



Newsletter on the  
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# Railway Technology Avalanche

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

- ISO Institutes New Technical Committee  
ISO/TC 269 Railway Applications  
*Yuji NISHIE*.....247
- What Can We Do to Develop Railway Technologies in Asia?  
- Railway Technical Discussion at RTRI on October 25, 2012  
*Hiroyuki Sakai*.....248

## ARTICLES

- Development of a Fault Point Locator for the Freight Train Command Line  
*Michihiro YAMASHITA*.....249
- Development of a Switch Rail with Improved Wear Resistance  
*Yuya OIKAWA*.....250
- A Technique to Detect Overheated Switchboards with a Gas Density Detector  
*Masataka AKAGI*.....251
- Measurement of Wheel Flange/Rail Gauge Corner Contact Conditions  
*Shinya FUKAGAI*.....252

## ISO Institutes New Technical Committee ISO/TC 269 Railway Applications

**Yuji NISHIE**

Director, Information Management Division  
Chairman, ISO/TC 269

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) approved the institution of a new Technical Committee (TC) for railway affairs, ISO/TC 269 Railway Applications which was proposed jointly by Germany and France. Its first Plenary Meeting was held in October 2012 in Berlin. ISO/TC 269 is served by Mr. Rüdiger Wendt as Secretary and I am highly honored to be the committee's first Chairman.

The environment-friendly characteristics of railways are now being reviewed in greater detail as people become more concerned about climate change caused by the increase in the volume of greenhouse gas emissions in recent years.

In the meantime, in developing countries, the rapid, mass transportation capacity of railways has attracted more and more attention as a booster of economic development, and many railway construction projects including high-speed rails, urban transit systems and freight railways are currently being planned around the globe.

However, there still remain a number of developing countries that have never been graced with the advantages specific to railways such as high-level safety, environmental compatibility, convenience and cost efficiency. International standardization activities are important to help disseminate the benefits of railways extensively in different countries in the world. In this context, it is of utmost importance to maintain the transparency, openness and impartiality of activities as advocated by ISO, thereby translating the policy of Global Relevance into reality.

The ISO/TC 269 Plenary Meeting had a two-day session, attended by the representatives of 15 countries, chairpersons of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)/TC 9 and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN)/TC 256 and representatives of UIC. The Plenary Meeting determined the title and scope of TC 269, discussed the Strategic Busi-

ness Plan, structure of TC, liaising with other TCs/organizations and roles of the Chairman Advisory Group, presented a proposal for candidate new work items and instituted four Ad-hoc Groups to discuss these from now on.

ISO/TC 269 is charged with dealing with those fields not included in the scope of IEC/TC 9. This assignment is extremely extensive with significant responsibilities. To respond to the expectations of railway operators, infrastructure trustees, manufacturers, construction work contractors, competent government agencies, the governments of different countries and other stakeholders, we will make concerted efforts to promote ISO/TC 269 activities while appreciating the cooperation extended by those concerned.

At the invitation of Japan, TC 269 decided to convene its second Plenary Meeting in Tokyo in November 2013.

