

Editorial **The Right Place**

Feature **New Urban Transit Systems**

**New Urban Transit Systems
Reconsidered—A Better Transport
Environment for the Next Century**

Akira Nehashi Deputy Director of Planning, Japan Railway
Construction Public Corporation

Recent development in new types of guided urban transit systems, such as monorails, AGTs, linear-motor metros, LRTs, etc., have been remarkable. This article explains the technical features of each mode and makes an overall comparison between them, focusing on Japan. It also gives an overview of financial support to facilitate their construction. The author emphasizes the importance of suppressing motor transport and encouraging development of public (above all rail) transport systems in large cities.

Tokyo's New Waterfront Transit System

Kazuaki Iwata Director of Planning, Tokyo Metropolitan
Subway Construction Co.

A 12-km unmanned guided transport system nicknamed *Yurikamome* (seagull) opened in March 1996 from Tokyo's city centre to a new business centre on reclaimed land in Tokyo Bay. Many buildings in the new centre are still vacant due to the recession, but the wonderful views from *Yurikamome*'s elevated track attract many sightseers. The author was responsible for building *Yurikamome* and gives an evaluation after 2 years of operation.

Urban Transport in France

Georges Dobias Executive Vice-Chairman, Syndicat des
Transports Parisiens

France has developed many new technologies especially in the field of guided transport. The author, who is responsible for coordinating public transport in Paris and its suburbs, gives an overview of the developments in French guided public transport systems, including the fully automated conventional metro, and VAL, one of the world's first unmanned guided transit systems.

Trams Return to Manchester and Sheffield

Roderick A. Smith Professor, University of Sheffield

Manchester and Sheffield closed their tramways in the late 1940s and 1950s, but have recently built LRTs to revitalize their public transport. Manchester's *MetroLink* connects British Rail suburban services to the newly built cross-city route and enjoys high ridership. However, Sheffield's *SuperTram* started from a zero base and lacks connections with railway and bus stations, so it is facing difficulties. The author clarifies the conditions for a successful LRT from the British experience.

**The Metro Manila LRT System
—A Historical Perspective**

Gary L. Satre Railway journalist

An American resident of the Philippines describes Manila's almost forgotten prewar urban transport. In the late 19th century, Manila under Spanish control was served by horse-drawn trams nicknamed *Tranvia*. Early this century, under US control, a New-Jersey utility company called Meralco built an electric tram network (also nicknamed *Tranvia*) that was heavily damaged during WWII and never rebuilt. Jeepneys were the mainstay of Manila's postwar transport and LRT construction only started in the 1980s. Today's LRT routes follow some of the old *Tranvia* lines.

The Manila LRT System Evangeline M. Razon Light Rail Transit Authority, Philippines

**Taipei Prepares for New Mass-Transit Infrastructure
Sydney Light Rail—Resurgence of Trams
Vancouver *SkyTrain*—A Proven Success Story**

**Another Perspective
The Difference That Made a Difference in My Life**

Muslimah Shamsudin *KTM Berhad*

A female Malaysian Railways officer came to Japan as a trainee. Before arriving, she only knew Japan through samurai TV dramas and cartoons. As a faithful Muslim she wondered how she could adapt to the different foods and customs, but she gradually fitted into the Japanese way of life.

**Railway Technology Today 3
Railway Electric Power Feeding Systems**

Yasu Oura, Yoshifumi Mochinaga and Hiroki Nagasawa
Railway Technical Research Institute

In this third article in a 12-part series on trends in railway technology, experts from RTRI explain advanced techniques of supplying electric power to railways.

Obituary Mr Hideo Shima

Topics December 1997 to February 1998

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