

Promoting the International Standardization Activities of Railway Technology

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The International Standards Center of the Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI) serves as the secretariat in Japan for the development of international electric and electronic standards for railway technology. International standards in this field are prepared by TC9 (Electrical Equipment and Systems for Railways), one of the Technical Committees (TCs) established under the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

International railway standards used to be applied mainly for equipment specifications and test methods, but over the last few years standards encompassing an entire railway system are becoming more prevalent. These standards include the IEC62236 Series (Railway Applications – Electromagnetic Compatibility) and IEC62278 (Railway Applications – Specification and Demonstration of Reliability, Availability, Maintainability and Safety (RAMS)). Because this trend toward standardization of an entire rail system is expected to intensify in the future, we believe that our systematic promotion of international standardization will become even more significant.

Entities involved in IEC/TC9 activities in Japan are shown in Fig. 1. The Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC), an entity functioning within the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, maintains direct contact with the IEC, and conducts various activities for the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) while promoting standardization in Japan. The Japanese National Committee for IEC/TC9 examines IEC/TC9 issues in Japan. As the secretariat for this committee, RTRI serves as the liaison

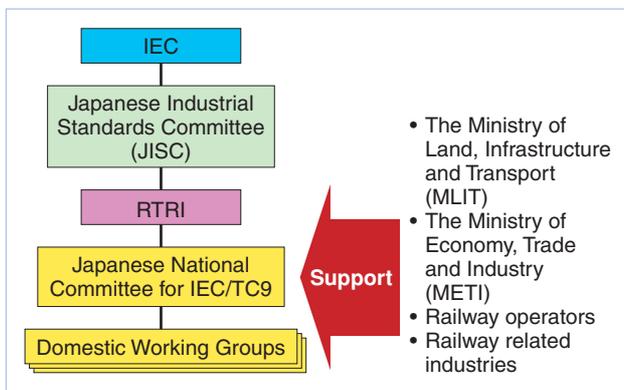


Figure 1. Japanese entities promoting rail system standardization



Figure 2. IEC/TC9 Plenary meeting in Tokyo



office for JISC. The committee consists of about 30 members representing railway operators, rail-related industries, academic societies, governments and other entities. Japanese proposals concerning specific draft standard advanced by the IEC are prepared by working groups established under the committee. Each working group consists of experts in their chosen field.

At the IEC, standards are developed by working groups composed of experts from various countries, including Japan. Japan never fails to send a delegation to IEC/TC9 annual plenary meetings. In 2002 and 2003, working groups participated in meetings in Tokyo, and these meetings were organized by Japanese staff. In addition, an IEC/TC9 plenary meeting was successfully held in Tokyo from November 14 to 17, 2005.

RTRI's International Standards Center performs the secretarial operations for all those activities.

Only a few years have passed since Japan began participating actively and systematically in the international railway standardization process, and we intend to promote these activities even more in the future. We hope that through participation in the activities mentioned above, we will be able to contribute to the expansion of the transport modal share of railways, and to the global advance of railway technology.



Figure 3. Welcome party held prior to the plenary meeting