



Newsletter on the
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Developed by RTRI

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Preface

Toshiyuki AOKI

Director, Information Management Division

On March 12, 2011, operations were launched on a new 130-km Shinkansen line on Kyushu Island, the southernmost of the four major islands that form the Japanese Archipelago. In December 2010, an 82-km extension of the existing Shinkansen line linking the capital of Japan, Tokyo, to the Tohoku region was put into service. Further construction work on this extension will take the line further north to Hokkaido Island, the northernmost of the four major islands of Japan, through an undersea tunnel which has been used by local trains for 20 years. Furthermore, extension work on another Shinkansen line is progressing satisfactorily on Honshu Island, Japan's largest island, so that it will run right across Honshu, northwestward from Tokyo. With work in progress on all these lines, in four or five years time Japan's Shinkansen network will have a total length of about 3,000 km (Figure).

The total length of railway in Japan amounts to 27,500 km, including all the conventional lines and Shinkansen lines. Together, they have a total traffic volume of 1,100 million passenger-kilometers and a total freight volume of 60 million



tonne-kilometers.

As indicated by these figures, Japan is one of the countries in the world where railways are very heavily used. And, it is research and development carried out by the Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI) that supports Japan's railway sector in terms of safety, environmental performance, cost reduction, and user-friendliness. RTRI's mission includes the presentation to the world through various information channels of the results achieved by its R&D work. We issue Newsletters, the Quarterly Report of RTRI, and the Annual Report.

For the convenience of those who have yet to obtain our publications and periodicals, we have published these documents on our web site, <http://www.rtri.or.jp/>, where anybody can easily access and download the full texts of these documents in pdf format. Our home page also offers to the public a variety of content, such as the major results of research and development work.

On this home page, we are planning to upload and present more content which would be useful and interesting to all visitors. We welcome your access to our Web site.



Figure The Shinkansen network in Japan

青木俊幸