Newsletter on the Latest Technologies Developed by RTRI

Railway Technology Avalanche

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Preface

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In recent years, the introduction of railway systems that are energy efficient and environmentally-friendly has been accelerated and has become a worldwide trend. Meanwhile, responses to technological progress and compliance with higher safety requirements are increasingly demanded in the railway business. Appropriate technical standards are essential to meet these requirements, and thus the development of international standards for the railway business has become increasingly important.

The Railway International Standards Center (RISC) of the Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI) was founded and commenced its activities on April 1, 2010.

RTRI has been acting as the national secretariat of the International Electrotechnical Commission's Technical Committee 9: Electrical equipment and systems for railways (IEC/TC9). We have thus been able to grasp quickly the overall trends relating to IEC standards for the rail industry. However, until now there has been no focused Technical Committee (TC) for railways in the International Standardization Organization (ISO), and therefore several different TCs have been covering the standards that relate to railways. In addition, various different national secretariats and representatives have managed the review work for international standardizations.

Since this situation has made it difficult to systematically monitor the railway-oriented ISO standards in Japan, there was a pressing need to establish a new organization to take an overall view of the ISO standards, in addition to performing the work as the national secretariat of IEC/TC9.

Our center was founded on consensus between the government, railway operators, railway-related industries and technical associations involved with the development of standards following discussions that mainly focused on the government's strategy concerning international standards. It is a membership organization and is composed of individuals who represent a broad spectrum of the railway industry and its technologies in Japan. We will propose plans and strategies for international standardization that will be valuable for the development of railway-related industries, and we will provide central administration and review international standards. We will also gather and disseminate information and support human resource development to aid in the promotion of international standardization.

I hope that our activities will contribute to the continued future development of the worldwide rail industry.

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