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Foreword

Goto, Koichi

Manager, International Affairs, Information & International Affairs Division

I am very happy to have an opportunity to introduce myself on the 5th issue of "Railway Technology Avalanche." I have come back to International Affairs of Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI) in July 2003 after about three-year absence. My final task of the last period at the Section was to support the 4th World Congress on Railway Research (WCRR) held at RTRI in 1999 as a manager of secretariat (hard but exciting days!). I would like to send my sincere regards to the secretariat of the 6th WCRR held at Edinburgh for its great success.

Four years ago at that time, we did not have this newsletter. As technologies of railway systems are quickly changing, it is significantly important to exchange high-quality information globally and timely. I believe that our newsletters contribute to your activities on collecting useful information on current railway technologies. The following pages have articles presenting a few examples of RTRI's principal researches. We think that it is helpful to you in easily understanding our work, not only technical aspects of the researches but also persons engaged in these researches. So the articles include their photos in their original working circumstances. Please remember their faces (including me, of course). Some day in the future, you may have a chance to meet some of them in your country or in Japan. Your memory shall bring fruitful relationships among us.



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The editor will absolutely welcome all your inquiries on the article(s) published in "Railway Technology Avalanche." Moreover, your reliable contact information including your name, title, as well as e-mail and regular-mail addresses will be helpful to the editor in delivering "Railway Technology Avalanche" to you without fail.

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