

Editorial

Feature: 20 Years After JNR Privatization Vol. 2

Twenty Years After

Yoshitaka Fukui

It has been twenty years since JNR was divided and privatized. The bubble economy in the late 1980s favoured the newly founded JR companies, but after its burst in the early 90s, the three island JRs (JR Hokkaido, JR Shikoku and JR Kyushu) and JR Freight followed a difficult path, while the three major JRs on the highly populated main island have enjoyed growing profits. The finance of the three island JRs are supported by the so-called Management Stabilization Fund, and that of JR Freight by the low track access charge. Behind such complicated arrangements, the author finds backdoor subsidies provided by the profitable three major JRs. This article argues about possible methods of supporting rural passenger railways and rail freight services in the future, while estimating the positive results of JNR privatization.

Increasing Efforts to Strengthen Position as Leading Transportation Provider in Hokkaido

Hokkaido Railway Company (JR Hokkaido)
Corporate Planning Headquarters, Management Planning Department

This article surveys the twenty-year history of JR Hokkaido, based in the northernmost region of Japan, and discusses issues for its future.

20 Years of JR East—Making a Fresh Start to Shape the Future

East Japan Railway Company (JR East)
Management Planning Department

This article surveys the twenty-year history of JR East, based in the area extending from the northern Tohoku region to Shizuoka Prefecture, and discusses issues for its future.

Stable Growth through Expansion Based on Tokaido Shinkansen

Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central)

This article surveys the twenty-year history of JR Central, based in the central part of the main island of Honshu, and discusses issues for its future.

Our Goal—A Corporate Culture that Places Top Priority on Safety

West Japan Railway Company (JR West)
Corporate Communications Department

This article surveys the twenty-year history of JR West, based in the western part of the main island of Honshu, and discusses issues for its future.

20 Years of Working for Brighter Shikoku Future

Shikoku Railway Company (JR Shikoku)
Management Planning Department

This article surveys the twenty-year history of JR Shikoku, based on the island of Shikoku in southwestern Japan, and discusses issues for its future.

Achieving Sustainable Growth as Local Leading Company in Kyushu

Kyushu Railway Company (JR Kyushu)
Corporate Planning Headquarters, Management Planning Department

This article surveys the twenty-year history of JR Kyushu, based on Japan's southwestern island of Kyushu, and discusses issues for its future.

Celebrating 20 Years of JR Freight

Japan Freight Railway Company (JR Freight)
Naohiko Ito

This article surveys the twenty-year history of JR Freight, Japan's only nationwide freight railway, and discusses issues for its future.

Another Perspective: Chodofu, Natto and Camembert —Taiwan, An Interesting Cultural Crossroads

Alain Gondo-Lescaillet

Presently residing in Taiwan and working with the Taiwan High-Speed Railway Corporation, the author writes about the food cultures of Taiwan, transportation, and multicultural societies.

Topics May to August 2007

Photostory ■ The opening of the Railway Museum