

## **Opening Remarks by Chairman Shukuri**

*for the JITI High Speed Rail Seminar  
held in Washington DC on October 3rd, 2018*

Ladies, gentlemen, and distinguished guests of transportation communities in the U.S. and Japan, good afternoon. I would like to express thanks for the attendance of His Excellency Mr. Shinsuke Sugiyama, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America, guests from the U.S. government's Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and the Japanese government's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT).

I am Masafumi Shukuri. I was appointed Chairman of the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute, JTTRI, this June. In the same month, Mr. Tsuchiya became the President of the Japan International Transport Institute, JITI, USA, which is a branch of JTTRI. I know that both of our organizations look forward to working with all of you in the future.

At first, let me introduce JTTRI briefly. In the 1960s, Japan's rapid economic growth caused several problems such as shortage in infrastructure and other common nuisances in the field of transportation and transport policy, causing the need for scientific approaches. To cope with the situation, in 1968, the government, business community and academia in Japan established our Institute to research comprehensive transport policies. Since then, the Institute has been consistently supporting transport policy development, providing beneficial knowledge to transport industries, and contributing to the growth of transportation infrastructure such as rail, seaports and airports.

JITI, USA was established in 1991, as a base for activities in the US for JTTRI.

Since then, JITI, USA has been holding seminars on transport related issues, inviting specialists from the US and Japan to disseminate their knowledge, thus contributing to the information exchange and mutual understanding between the transportation communities of both countries.

In today's seminar, specialists in high speed rail projects will discuss "the Future of High Speed Rail" in both the U.S. and Japan. High Speed Rail, HSR, has attracted worldwide attention as an energy efficient and environmentally friendly mass transport system, and HSR projects have been planned or carried out in many countries. Here in the United States, several mega HSR projects are being planned or implemented, including the Texas High Speed Rail Project, the Northeast Corridor Super Conducting Maglev Project, and the California High Speed Rail Project.

Since the appearance of the Japanese High-Speed Rail system, called "Shinkansen," in 1964, this "game changer" in the worldwide transportation market has kept the world's highest level of safety and reliability, and has implemented and maintained high speed travel, a large quantity of passengers, and a high train departure frequency. As a result, for 54 years the Japanese High - Speed Rail System has been supporting the economic development of Japan by transforming the economy and society, as well as people's lifestyles. In addition, the Super Conducting Maglev project connecting Tokyo and Nagoya is being carried out and will be completed in 2027.

Under these circumstances, we attest to the relevancy of today's seminar, and have invited keynote speakers from U.S. and Japan to give presentations on the merits of HSR as a mass high speed transport system, and to express their thoughts on current and prospective development and operations of HSR. We will also have the pleasure to hear their discussion on the future of high speed rail in the U.S.

In addition to being Chairman of JTTRI, I also serve as Chairman of the International High-speed Rail Association (IHRA) established in 2014. IHRA aims to contribute to the development of HSR around the world, through sharing information, knowledge and experiences of the “Shinkansen System” that we have sophisticated and evolved for more than 50 years.

Through the activities of IHRA, what we want to convey, in short, is that "Shinkansen is not only 'Transportation'. It is a 'Transformation' ".

I myself am looking forward to hearing the discussions of our specialists today.

And as a host, I believe that today's seminar is fruitful for those who are in charge of or interested in HSR in the U.S. and Japan.

Thank you very much.