

Both RTRI and Hitachi have a history of over 100 years. RTRI's predecessor organization, the Railway Investigation Center of the Imperial Railway Agency was established in 1907, and Hitachi was founded in 1910.

RTRI has described its vision as "develop innovative technologies to enhance the rail mode so that railways can contribute to the creation of a happier society" and Hitachi's mission statement is "contribute to society through the development of superior, original technology and products."

RTRI took the initiative in technical development of the world's first high-speed railway Shinkansen and laid the foundation for the rapid development of high-speed railways around the world. Later on, RTRI has been addressing complicated phenomena in wide-ranging technical fields of railway systems with analytical approaches and contributing the improvement in railway's safety and operational efficiency by providing solutions to them.

In the meantime, Hitachi has been constantly engaged in manufacturing railway products such as electric locomotive from the early days. In developing Shinkansen, it has also contributed to the success of Shinkansen



by manufacturing AC power feeding systems and vehicles for Shinkansen. Furthermore, as a general electric manufacturer, Hitachi has accumulated a wide range of element technologies covering electronics, mechanical engineering and information and communications and integrated them into railway vehicles, operation control systems such as COMTRAC, Computer Aided Traffic Control System, signaling systems, and seat-reservation systems, what we call MARS, Multi Access seat Reservation System. By providing these products and systems to railway operators, Hitachi has also been playing a key role in achieving the safety and efficiency in today's railway operation.

RTRI and Hitachi have been cooperating with each other in many fields of significant technical developments including Shinkansen technologies and MAGLEV, the Magnetically Levitated train

systems, and the two companies have potentials to produce further synergy effects through combining their strengths.

RTRI and JR companies have celebrated the 30th anniversary of privatization this year. On this milestone opportunity, we have planned a top-leader meeting of Hitachi and RTRI with the theme "Building the Future of Railways."

At this meeting, their talks extend from the values of safe and high-quality railways, the impacts of the information revolution, the railway research and development for the year 2050 and the energy optimization for the entire society, and both leaders communicate the concept that connecting people by railways will contribute to the society. We hope their talks will interest all the readers.

Ascent No.2 Special Issue June 2017

Editor-in-chief	Dr. Hideyuki Takai (Executive Vice President of RTRI)
Managing Editor	Mr. Ryuji Tsuchiya (Director of International Division of RTRI)
Publisher	Railway Technical Research Institute
Address	2-8-38 Hikari-cho, Kokubunji-shi, Tokyo 185-8540, JAPAN
URL	www.rtri.or.jp/eng
Contact us	Public Relations, Railway Technical Research Institute
Mail Address	www-admin@rtri.or.jp Copyright ©2017 Railway Technical Research Institute All rights reserved