Consolidated Financial Results for First Three Quarters of Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2004

February 13, 2004

Note: The following report is a translation of the Japanese-language original.

Company Name: Japan Petroleum Exploration Co., Ltd. (Company Code: 1662, First Section, Tokyo Stock Exchange)

(URL: http://www.japex.co.jp/)
President: Yuji Tanahashi

Inquiries: Koichi Shimomura, Manager, Media Relations, Administration Department

TEL: (03) 5461-7413

1. Notes Relating to Preparation of Quarterly Financial Statements

- (1) Changes in accounting treatment from the most recent consolidated fiscal year: No
- (2) Changes in scope of consolidation and application of equity method: Yes Consolidated (Added): 1 company; Equity-method (Excluded): 2 companies
- 2. Consolidated Results for First Three Quarters of Fiscal Year 2004 (April 1, 2003 December 31, 2003)

(1) Consolidated Operating Results (Amounts less than one million yen have been omitted)

	Net Sales		Operating Income		Ordinary Income		Net Income	
	(¥ million)	%	(¥ million)	%	(¥ million)	%	(¥ million)	%
3Q FY04	67,079	_	8,593	_	10,102	_	7,123	_
3Q FY03	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
(Ref.) FY03	90,683		15,828		12,769		8,828	

	Net Income per Share	Diluted Net Income per Share
	(¥)	(¥)
3Q FY04	124.62	_
3Q FY03	_	_
(Ref.) FY03	153.14	_

(Notes)

- 1. Percentage figures for net sales, operating income and other items represent changes compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.
- 2. No comparisons are available with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year because this is the first time that the Company has released quarterly financial results.
- 3. Diluted net income per share is not shown because there are no shares with a dilutive effect.

(2) Consolidated Financial Position

	Total Assets	Shareholders'	Shareholders'	Net Assets per	
	Total Assets	Equity	Equity Ratio	Share	
	(¥ million)	(¥ million)	%	(¥)	
Dec. 31, 2003	243,095	192,356	79.1	3,365.54	
Dec. 31, 2002	_	_	_	_	
(Ref.) Mar. 31,	242,455	186,914	77.1	3,268.99	
2003					

(Note) No comparisons with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year are available because this is the first time that the Company has released quarterly financial results.

(3) Consolidated Cash Flows

	Operating Activities	Investing Activities	Financing Activities	Period-end Cash and Cash Equivalents
	(¥ million)	(¥ million)	(¥ million)	(¥ million)
3Q FY04	13,596	(5,730)	(4,122)	27,405
3Q FY03	_	_	_	_
(Ref.) FY03	21,619	(11,915)	(7,981)	23,866

⁽Note) No comparisons with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year are available because this is the first time that the Company has released quarterly financial results.

3. Forecast for Fiscal Year 2004

There is no change to the earnings forecast announced on December 10, 2003.

Overview of Consolidated Operating Results

I. Overview of Consolidated Operating Results for First Three Quarters of Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2004

Net sales were ¥67,079 million, ordinary income was ¥10,102 million and net income was ¥7,123 million. During the period under review, the domestic crude oil price remained high, contributing to growth in sales of oil and natural gas. Results by operating segment were as follows:

1. Oil and Natural Gas Segment

(1) E&P Division

The sale of crude oil, natural gas and LNG is the principal activity in this division. Division sales totaled \forall 57,344 million on higher sales volumes of oil and natural gas.

(2) Contract Services Division

Drilling, seismic data acquisition and processing are the principal activities in this division. Division sales totaled ¥2,630 million on an increase in the volume of contract services orders.

(3) Other Businesses Division

This division mainly represents the manufacturing and trading of petroleum products such as LPG and fuel oil, the transmission of third-party gas, and other miscellaneous consignment orders. Division sales totaled ¥6,071 million on higher sales volumes of petroleum products.

2. Geothermal Energy Segment

Geothermal Energy Business

This division, which sells steam for electric power generation, recorded sales of ¥1,032 million in the period under review.

II. Cash Flows

Cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2003 stood at ¥27,405 million, ¥3,539 million higher than at March 31, 2003.

(Cash Flows From Operating Activities)

Operating activities provided net cash of \(\frac{\pmathbf{\frac{4}}}{13,596}\) million, mainly reflecting income before income taxes and minority interests of \(\frac{\pmathbf{\frac{4}}}{9,918}\) million and depreciation and amortization of \(\frac{\pmathbf{\frac{4}}}{7,548}\) million.

(Cash Flows From Investing Activities)

Investing activities used net cash of ¥5,730 million. The main outflow was ¥6,363 million for the purchase of property, plant and equipment.

(Cash Flows From Financing Activities)

Financing activities used net cash of \(\frac{\pmathbf{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\text{\frac{\text{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\fin}}}}{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\fin}}}}}{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\text{\frac{\tince{\tiny{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\text{\frac{\text{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\tir{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\frac{\frac{\tinx{\frac{\frac{\frac{\tinx{\fra

Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Consolidated Balance Sheets

(¥ million)

5 . 1	(A CD		2)	(¥ million) (As of March 31, 2003)			
Period	(As of De	ecember 31, 200	(3)	(As of I)		
Description	Amo	ount		Ame	ount		
(Assets)			%			%	
I Current assets							
1. Cash and deposits		23,203			20,162		
2. Notes and accounts receivable		9,740			11,746		
3. Marketable securities		11,321			8,191		
4. Inventories		8,050			8,785		
5. Other current assets		5,834			5,795		
Less: Allowance for doubtful receivables		(9)			(31)		
Total current assets		58,140	23.9		54,650	22.5	
II Fixed assets							
1. Property, plant and equipment							
(1) Buildings and structures	53,632			57,317			
(2) Machinery and equipment	12,343			13,024			
(3) Land	11,998			12,011			
(4) Other property, plant and equipment	16,183	94,157		12,907	95,261		
2. Intangible fixed assets		724			565		
3. Investments and others							
(1) Investments in securities	83,362			87,778			
(2) Others	20,337			20,993			
Less: Allowance for doubtful receivables	(117)			(134)			
Allowance for losses on overseas investments	(13,508)	90,073		(16,659)	91,978		
Total fixed assets		184,955	76.1		187,805	77.5	
Total assets		243,095	100.0		242,455	100	
(Liabilities)							
I Current liabilities							
Notes and accounts payable		2,195			5,476		
2. Short-term bank loans		525			900		
3. Current portion of long-term debt		2,308			2,315		
4. Other current liabilities		9,988			9,495		
Total current liabilities		15,017	6.2		18,186	7.5	
II Long-term liabilities							
1. Long-term debt		9,450			11,309		
2. Accrued retirement benefits for employees		4,030			3,276		
3. Accrued retirement benefits for officers		663			598		
4. Accrued estimated cost of abandonment of wells		2,525			3,122		
5. Accrual for losses on projects		11,562			11,480		
6. Other long-term liabilities		2,152			2,166		
Total long-term liabilities		30,384	12.5		31,954	13.2	
Total liabilities		45,402	18.7		50,141	20.7	
(Minority interests)		·					
Minority interests in consolidated subsidiaries		5,336	2.2		5,400	2.2	
		3,330	2.2		3,400	2.2	
(Shareholders' equity)							
I Common stock		14,288	5.9		14,288	5.9	
II Retained earnings		177,988	73.2		172,370	71.1	
III Unrealized holding gain on securities		2,638	1.1		2,304	0.9	
IV Translation adjustments		(2,558)	(1.1)		(2,048)	(0.8)	
V Treasury stock		(0)	(0.0)		_	_	
Total shareholders' equity		192,356	79.1		186,914	77.1	
Total liabilities, minority interests and shareholders' equity		243,095	100		242,455	100	

2. Consolidated Statements of Income

(¥ million)

(¥ million)							
Period	First Three Quarters of FY 2004			FY 2003			
	(Apr. 1, 20	03 – Dec. 31, 20	003)	(Apr. 1, 200)2 – Mar. 31, 20	003)	
Description	Amo	ount		Amo	ount		
			%			%	
I Net sales		67,079	100		90,683	100	
II Cost of sales		40,739	60.7	-	52,288	57.7	
Gross profit		26,339	39.3		38,394	42.3	
III Exploration expenses							
1. Exploration expenses	3,590			3,695			
2. Exploration subsidies	(483)	3,106	4.6	(582)	3,113	3.4	
IV Selling, general and administrative expenses		14,639	21.9	-	19,452	21.4	
Operating income		8,593	12.8		15,828	17.5	
V Non-operating income							
1. Interest income	922			1,454			
2. Dividend income	1,034			1,226			
3. Reversal of allowance for losses on overseas investments	2,531			_			
4. Other non-operating income	514	5,003	7.5	725	3,406	3.7	
VI Non-operating expenses							
1. Interest expense	267			590			
2. Devaluation loss on securities	57			2,236			
3. Equity in losses of unconsolidated subsidiaries and affiliates	2,335			722			
4. Provision for allowance for losses on overseas investments	_			151			
5. Provision for accrued estimated cost of abandonment of wells	70			986			
6. Provision for losses on projects	285			821			
7. Other non-operating expenses	478	3,495	5.2	957	6,465	7.1	
Ordinary income		10,102	15.1		12,769	14.1	
VII Extraordinary income							
Reversal of allowance for doubtful receivables	24	24	0	65	65	0.1	
VIII Extraordinary losses							
1. Loss on disposal of fixed assets	208	208	0.3	262	262	0.3	
Income before income taxes and minority interests		9,918	14.8		12,572	13.9	
Current income taxes	2,222			1,654			
Deferred income taxes	332	2,555	3.8	1,916	3,571	4.0	
Minority interests		240	0.4	<u>-</u>	172	0.2	
Net income		7,123	10.6		8,828	9.7	

3. Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

-		(¥ million)
	First Three Quarters	FY 2003
Period	of FY 2004	
	(Apr. 1, 2003 –	(Apr. 1, 2002 –
Description	Dec. 31, 2003)	Mar. 31, 2003)
	Amount	Amount
I Operating activities		
Income before income taxes and minority interests	9,918	12,572
2. Depreciation and amortization	7,548	9,817
3. Loss on devaluation of marketable securities and investments in securities	57	2,236
4. Decrease in allowance for doubtful receivables	(23)	(104)
5. Increase (decrease) in provision for accrued retirement benefits for employees	757	(188)
6. Increase (decrease) in provision for accrued retirement benefits for officers	64	(28)
7. Decrease in provision for accrued estimated cost of abandonment of wells	(555)	(25)
8. Decrease (increase) in provision for allowance for losses on overseas investments and accrual for	(3,069)	132
losses on projects		
9. Interest and dividend income	(1,957)	(2,681)
10. Interest expense	267	590
11. Gain on redemption and sales of marketable securities and investments in securities	(186)	(108)
12. Loss on redemption and sales of marketable securities and investments in securities	2 225	295
13. Equity in losses of unconsolidated subsidiaries and affiliates14. Decrease (increase) in notes and accounts receivable	2,335	722
	2,002	(1,172)
15. Decrease (increase) in inventories	735	(2,261)
16. Increase in prepaid expenses 17. Decrease in advances	(321) 209	_
18. Increase (decrease) in notes and accounts payable	(2,640)	1,654
19. Increase (decrease) in consumption tax payable	(46)	259
20. Other, net	169	(305)
Subtotal	15,265	21,405
21. Income taxes (paid) refunded	(1,668)	214
Net cash provided by operating activities	13,596	21,619
II Investing activities		
1. Investments in time deposits	(330)	(25)
2. Proceeds from time deposits	_	1,029
3. Payments for purchase of marketable securities	(2,998)	(1,079)
4. Proceeds from redemption and sale of marketable securities	4,444	7,515
5. Additions to property, plant and equipment	(6,363)	(11,908)
6. Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	34	8
7. Additions to intangible fixed assets	(291)	(94)
8. Payments for purchase of investments in securities	(6,264)	(14,434)
9. Proceeds from redemption and sale of investments in securities	4,072	4,773
10. Increase in loans receivable	(527)	(441)
11. Decrease in loans receivable	543	65
12. Increase in money trusts	_	(500)
13. Decrease in money trusts	1 004	500
14. Interest and dividends received	1,884	2,651
15. Other, net	67 (5.720)	(11.015)
Net cash used in investing activities	(5,730)	(11,915)
III Financing activities 1. Increase (decrease) in short-term bank loans	(275)	650
Increase (decrease) in snort-term bank loans Repayment of long-term debt	(375) (1,865)	650 (6,377)
Repayment of long-term deof Purchase of treasury stock	(0)	(0,377)
4. Cash dividends paid	(1,428)	(1,428)
5. Dividends paid to minority shareholders	(197)	(197)
6. Interest paid	(255)	(627)
Net cash used in financing activities	(4,122)	(7,981)
IV Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(204)	(270)
V Increase in cash and cash equivalents	3,539	1,452
VI Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	23,866	22,592
VII Decrease in cash and cash equivalents arising from exclusion from consolidation		(179)
VIII Cash and cash equivalents at period-end	27,405	23,866
equi, alene at period end	27,100	_5,000

Status of Production and Sales

1. Production

(1) Oil and Natural Gas Segment

Division	Product	(Ref.) FY2003 (Apr. 1, 2002 – Mar. 31, 2003)	
	Crude oil	412,748 ^{kl} (2,358)	510,249 kl (5,031)
E&P Operations	Natural gas	718,599 thousand m ² (5,357)	950,158 thousand m ² (10,506)
	L N G	4,105 ^t	_
Other	L P G	7,564 ^t	11,231 ^t
Businesses	Fuel oil, etc.	38,274 ^{kl}	36,655 ^{kl}

(Notes)

- 1. The figures in parentheses in E&P Operations represent overseas production and are included in the total.

 2. Part of the oil production volume is used as a feedstock for LPG, fuel oil and other products.
- 3. Part of the natural gas production volume is used as a feedstock for LNG, LPG and other energies.

(2) Geothermal Energy Segment

Division	Product	First Three Quarters of FY 2004 (Apr. 1, 2003 – Dec. 31, 2003)	(Ref.) FY 2003 (Apr. 1, 2002 – Mar. 31, 2003)	
Geothermal Energy Development	S t e a m	848,753 ^t	1,157,389 ^t	

2. Sales

(1) Oil and Natural Gas Segment

Division	Product		arters of FY 2004 – Dec. 31, 2003)	(Ref.) FY 2003 (Apr. 1, 2002 – Mar. 31, 2003)		
		Volume	Amount	Volume	Amount	
E&P	Crude oil	kl 1,162,330 thousand m ³	(¥ million) 24,618	kl 1,445,798 thousand m ³	(¥ million) 30,743	
Operations	Natural gas	912,817 t	30,115	1,154,764 t	41,479	
	L N G	51,697	2,610	61,294	3,058	
	Subtotal	_	57,344	_	75,281	
Contract Services		_	2,630	_	5,815	
	Subtotal	_	2,630	_	5,815	
Other	L P G	t 21,624 kl	(¥ million) 1,033	36,400 kl	(¥ million) 1,786	
Businesses	Fuel oil, etc.	59,704	2,472	71,518	2,811	
	O t h e r s	_	2,565		3,793	
	Subtotal	_	6,071	_	8,390	
	Total	_	66,046	_	89,486	

(2) Geothermal Energy Segment

Division	Product		`	arters of FY 2004 – Dec. 31, 2003)	(Ref.) FY 2003 (Apr. 1, 2002 – Mar. 31, 2003)				
			Volume	Amount	Volume	Amount			
Geothermal Energy Development	S	t	e	a	m	t 813,191	(¥ million) 1,032	t 1,080,685	(¥ million) 1,196
			Tota	l		_	1,032	_	1,196

(Notes)

^{1.} Others in Other Businesses includes revenue from the transmission of third-party gas through JAPEX's pipeline network and sales commissions.

^{2.} Monetary amounts in the tables do not include consumption tax.