Recent Trend of Research and Development on Materials for Railway Shunichi KUBO The major contribution of the materials technology can be expected in the following fields: the improvement in safety and reliability of the railway vehicles and tracks, the evaluation and the control methods for railway en

vironments such as noise and vibration, the innovation of maintenance technologies for structures, the reduction of railway vehicle energy consumption. This review introduces some of the recent results of research and devel

opment in these fields.