

Current Status of WCRR2019



As previously reported in ASCENT No. 4 and No. 5, RTRI will host the 12th World Congress on Railway Research (WCRR 2019) that will take place in Tokyo, Japan, from October 28 to November 1, 2019, and will be held at the congress venue called the “Tokyo International Forum,” a multi-purpose exhibition center. This is the world’s largest international congress on railway research, proudly unprecedented in the sense that railway researchers and engineers gather together with managers and executives of railway operators in one congress.

At the executive committee meeting held in Nagahama, Japan in January 2019, 352 abstracts were selected for presentation at the congress out of 637 submissions and authors were requested to submit full papers by the end of May. Submitted full papers are currently under the review of session Chairpersons in order to secure the quality of the papers.

In this congress we are going to have 3 Plenary Sessions to which executives of major rail-related organizations in the world are invited as panelists. Plenary Session 1 moderated by Prof. Anson Jack of the University of Birmingham will focus on the role of

railway operators in enhancing the customer experience. Plenary Session 2 moderated by Mr. Nick Kingsley of Railway Gazette International will feature the contribution of railway suppliers in elevating the value of railways. Plenary Session 3 moderated by Prof. Roderick Smith of Imperial College London will be held on the theme of the research and development for the future of railways.

What makes this congress unique is that unlike previous WCRRs we are going to have what we call “Organized Sessions” as part of the parallel sessions. Organized Sessions are specially prepared sessions in which leading experts from respective fields are invited to be Chairpersons with the aim of promoting active and in-depth discussions on research topics attracting high interest in many countries around the world. Organized Sessions consist of invited papers as well as papers submitted from the public, and these sessions are characterized by a high sense of unity of contents and freedom of presentation format.

We are also preparing social events including a Welcome Reception on the evening of October 28, a Tokyo Bay reception on the evening of the 29th, a Gala Dinner on the evening of the 30th, eleven courses of technical visits, and three cultural visit courses during WCRR 2019.

We sincerely hope that this congress will be a great opportunity for railway professionals from around the world to share their ideas, expertise and experiences to enhance the customer experience and to make the railways a safer, more efficient and greener mode of transport.

<http://wccr2019.org>

For questions about WCRR, please contact: wccr2019@issjp.com

(Tetsuo Uzuka, General Manager, WCRR 2019 Headquarters)