

Activities of the Railway International Standards Center

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The Railway International Standards Center (hereinafter referred to as "the Center") centralizes the promotion of international standardization activities on railways in Japan. This report introduces a summary of the Center's activities in fiscal 2011.

Review of IEC and ISO standards

In the field of International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards, while acting as an IEC/Technical Committee 9 (TC9) national reviewing organization in Japan, the Center hosted the TC9 national committee meeting three times to discuss the status of the standard reviewing activities and the schedule of the Center in fiscal 2011. It also reviewed the revision of the railway standardization business plans in Japan and the reports of the TC9 management and Chairman's Advisory Group (CAG) meetings.

The Center held more than 70 national working committee meetings to review standards and delegated approximately 100 experts to international Working Groups.

The Center also plays the role of a national reviewing organization of ISO/TC17/Sub Committee 15 (SC15) and participates in the review of railway-related ISO standards dealt with under other standard reviewing organizations.

IEC/TC9 Plenary Meeting held in Japan

The IEC/TC9 Plenary Meeting was held in Japan for the first time in six years, with the venue changed from the original candidate city of Tokyo to Fukuoka, because of the potential effects of the accident at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis in March 2011.

A number of essential persons participated in the meeting, including 19 persons from seven European countries, one from Canada, seven from China, three from Korea, two from Singapore and 10 from Japan, or 42 members in total from 12 countries, including the TC9 Chairman (Italy), Secretary (France), Assistant Secretary (France) and Technical Officer. As the delegates from Korea, Singapore and other participating member (P-member) countries, who did not participate in the last session in Changsha, China, were also present this time, it is thought that the activities in Asia by the Center have been fruitful. The meeting at Fukuoka officially adopted 44 resolutions including one proposed by Japan on "the standardization work for the procedures to determine the requirement specifications for train control radio systems."

The technical visit to the Kumamoto Integrated Rolling Stock Base, conducted with the cooperation of JR Kyushu,

provided a chance for the participants to experience the excellence of Japanese railways.

Proposals on domestic standardization work

The Center has discussed the necessity to domestically standardize international standards already issued or to be issued and is now supporting their incorporation into Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS). There are eight standards related to rolling stock currently on the agenda.

Lecture classes on standardization

As a means of helping people to cope with international standardization, the Center conducts lecture classes on a regular basis for people working in the railway field. In fiscal 2011, the class was held five times to provide the attendees with the basic knowledge required for international standardization and disseminate the movement in recent years. Other themes include the basis of international standardization activities, the status of international standards under review and the development of the standards that will become important in the future.

Other activities

The Center is making efforts to promote exchanges with railway personnel in Japan, establish close relationships with overseas organizations for international standardization and promote mutual understanding and information/opinion exchanges, thereby helping to create better international standards.



IEC/TC9 Plenary Meeting