



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

September 22, 2010 No.32

GENERAL INFORMATION

■ Preface	
Koichi GOTO	185
■ Reviewing RESEARCH 2005	
Kiyotaka SEKI	186

ARTICLES

■ Improvement of the Interference Performance of Low-frequency Track Circuits by Simple Code Transmission	
Natsuki TERADA	187
■ A Study on the Practical Application of High Capacity Laser Communication Technology to Railways	
Shingo NAKAGAWA	188
■ Research Regarding New Environmental Load-Reducing Concrete Using Coal Ash by Employing Geopolymer Method	
Motoki UEHARA	189
■ Development of a Silent Steel Railway Bridge	
Tsutomu WATANABE	190

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.

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