

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

Thank you for introduction. As introduced, I am Okuda, Executive Director of the Institute.

First of all, we are truly grateful that so many of you were able to attend this international seminar today, and also would like to thank the honorable guests, the speakers, the panel discussion moderator and the panelists for their participation.

Regarding the theme of today's seminar, we have focused on development of both railways and along areas because it is very important that these two are in harmony with each other. In the rapidly developing ASEAN / India regions, there is a strong need for railway development. In order to contribute to such railway development in those regions utilizing Japan's experience, knowledge, technology and so on, we have set up a research group in our institute, chaired by Prof. Morichi who gave the keynote lecture today. This research group has been conducting research into development of railways and along areas.

We hope you have gained a deeper understanding of the importance of harmonious development through the keynote speech, the presentation of the results of studies, and the panel discussions.

An international seminar of the same theme was held in Bangkok last month on the 14th and another one will be held in Jakarta the day after tomorrow. Afterwards, we would like to make every effort to conduct further research and study on this theme, and also would like to feedback our new findings to all of you in the future, and so make a larger international contribution.

In conclusion, we hope that this seminar was useful to all participants, and wish you all the best.

Thank you very much.