

Special
Topic 6

Toward the Development of Railways Throughout the World

Participation in Overseas Railway Projects

Amid an increasing awareness of global environmental issues and the economic growth of emerging economies, interest in railways as environmentally friendly public transportation systems is on the rise globally, and this has resulted in the current consideration of many railway projects around the world.

In November 2011, JR East established Japan International Consultants for Transportation Co., Ltd. (JIC), a company that provides consulting services to overseas railway companies. The company was formed jointly with West Japan Railway Company, Tokyo Metro Co., Ltd., and other domestic railway operators with good records of performance achievements and know-how regarding all kinds of rail transportation, including high-speed railways, urban railways, and freight railways.

With JIC at the head, we have several overseas railway consulting projects under way, including feasibility studies and design work. We will, furthermore, cooperate with both Japanese and foreign companies to participate in overseas railway projects, including both operational and maintenance aspects (planning, instructing, and supporting train operations and facility maintenance). Our first priority is Asia, where growth is remarkably strong, but we are involved in railway projects in all regions and are contributing to global railway development.

In addition to the previously established New York and Paris offices, we established the Brussels office, Belgium in November 2012, followed by the Singapore office (our first in Asia) in March 2013, for such purposes as gathering information on these overseas railway projects. These offices were followed by the establishment of the London office in an aim for further cooperation and collaboration between Japan and Europe.



Railway in Myanmar



Railway in Ghana

Expansion of Railcar Manufacturing Operations and Overseas Business Expansion

As part of our plan to establish railcar manufacturing as the fourth pillar of business management, making full use of the synergic effects of the entire JR East Group, we transferred our JR East railcar manufacturing operations in Niitsu Rolling Stock Factory to our Japan Transport Engineering Company (J-TREC) subsidiary and our Niitsu Rolling Stock Factory became J-TREC's Niitsu Plant in April 2014.

The JR East Group will continue to improve our comprehensive technological capabilities, which range from manufacturing to operations and maintenance, with an aim to expand the global market share of Japanese railcars. J-TREC in particular is pursuing a business strategy that demonstrates the advantages, such as high reliability and low lifecycle costs, of its stainless steel railcars, which are marketed under the brand name "sustina."

Concrete achievements in overseas business expansion include the decision to take part in railcar and ground equipment maintenance projects for Bangkok's Purple Line, which is currently under construction in Bangkok, and for J-TREC to manufacture and supply 21 three-car train sets for this service.



sustina



Railcar for the Purple Line

Global Human Resources Development Program—Ever Onward

Aiming for the nurturing of human resources capable of playing a part in overseas business expansion, JR East is promoting its Global Human Resources Development Program—Ever Onward, which provides such options as overseas study, overseas dispatch to public institutions and companies, and overseas railway consulting work on-the-job training (OJT).

Continuing from the previous year, in the fiscal year ended March 2014, 18 people selected through open application as overseas railway consulting work OJT trainees were dispatched to Delhi (India), Jakarta (Indonesia), Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam) and Yangon (Myanmar). We also added a new overseas experience program (short-term overseas study) designed to foster an open perspective and mind. In this overseas experience program, about 100 employees selected through open application were dispatched to 14 cities around the world to encourage them to acquire a broad perspective and the language skills required for future globalization through such means as lessons at language schools, home stays and problem solving programs.



Track maintenance in Myanmar
(PC sleeper replacement)



Lesson in a classroom