The 11th China-Korea-Japan Railway Research Technical Meeting

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The China Academy of Railway Sciences (CARS) hosted the 11th China-Korea-Japan Railway Research Technical Meeting in Beijing, China, on November 16th to 17th, 2011. Since 2001, the meeting has been held annually and hosted in rotation by the three railway research organizations, i.e., CARS, Korea Railroad Research Institute (KRRI) and Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI). Over 60 persons joined the meeting this time, including Mr. Kang, President of CARS with 39 participants therefrom, Mr. Hong, President of KRRI with 10 and Mr. Ichikawa, Executive Director of RTRI with 11 (Fig.1).

To fully exchange information on our latest respective research work at the meeting, keynote speeches were made by representatives from each organization. They reported on what is going on with their research activities. At the workshop, three sessions were organized individually in the categories of civil engineering and environmental issues, rolling stock technologies, and safety improvement. At the session on civil engineering, technologies developed by CARS and KRRI to reinforce railroad tracks and embankments were outlined for high-speed rail. Even in railroad industries, environmental management has become an issue. Railroad premises have been polluted with chemicals including heavy metals and petroleum used in railroad operation for a long time. China Railway, Japan Railways and KoRail have the same problems with railroad track pollution. KRRI and RTRI have developed screening methods for heavy metal and petroleum combined with a soil sampling technology to quickly find hot spots in railroad tracks.

At the rolling stock session, KRRI and RTRI presented technologies to observe the conditions of the contact between pantograph and catenary. The issue is one of the hottest topics in high-speed train operation within the three countries. At the safety session, we discussed strategies for safer railroad operation. We tried to find a way to successfully organize analysis of incidents and accidents taking place in railroad operation.

At the meeting, we decided to close six research themes at the end of 2011, promote two current projects and launch two new ones. We will meet in Tokyo in the autumn of 2012 to summarize the research results for the next year and encourage all researchers from the three organizations.

Fig.1 The participants in the 11th China-Korea-Japan Research Technical Meeting at Beijing in November 2011

Fig.2 Casual exchanges over drinks after the discussions at technical sessions

Fig.3 Discussions with co-workers in the meeting