

JRTR

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 Editorial **Keeping Rural Railways Running**

Feature **Rural Railways**

Maintaining Public Transport in Japan's Countryside—Burden Sharing and Subsidies

Mitsuhide Imashiro Professor at Daito Bunka University and
Author of *Outcome of the Privatisation of the Japanese National Railways*

Rural transport in Japan, which has just managed to be maintained by breaking up bus companies into smaller new companies, establishing third-sector railway companies, providing subsidies, etc., is at a major turning point with the government financial crisis. The author points out that new measures are required, mainly centring around local governments and residents.

Regional Rail in Low-Density Areas

Pierre Laconte Secretary General of The International Union of
Public Transport (UITP)

This article explains that, based on European cases, the crisis of public transport in lower-density areas must be overcome by measures oriented toward customers. The author advocates the revitalization of railway services by introducing smaller-scale railway business units that are closely connected to local areas, lighter vehicles, stations combined with post offices and shops, etc.

Railway Services for Rural Areas

John Welsby Chairman and CEO of British Rail

In the 1960s, Chairman Richard Beeching of the British Railways Board took the drastic measure of closing loss-making rural lines, while in the 1970s, the emphasis changed to maintaining the railway network through subsidies. Thereafter, rationalization and cost reduction measures were undertaken leading to the privatization of the national railways. This article outlines the measures taken with respect to the local lines of Britain's national railways, demonstrating how greatly these measures have changed over the past 30 years.

Regionalization in Public Short-Distance Passenger Traffic

Klaus Daubertshäuser Board Member of Deutsche Bahn AG

The author describes how, as an essential part of German railway reform, the responsibility for short-distance passenger rail traffic passed from the State to individual states on 1 January 1996. As a result, Deutsche Bahn AG (DB AG) now sells short-distance passenger rail traffic services to individual states at market prices. In addition, the introduction of new-model rolling stock and new services, which could not be achieved in the past, has now become possible.

Rail Transport in Rural France

Marie Andrée Buisson Professor at Lyon Lumiere University 2
specializing in Urban and Regional
Transport, as well as Author of *The European Cities and Internationalization*

In this article, the author describes how a law enacted in 1982 under the socialist government determined the basic framework of France's present transport policies, such as the people's 'right to transport', the responsibilities of the State with regard to transport, etc. However, she also points out that many problems still exist concerning transport in low-density areas, and suggests improvements through the effective combination of railways and roads.

Another Perspective The Historical Cities and Museums of Japan

Ratan Lal Chakraborty Professor of History at Dhaka
University and JR East Visiting
Scholar in 1996

Here, a professor of history from Bangladesh describes various aspects of Japanese culture as seen in historical cities and unique museums he visited during his stay in Japan.

People Japanese Rail Engineers in Cairo

Three Japanese railway engineers, who are actively providing technical guidance on vehicle maintenance at a rolling stock workshop for Cairo's Metro and tram services, enthusiastically discuss their ideas on international cooperation.

Japanese Railway History 8 Wartime Railways and Transport Policies

Yasuo Wakuda Executive Vice-chairman of Japan Air Charter
Co., Ltd.

This article describes how Japan's controlled economy during wartime led to the integration of railway companies, while the spread of automobiles was impeded by petrol rationing. However, the railways were hit by a deadly blow when mainland Japan became the target of air raids.

Topics **May to June 1996**

Photostory **JR Commuter Trains in Japan**
