



Newsletter on the
Latest Technologies
Developed by RTRI

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Railway Technology Avalanche

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Preface

Koichi GOTO

Director, International Affairs Division

I like reading novels. I often read those originally written in foreign languages and translated into Japanese. Thanks to excellent translators, however, I can enjoy the worlds created in foreign novels and to understand cultures and societies in their background that are different from those in Japan. I appreciate the value of the diversity of cultures and sympathize with these different cultures fairly well though not completely, presumably because there is commonness in the styles of art and thinking of people among different countries. Although I have been enjoying cartoons and animations as well since my childhood, I never realized that they are also welcome in other countries. But now I know that there are long-loved comics in other countries, such as Bande Dessinée in the French-speaking regions and comics in America that Japanese people are also enjoying. There is universality in the basis of societies and personality of artists around the world. This holds true with railways as well. I often take trains in foreign countries, when I feel how pleasant it is to see not only sceneries through train windows but also the trains themselves, which are specific not to anywhere but certainly to the country or region where I am traveling. I wish for and believe such diversity be maintained for ever. There is also commonality behind this diversity. Not only are the physical phenomena in running trains the same but also tracks, rolling stock, signals and other matters related to railway technologies are very similar. Mutual introduction of superb technologies expands the scope of commonality. In fact, efforts to expand standardization aimed at the development and efficiency improvement of railways has become increasingly active in recent years.

The Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI) is now positively promoting joint research and exchanging human resources with overseas organizations, while releasing the outcomes from its research activities at a number of



international workshops/conferences, in various journals and through the publication of News Letters and Quarterly Reports (QRs). RTRI is also participating in the international standardization activities for railway technologies as a secretariat organization in Japan. For the World Congress on Railway Research scheduled in November 2013 (WCRR 2013), RTRI is deploying various activities as a member of the Organizing Committee to achieve a successful Congress. I wish to contribute to the development of railway technologies further to make a basis of high-level railway services rooted in various regions in the world through cooperation, exchange and transmission of information with the research organizations in other countries.

At the end of this note, I would like to advise those who are ardent admirers of novelist Haruki Murakami that a novel written anew by him was published this spring, the hero in which is closely related with railways. I hope that the novel is published as early as possible in your country.

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