

**JTTRI International Seminar on  
"Railway and Area Development in Thailand"  
Mr. Okuda's speech**

I am Tetsuya Okuda, Director-General, JTTRI.

I would like to thank all people today for participating this international seminar. I would also like to thank all the visitors, speakers, panel discussion moderator, and panelists.

First, it is important to coordinate between railway, development and the relevant area development. In the rapidly developing ASEAN and India regions, there are high needs for railway development. The JTTRI has set up a Working Group chaired by Prof. Shigeru Morichi, Director of the Policy Research Center of GRIPS who received the keynote speech today and we have been doing research on the Railway and Area Development.

We hope that you will have gained a deeper understanding of the importance of the integrated railway and area development through the presentation of the achievements and the panel discussion.

The JTTRI will hold international seminars in Manila on February 12 and in Jakarta on February 14. We will continue to deepen our research, including those achievements, to return the achievements to everyone and make international contribution on this field.

At the beginning, Mr. Shukuri, Chairman of the JTTRI introduced the plan to establish an office in Bangkok as a base for our activities in the ASEAN and India region.

We will utilize the office and Strengthen research activities in the transport and tourism fields in ASEAN and India region including Thailand, as well as dissemination of information and cooperation with relevant governments and research organizations. We would like to ask for your further advice and support.

As a matter of fact, I was formerly the Director of Railways at the MLIT. At that time, I received advice and support from Mr. Arkhom, the Former Minister of Transport.

We also thank Mr. Arkhom for helping us for the seminars and introducing tomorrow's seminar.

Tomorrow's topic will be one of JTTRI main research topics as well, so I hope

we will be able to repay our gratitude to Mr. Arkhom, with tomorrow's seminar.

In concluding this meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to express my hope that this seminar was useful for everyone who participated in the seminar today. I would also like to express my hope for your health and well-being.

Thank you very much.