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Railway Technology Avalanche

Newsletter on the Latest Technologies Developed by RTRI No. 1

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Message to You on Founding the Newsletter on Research and Development by RTRI

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Honestly, it is really my great pleasure and honor to have our newsletter be at you, which was just founded in January 2003. On seeing the first edition of the newsletter on research and development lately carried through by Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI), let me send my message to you along with it. So that the information on R & D promoted by RTRI can well be managed, I have tried to make the knowledge obtainable from our work widely shared with workers majoring in research on or management of railway operation all over the world. Therefore, for instance, the *Quarterly Report of RTRI (QR of RTRI)* has been continuously circulated four times a year for over 40 years since started with its initial number in 1960 as a medium by which the results achieved on railway research by RTRI can periodically be available for readers. Unfortunately, however, the publication is not necessarily expeditious even though a lot of people expect the latest information on our act. Frankly speaking, this inconvenience is caused by the manner of the publication not on purpose, in that, *QR of RTRI* is brought out generally by re-editing *RTRI Report* which is published monthly but in Japanese language. Thus, as a matter of fact, there is actually the some lag in time until the publication of *QR of RTRI* after that of *RTRI Report*. To make matters worse, the number of papers circulated through *QR of RTRI* is limited. To overcome this discomfort, I decided to separately edit and then immediately publish a newsletter, which is to follow RTRI Report-editorial work right away. Furthermore, I will put the same articles also in the homepage of RTRI for your convenience so that the information up-to-date on the R & D done by RTRI can quickly be with you, if you frequently run through the homepage. In any case, RTRI will keep you thoroughly informed about our performance, which will absolutely be useful for and helpful to you.

By the by, even after the foundation of the newsletter, *QR of RTRI* will still be periodically published as it is. Let me, therefore, suggest the best manner to know what RTRI currently does to you. First check the newsletter opportunely delivered by RTRI, and then anticipate seeing full papers published in *QR of RTRI* following the newsletter.

Incidentally, as to my action these days, I have earnestly and fully exchanged contemporary sense of enhancing and encouraging railway research with researchers, engineers, to say nothing of workers managing railway operation mainly in Europe, North America, and Asia, through international meetings, namely, ERRI symposium, the 5th WCRR, Surface Transport Technologies for Sustainable Development held in Valencia, Spain, in June 2002, and Eurailspeed 2002. By positively participating in the meetings with papers stressing the importance and significance of what RTRI has been thinking and doing, I surely grasped the atmosphere brought about by ardor and passion in successfully refining railway systems. To be concrete, one sees prompt measures taken by European Union (EU) without hesitation in sturdily efforts in making railway service friendly to the environment and simultaneously acceptable to customers, which I agree with great interest. Truly, what brings Europe increases in the passenger's number and freight traffic, which are shared jointly by all surface transport, that is to say, buses and ferries, is nothing but just endeavor actually made by EU. For the past over ten years, it has strongly led the railway service emitting little substance uncomfortable to the environment, especially, carbon dioxide, which would cause us a serious problem in eligibly controlling its concentration in the air. As well known, this strategy left good results in recovering the role of transportation over there in Europe. RTRI, thus, wishes to follow the measures taken by EU in order for the honor of Japanese Railways to be restored as a transportation means given a top priority by customers. Eventually, what is all-important is the service provided with railway systems reliable, cost-effective, attractive, naturally compatible with the environment, and to realize that is also our goal. RTRI is conducting approximately 260 themes at present with the concept mentioned above, in fact. Through the newsletter, in which a considerable number of papers on the essential work of RTRI will wholly be closely-packed, information on railway work would fully be exchanged with all workers throughout the world, in hope.

In any event, it is a sort of our action in efficiently and certainly progressing with the development of railway systems and proceeding with our task of accomplishing beneficial and fruitful results to let you know the latest technologies established by RTRI. This newsletter what we fondly name "*Railway Technology Avalanche*" will not periodically but a few times a year be conveniently with you at your desk right whenever published. Therefore, you can also be with us through the newsletter full of recent technologies all the time without any difficulty. I wish you to find our service interesting. Your inquiries on articles published in the newsletter are naturally welcome anytime. International Affairs at the e-mail address www-admin@rtri.or.jp is anytime behind you.

At my end, let me hereby briefly walk you through the organization of RTRI by showing the facts and figures of RTRI (see Fig. 1 and Table 1 on the backside). If in need, you can contact International Affairs in the same manner as well all the time. Thank you for listening and hope you enjoy the newsletter always with you!

Tarumi, Hisashi, Dr. Eng.