

Technical Exchanges between RTRI and

The Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI) and the French National Railways (SNCF) have been conducting joint research since 1995. Five seminars have been held in Japan and France alternatively to present the results of joint research and exchange information. The sixth seminar was held in Tokyo in May of this year to report the fruits of the third-term research projects and propose plans for those of the fourth-term.

Also, the Franco-Japan Railway Technology Symposium was held jointly hosted by La Société Franco-Japonaise des Techniques Industrielles (SFJTI), the French embassy, SNCF, and RTRI. The French embassy proposed that symposium to mark the more than ten years since the start of joint research between RTRI and SNCF.

RTRI-SNCF Joint Research Seminar 2007

On May 22 and 23, the RTRI-SNCF Joint Research Seminar 2007 was held including 11 representatives invited from SNCF.

In the opening ceremony on the first day, Mr. Katsuji Akita, President of RTRI, welcomed the participants, stating that ties between RTRI and SNCF will become even stronger through the results of joint research, and that he expects those to contribute to the further development of rail technology in the two countries. He was followed by Mr. Louis-Marie Cléon, Scientific and Technical Director of SNCF, who expressed that RTRI is an extremely important partner for SNCF, and that he sees the research seminar as being extremely meaningful for both parties. Afterwards, those in charge of individual research projects for the fourth term exchanged information how to proceed for the future.

The following day, Dr. Norimichi Kumagai, Executive Director of RTRI and Mr. Cléon gave keynote addresses on the state of R&D at their respective organizations. Afterwards, researchers reported on joint research in the third term such as prediction of track settlement and monitoring in stations and ahead of trains through image recognition. Furthermore, nine projects were set for fourth-term joint research. Those included behaviors of overhead contact line pantographs at high-speed running, prevention of derailments, ride comfort

French National Railways

for standing passengers, and malfunction of shunting in the signaling circuit. Agreement was also reached to hold the next research seminar in France in Autumn 2009.



Signing ceremony for seminar minutes



Seminar participants

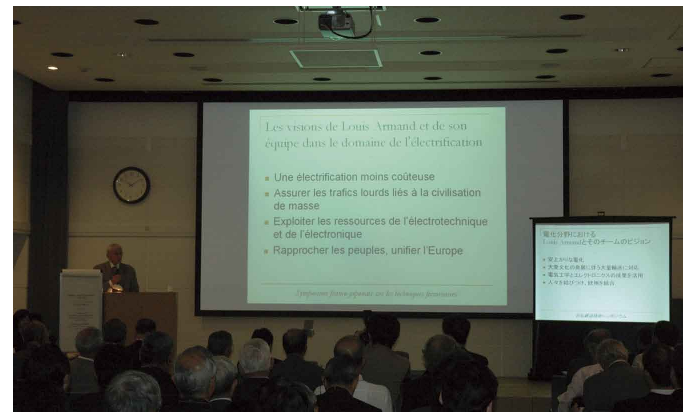
Franco-Japan Railway Technology Symposium

The Franco-Japan Railway Technology Symposium was held on May 25 under the theme of history and future of Franco-Japan railway technical exchange. The venue was

the Maison Franco-Japonaise in Ebisu, Tokyo, and a total of 160 participants attended.

Keynote speeches were made by Dr. Armand of the French embassy and Mr. Caron, honorary professor at the Université Sorbonne, Paris IV. Then, Mr. Metzler, Adviser to the Chairman of SNCF International, Mr. Suga, Chief Executive of Transport Culture Promotion Foundation, and Dr. Watanabe, Managing Director of SFTJI, lectured on the history of railway technology exchange covering topics such as use of AC power and high-speed rail. RTRI and SNCF reported the R & D of the future. East Japan Railway Company, Central Japan Railway Company and Japan Freight Railway Company presented their technological developments in the IT, the environment field and the freight sector, respectively.

A reception was held at the French ambassador's residence after the seminar. That gave participants from the two countries opportunity for even more personal interaction.



Franco-Japan Railway Technology Symposium venue