

Establishment of the Railway International Standards Center

Hiroshi TANAKA

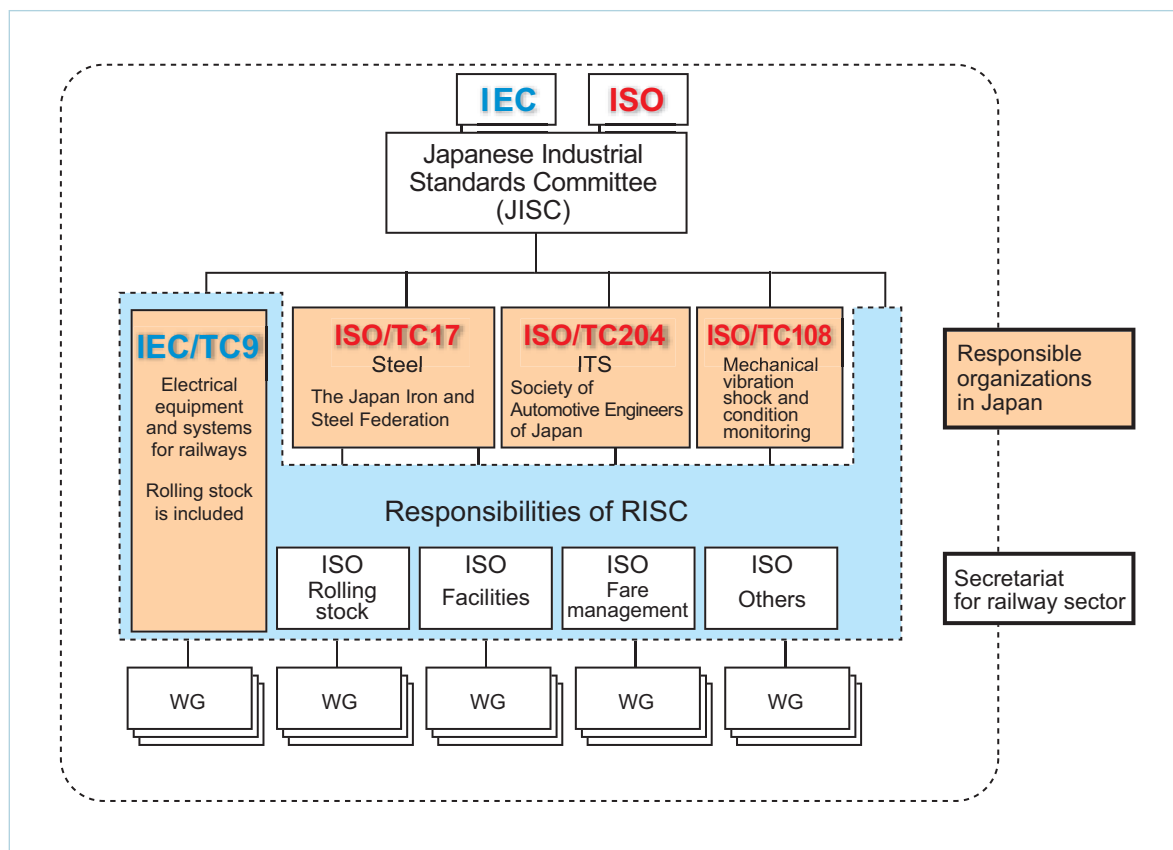
Director, Railway International Standards Center

The Railway International Standards Center (RISC) was established as part of the Railway Technical Research Institute on April 1st, 2010, when it began its programme of activities. Up to now, RTRI's role has been as a domestic council organization of IEC/TC9 (Electrical Equipment and Systems for Railways). Accordingly, RTRI has been getting to know the general circumstances with regard to IEC standards in the railway field and promoting council activities. However, in relation to the ISO standards, since there is no Railway Technical Committee in ISO, railway-related standards have been distributed under many technical committees, and management and discussions have involved different council organizations. This also applies in Japan. Thus, it has been difficult to grasp the railway-related ISO standards because they are not available in an integrated format.

The movement to promote international standardization is becoming increasingly active against a background of globalization of information and efforts to promote intra-European standardization as part of the process of European integration. Accordingly, there is a need to understand the circumstances surrounding international standards and to take prompt responses and actions in a timely manner, as this will work to the future advantage and further development of the Japanese Railway Industry. Ways to

respond to international standards were examined mainly by the leadership of the Japanese government, and now the RISC has been established in the premises of RTRI with the agreement of the government, railway enterprises, railway-related industries, and standards-related technical associations.

The RISC is a membership organization consisting of members from a wide range of bodies related to railway technologies. The RISC examines and proposes plans and strategies regarding international standards which are useful for the future development of the Japanese railway business. It also manages and reviews all activities relating to international standards in the railway field in a comprehensive way. Further, the RISC will also handle the collection and transmission of information, and support the future development of human resources related to international standards.



Review system for IEC/ISO standards in Japan