

Message from Managing Editor Dr. Toru MIYAUCHI



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Under the main theme of “The Initiatives of its Technology Divisions 2”, this issue of *Ascent* focuses on four technology divisions – Disaster Prevention Technology Division, Signalling and Operation Systems Technology Division, Information and Communication Technology Division, and Materials Technology Division. As for the other divisions, they will be introduced in the next and subsequent issues.

RTRI has been able to travel to foreign countries again since May 8th, 2023, and so far, I have visited the Philippines, Thailand, France, and the UK. In those trips I really felt that going abroad provides precious opportunities to communicate face-to-face. Take, for example, my latest business trips to France and the UK where I was able to meet RTRI staff members who are working there. By talking with them in person, I learned a lot more about their situations than by communicating through contactless communication tools such as e-mail. I hope that we will have more opportunities than ever before to meet our readers face-to-face and to make our friendships even stronger.

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Front cover photo: Cherry blossoms and exhibited former Maglev linear test vehicles at RTRI