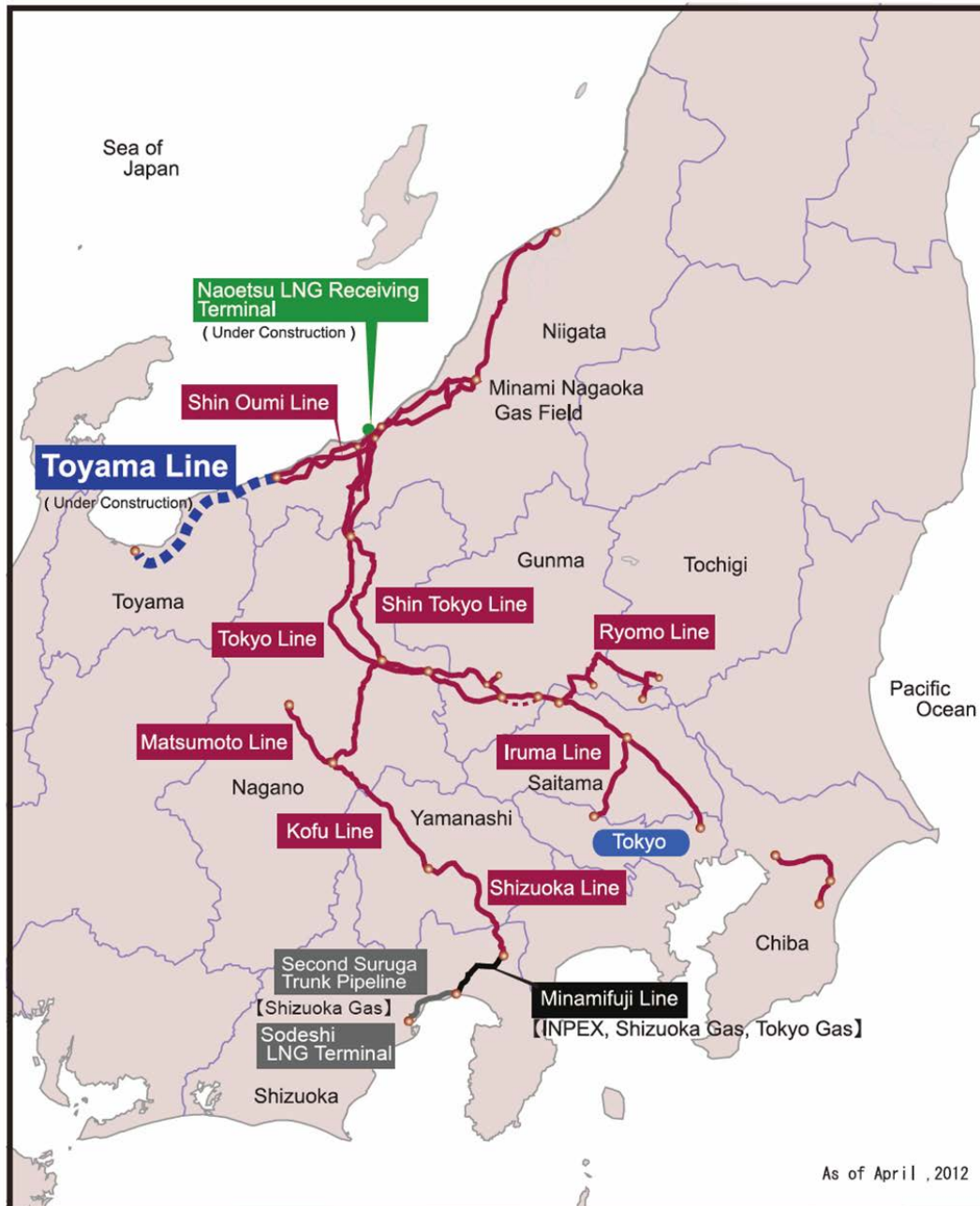
2. Outline of Toyama Line

- (1) Name : Toyoma Line
- (2) Location : From Itoigawa City, Niigata Prefecture (the end of Shin Oumi Line) to Toyama City, Toyama Prefecture
- (3) Length : 102km (approximately)
- (4) Design : 7.0Mpa of design pressure and 508mm (20 inches) of pipe diameter

[Additional information]

INPEX is producing natural gas from the Minami-Nagaoka gas field in Niigata Prefecture and other gas fields in Japan. After being processed, the natural gas is transported through INPEX's 1,400km trunk pipeline network stretching across the Kanto and Koshinetsu regions, and is delivered to city gas companies and industrial customers along this pipeline network. Natural gas demand has substantially increased over the recent years. INPEX understands that the demand of natural gas will continually grow due to the rise in other fuel prices, and also to the advantage of natural gas being eco-friendly. In order to meet natural gas demand in Japan, in addition to extending its pipeline network, INPEX has been introducing LNG from Shizuoka Gas Co., Ltd. from January 2010 and further decided to build Naoetsu LNG Receiving Terminal to bring LNG from our major oversea LNG projects, such as the Ichthys LNG Project in Australia and the Abadi LNG Project in Indonesia as major feed gas resources. Thus, INPEX will enhance the added value by establishing a gas supply chain through linkage between its domestic pipeline network, and the Ichthys LNG Project and the Abadi LNG Project.

INPEX's Natural Gas Pipeline Network in Japan



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