

## WCRR 2011: World Congress on Railway Research 2011 Successfully Completed

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WCRR 2011 was successfully held from May 22 to 26 in Lille, France, attracting more than 800 participants from 35 countries (Fig. 1). About 300 papers were presented in oral or poster sessions, including 32 papers by RTRI's researchers. The congress also featured a technical exhibition, in which 32 railway-related organizations took part (Fig. 2). This is the 9<sup>th</sup> of the WCRR congresses, which were first started in Paris in 1994 and hosted by French National Railways. This year, the event returned to France. RTRI is very proud to have been a member of the WCRR Organizing Committee from the beginning of this significant event. In 1992, RTRI held an international seminar on railway research, commemorating the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RTRI's inauguration. This seminar was considered to be one of the important activities which led to the launch of WCRR.

The main theme of WCRR 2011 was "Meeting the challenges for future mobility." In addition, eight challenges to be targeted for the improvement and development of future railways were set to promote discussions: Challenge A: A more and more energy efficient railway, B: An environmentally friendly railway, C: Increasing

freight capacity and services, D: A world of services for passengers, E: Bringing the territories closer together at higher speeds, F: Even more trains even more on time, G: An even more competitive and cost efficient railway and H: For an even safer and more secure railway. For each challenge, one best paper was selected and Dr. Chen from RTRI was given the best paper award for Challenge E (Fig. 3).

Apart from the paper presentation sessions, three Plenary Sessions (1: More services, more trains, 2: Economics and environments, 3: Meeting the challenges for future transport needs) were organized, to which notable railway experts from around the world were invited. From RTRI, Vice President Uchida made a presentation at Plenary Session 2 as a member of the Organizing Committee to solicit discussions of panelists, and President Tarumi joined Plenary Session 3 as one of the panelists (Fig. 4). The next WCRR will be held in Sydney from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013. RTRI would like to provide full support for organizing the congress. Please visit the homepage of WCRR 2013 (<http://www.wcrr2013.org/>).



Fig. 1 Opening Session



Fig. 2 RTRI's booth



Fig. 3 Dr. Chen (center)



Fig. 4 President Tarumi in Plenary Session 3