

Pioneering Cutting-Edge Technologies for the World's Railways

Message for the first issue of "Ascent"



Dr. Fuminao Okumura
Editor-in-chief
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The Railway Technical Research Institute has been conducting railway technical research and development in a wide variety of fields, and the outcomes have been utilized by a number of railway operators including the JR companies and manufacturers in Japan. In recent years, high-speed railways and urban transit systems have been playing more and more important roles in the world's transportation scene. I firmly believe that it will be even more important to use the technologies and expertise we have attained so far in order to further improve railways in the world. From this viewpoint, we launch this magazine "Ascent" in order to raise the global awareness and deepen the understanding of RTRI's activities among the world's rail-related people.

Last year, RTRI publicized its "VISION: RISING" message that described our mid- and long-term goals and strategies. This vision reads "we will develop innovative technologies to enhance the rail mode so that railways can contribute to the

creation of a happier society." The launch of this magazine fits the policy described by this vision. The name of this magazine "Ascent" reflects our strong intention that we should keep ascending to realize this vision.

We already have another magazine written in English, Quarterly Report (QR), that is published as a journal containing detailed research papers written by researchers of RTRI. Meanwhile, this magazine, unlike QR which mainly is intended to reach researchers and engineers, is targeting a broad base of readers including management people at rail-related companies in the world. Therefore, we would like to make this magazine easy-to-understand and appealing to the readers who are not necessarily experts in railway technologies.

If the world's rail-related people might be able to better understand what RTRI is doing through reading this magazine, we could not be happier.

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