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WCRR 2019 and the Role of Railway Research



I had the opportunity to work as the chairperson of the Executive Committee of the 12th World Congress on Railway Research (WCRR 2019), which was held in Tokyo from October 28th to November 1st, 2019. It really was a fascinating experience for me to be involved in the management of the world's largest congress dedicated to railway research.

This issue of *Ascent* magazine features WCRR 2019, which I believe, provided opportunities where railway delegates from around the world were able to share their views regarding the roles that research and development are expected to play in order to further elevate the value of railways.

WCRR 2019 covered a broad range of research fields including human factors, railway business management and transport economy. It also covered railway technologies regarding vehicles, track, power supply, signaling and communications, structures, train operation and environmental measures. It provided

railway company executives and researchers and engineers from different fields the opportunity to share information. WCRR 2019 was organized into Plenary Sessions, Organized Sessions, an Exhibition and a variety of Social Events as well as Oral and Interactive Poster Sessions.

The Plenary Sessions took the form of panel discussions moderated by top executives from distinguished rail-related organizations around the world. Having an eye on the optimum form of future railway systems, each panelist gave their views on the direction that railway research and development is to take, technical fields to be focused on and desirable ways for international cooperation.

This issue of *Ascent* magazine includes the articles contributed by the moderators of three Plenary Sessions. They describe the outline of the discussion carried out in each session, highlighting the roles of railway research and development to enhance the customer experience and elevate the value of railways.

I sincerely hope you will find this issue of *Ascent* magazine interesting and helpful.

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