

Newsletter on the Latest Technologies Developed by RTRI

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Editorial Office: Ken-yusha, Inc. URL: http://www.kenf.or.jp/en/

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Railway Technology Avalanche

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Preface

Koichi GOTO

Director, International Affairs Division

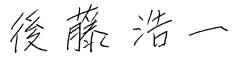
My name is Koichi GOTO. Since April 2010, I have been in charge as Director of the International Affairs Division. I returned to the Division after spending three years working at the Transport Information Technology Division. During those three years, the international activities of RTRI have undergone significant changes. One of these changes was the launch in April of the International Railway Standards Center as an independent organization. This was formed from an expanded subsidiary division of the International Affairs Division which dealt with international standards. Although the Center is responsible for activities relating to international standards, the International Affairs Division intends to co-operate with the Center, helping to provide Japan's contribution in the development of international standardization.

While Japan has achieved a state of advanced development with its domestic railway systems, it cannot be denied that activities focusing on overseas development were in some respects poor. Recently, the entire railway industry in Japan has started to give more serious thought to globalization and internationalization, and railway operators also consider it important to utilize Japanese railway technologies on a global basis.

It is also important to introduce advanced technologies from overseas. With the increase in the use of railways caused by the development of the world's railway technologies and the improvement in safety and convenience of rail travel, we can expect to see improvements with regard to global environmental problems such as CO₂ emissions and energy issues. In order to do this, however, co-operative activities on a world scale are essential. To this end,



RTRI has promoted joint studies under agreements with overseas railway R & D organizations. In addition to joint studies among three Asian railway research organizations (CARS: China Academy of Railway Science, KRRI: Korea Railroad Research Institute and RTRI), and joint studies with SNCF (French National Railway Corporation), RTRI started joint study activities with RSSB (Rail Safety and Standards Board) in the U.K. in 2008. I expect that these activities will lead to further progress, including the exchange of human resources, and that positive co-operation with railway-related organizations and academic organizations such as universities will contribute to the future development of railway technologies.



September 22, 2010 No.32