Newsletter on the Latest Technologies Developed by RTRI

Railway Technology Avalanche

January 1, 2005 No. 7

Railway Technical Research Institute
2-8-38 Hikari-cho, Kokubunji-shi
Tokyo 185-8540, JAPAN

Foreword

Katsuyoshi UEYAMA
General Manager, Research & Development Promotion Division

This is the 7th issue of *Railway Technology Avalanche*. We brought out the first publication of this newsletter in January 2003, with the aim of providing speedy, succinct reports on the research and development carried out at Railway Technical Research Institute, Japan Railways (RTRI) to people involved in railways throughout the world. Topics appearing in this newsletter are selected jointly by the Research & Development Promotion Division and International Affairs at Information & International Affairs Division in RTRI. The present articles are on Maglev systems and human sciences. I eagerly hope that readers will find these topics interesting.

RTRI has managed research and development in accordance with the five-year plan "RESEARCH21," which started in April 2000 and will end in March 2005. One of the work frames in the plan is R&D for the future railways. This work year or in 2004, which marks the last year of the five-year plan, we are compiling the results of 14 future-oriented themes we have been tackling. We will introduce these results in *Railway Technology Avalanche* this year.

As you know, in the earthquake that hit the Chuetsu area in Niigata Prefecture on October 23, 2004, a lot of disasters occurred, including the derailment of a Shinkansen train. RTRI expeditiously set up a relief center to assist with the recovery from damage. Currently, we are still on in various supporting activities, such as field investigation and analysis of structural behavior of railway facilities when attacked by the earthquake. I expect that the railway service disrupted by this unexpected incident be in normal

operation to serve customers in need in the area suffering from the disaster with convenient transportation by the time when you read this message.

Katsuyoshi UEYAMA
General Manager, Research & Development Promotion Division