

Prize Winning - UIC Innovation and Research Awards

Director Kimiaki Sasaki, Vehicle Structure Technology Division, was awarded with a prize of "UIC Innovation and Research Awards" for the development of semi-active suspensions.

The UIC Innovation and Research Awards 2012 have recently been instituted at the initiative of UIC International Railway Research Board (IRRB) to cast light on innovation to make railways safer, more economical and more environment-friendly. The Screening Committee composed of IRRB members has selected winners in six fields, safety/security, railway freight, cost reduction, railway systems, passenger services and sustainable development.

The prize for Director Sasaki was awarded for innovation in the field of safety/security. Director Sasaki's

work that was highly evaluated includes the development of a system to reduce vibration of rolling stock in high-speed areas and significant improvement in ride comfort. The results of his work are now widely used not only in Japan but also by railways in other countries including Taiwan Shinkansen.

The award ceremony was held in Paris on December 11 last year, where Director Sasaki was present, together with other prize winners and Chairman and Chief Executive Member, UIC Board of Directors.



The third person from the left is Dr. Sasaki.



Visit to RTRI by the Rt Hon Simon Burns MP, Minister of State for Transport

RTRI received a visit of important persons from the United Kingdom (UK) on 19 February 2013: The Rt Hon Simon Burns, the Minister of State for Transport, four visitors from the Department for Transport and two visitors from the British Embassy in Tokyo. The main purpose of their visit was to learn about new research and technologies related to the high-speed railway plan named HS2 in the UK.

The presentations from both parties showed possibilities of closer relationship in railway research cooperation between the UK and Japan in the near future. Prof McNaughton, Technical Director, the Department for Transport UK, made a presentation titled "Developing High Speed Rail for Britain." Dr Iida, Director of Environmental Engineering Division, RTRI, introduced RTRI's research activities on new noise mitigation technologies.

Moreover, RTRI showed testing facilities installed in the Kunitachi main site to the visitors. Due to time constraints,

the visitors looked around only three test facilities: Ride Comfort Simulator, Test Machine for Noise Reduction Technology and Rolling Stock Test Plant. The visitors seemed to enjoy the short tour and be impressed by the quality of RTRI research activities.

The Minister and decision-makers in the UK were impressed by RTRI's achievements and capabilities. Even after the successful achievement for Shinkansen in 1964, the first high speed railway system in the world, RTRI keeps making efforts to improve existing technologies and to find new technologies. We are looking forward to seeing how our technologies can help and support the realisation of new railway lines indispensable for activities of people in the world.

