



Newsletter on the  
Latest Technologies  
Developed by RTRI

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# Railway Technology Avalanche

August 1, 2005 No. 9

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## Foreword

**Katsuji AKITA**  
President

It is now eighteen years since the foundation of Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI), an organization for railway research and testing operations, as part of the reformation of the former Japanese National Railways.

RTRI has made great contributions to the speed-up of the Shinkansen and conventional railways, as well as to the improvement in serviceability and safety of railway systems, etc. It has also played a major role in investigating the causes of natural disasters (earthquakes, etc.) and railway accidents and in providing technical support for measures to prevent such. In addition, RTRI has been working on the joint development of maglev with Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central). Last year, the national committee concluded: "Key technologies for putting maglev into practical use have been established." Thus, RTRI and JR Central have attained the goal of the development of maglev technology.

Railways of the 21st century are not only required to have the characteristics of railways (high speed, large capacity, safety, stability). Technological innovations are also required of them from a social standpoint, such as providing diverse new services to users and improving the response to global environmental problems.

In taking office as president of RTRI, I put up the following as the keywords for the activities of RTRI in the years ahead.

- Contribution to society by means of railway technologies
- Creation of railway technologies for the 21st century
- Base for the interchange of technologies

This year marks the start of RESEARCH 2005—the master plan that formulates the five-year activity policy of RTRI. In order for RTRI to contribute to society, including the railway companies, it is vital that we not only carry on steady, fundamental research activities but also positively tackle technology development from a new standpoint to bring about innovations.

Appointed to the post of president last April, I have assumed the heavy responsibility of steering RTRI at this time as it takes a bold leap. I am determined to fulfill my responsibility with all my might.



秋田 碓 志