

# JAPAN Railway & Transport REVIEW

No.5 (July,1995)

Editorial

**Hard times for rail freight**

## Special Feature **Challenges in Rail Freight**

### **Transition of Railway Freight Transport in a Competitive Environment**

Kiyoshi Okada

Professor at Seijo University specializing in Transport Policy as well as Advisor to Japanese Ministry of Transport and Environment Agency

Here, the author outlines the course of railway freight transport in terms of the growth of the Japanese economy, and examines the future prospects of this form of transport which is being exposed to severe competition.

### **Freight 21**

— JR Freight Medium- and Long-Range Management plan

Takakuni Masuda Managing Director of JR Freight

This article reports on the background leading to formulation of the Freight 21 plan, the medium- and long-range management plan of Japan Freight Railway Co. (JR Freight) which is facing difficulties in an uncertain economic environment. The direction in which JR Freight is trying to move is also described.

### **New Railfreight Line from the Netherlands to Germany**

A. J. de Zoete Transport Consultant and Ex-head of Combined National and International Railfreight Division of Dutch Railways

The Dutch government is promoting the construction of a new freight railway called the Betuwe Railfreight Line (BRL), connecting Rotterdam with the main industrial centres of northern Germany. In this article, the author discusses the background leading to the construction of this line and the future role of railway freight transport in comparison with road transport.

### **Large Communication Project**

Peter Merz

Information Chief with General Management of Swiss Federal Railways for Alp Transit and Rail 2000 Projects

As an important traffic hub for north-south transport in Europe, Switzerland is promoting the advantages of combined rail/road transport. Centring around AlpTransit (the new Alps railway transversal), plans for which are currently in progress, this article looks at the future of Swiss railway transport and the European railway transport network.

### **American Railroads Delivering Lower Prices and High-Quality Service**

Edwin L. Harper President and Chief Executive Office of The Association of American Railroads

This article examines the factors by which railway freight transport established its position in the United States, and discusses its current status, which continues to develop in terms of both technologies and services. It also looks at the expected roles of railway freight transport in the future.

### **Reference**

- \* Changes in Modal Split of Freight Transport in Major Countries
- \* Changes in Rail Freight Tonnage by Commodity (Carload)
- \* Modal Split of Freight Transport in Japan (FY1992)

### **Another Perspective**

**By Train?**

Steve Emmer

Canadian Student of International Relations at the Asia University in Tokyo

The author, who has participated in the international exchange activities of the East Japan Railway Culture Foundation (EJRFCF) through the second Discovery of Japan by Foreign Students programme, writes of his experiences travelling through the Tohoku region of northern Japan by train for the first time. These impressions of a journey by rail are written by a person who hates the crowded trains of Tokyo.

### **People**

**Is He a Superman?**

The busy life of Mr Hiroshi Komatsu, is highlighted here. As well as being an employee of East Japan Railway Company (JR East), Komatsu has simultaneously devoted his life to non-governmental organization (NGO) activities such as serving as the leader of a well-digging group in Rwanda as a member of the Association to Aid Refugees (AAR).

### **Japanese Railway History 5 Construction of Local Railways**

Eiichi Aoki

Professor of Tokyo Gakugei University specializing in Transportation Geography, President of Japan Railway History Society

This article outlines the development of light railway policy from 1900 to the 1930s, the significance of the Revised Railway Construction Act, and the progress of rolling stock for branch lines. It also introduces Toshio Kinoshita, who gave fresh impetus to the reform of railway services at that time.

### **Topics**

**January to April 1995**

**Financial Results of Seven JR Companies**

**JR East Unveils Two New Shinkansen Stock**

**Aftermath of Great Hanshin Earthquake (Kobe-Osaka)**

### **Photostory**

**Recent JR Freight Trains**

**JR Freight Terminals**