

# WCRR 2025 Held in Colorado Springs



Panel discussion  
(Executive Director Sogabe of RTRI, center)

The 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Railway Research (WCRR 2025), hosted by MxV Rail, was held from November 17 to 21, 2025, at The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, USA.

**Photo 1**  
**Photographs from the third panel discussion**  
**(November 19, 2025)**



Group photo  
(Executive Director Sogabe of RTRI, second from the right)

**Table 1 Panel discussions**

No.	Panel topics
1	The Innovation Pipeline: From Discovery to Deployment
2	Tech on Track: Advancing Railway Safety Through Innovation
3	Driving Excellence: Harnessing the Power of Research to Advance Railways
4	Turning Ideas into Impact: How Supplier Leadership is Shaping the Rail Industry's Future



**Photo 2**  
**Best Paper Award – Taku Nakamura,**  
**Senior Researcher, Power Supply**  
**Technology Division, RTRI**

○ **Background and objectives:**

The World Congress on Railway Research (WCRR) began with an international conference titled the “RTRI International Conference—Current Situation and Future of the Railways of the World,” which was held in October 1992 in Shinjuku, Tokyo, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI). Spurred by discussions among participants from countries such as France, the UK, and the USA, it was decided to hold an international congress on railway research on a rotating basis among different countries. Thus, ever since the first conference held in France in November 1994, WCRR has been held every few years. A committee comprising the Union Internationale des Chemins de fer

(UIC), MxV Rail in the USA, the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) in the UK, Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français (SNCF) in France, Deutsche Bahn (DB) in Germany, Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane (FS) in Italy, and RTRI have been operating the congress with the aim of enhancing the value of railway-related research, sharing technical information, and promoting international cooperation. The following is an overview of the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress.

○ **Congress theme:**

“Inspiring Innovative and Resilient Railways”.

○ **Participants:**

WCRR 2025 was attended by 384 participants from more than 25 countries, including 62 participants from Japan, with 24 from RTRI. WCRR 2025 was held concurrently with the 2025 International Heavy Haul Association conference (IHHA 2025), and was attended by a total of 1,114 participants from over 29 countries.

○ **Plenary sessions:**

Four plenary sessions were held featuring keynote speeches and panel discussions by WCRR committee members and representatives from railway operators, research organizations, industry suppliers, and other organizations (*Table 1*). In the third panel discussion on, “Driving Excellence: Harnessing the Power of Research to Advance Railways,” Executive Director Sogabe of RTRI took the stage on the panel and spoke on topics such as building a collaborative research framework to accelerate innovation and evidence-based countermeasures against natural hazards (*Photo 1*).

○ **Awards:**

Out of the 244 research presentations, seven were selected for the Best Paper Award. From RTRI, the paper, “Applicability of Contact Wire Splices for Shinkansen Overhead Contact Lines,” by Taku Nakamura, Senior Researcher, Power Supply Technology Division, was selected for the Best Paper Award (*Photo 2*).

○ **Exhibition:**

An exhibition was held in parallel with the conference, with participation from more than 40 companies and organizations. RTRI exhibited a JR Group booth and presented the digitalization initiatives of each JR company as well as the R&D activities of RTRI (*Photo 3*).

The next WCRR will be held in Poland in 2028 and will be hosted by the Polish State Railways.



**Photo 3 JR Group exhibition booth run by RTRI**