

A Message from the Chairman



The accidents investigated by the Japan Transport Safety Board have great impacts on the lives of people, with last year being one in which such accidents occurred in all modes consisting of aircraft, railways, and marine transportation.

Regarding aircraft, the “Asiana Aircraft Accident at Hiroshima Airport (April)” and the “Small Aircraft Crash at Tokyo (July)” occurred; regarding railways, the “JR East Yamanote Line Dangerous Damage in Facilities (Fall of a Utility Pole on Tracks) Serious Incident (April)” occurred; and regarding marine transportation, the “Passenger Ferry Sunflower Daisetsu Fire Accident (July)” occurred, all of which were investigated by our Board.

Meanwhile, 2015 was also a year in which investigation reports for major accidents that had occurred in the past were published. Regarding marine transportation, the report for the “Collision Between Tank Landing Ship Osumi and Pleasure Boat Tobiuo” which occurred in January 2014 was published in February; and regarding railways, the report for the “JR Hakodate Line Freight Train Derailment” which occurred in September 2013 was published in January. Also, the report for the “JR Esashi Line Freight Train Derailments” which occurred in September 2012 and June 2014 were published in December, accompanied by the submission of our opinions on them to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism.

The current situation is that in addition to accidents like these which draw high social interest, the number of accidents both large and small that are occurring is still virtually endless. The JTSB is taking action to contribute to preventing the recurrence of accidents by enriching and advancing our investigations so that we can identify the causes of accidents accurately and quickly, and by distributing information on our accident investigation findings.

“JTSB 2016 Annual Report” presents summaries of investigation reports for accidents occurring in each of the modes consisting of aircraft, railway, and marine transportation, which have been published by the JTSB in 2015, as well as summaries of accidents and incidents that occurred in 2015 and have become new subjects of investigation, accompanied by statistical materials. It is our hope that through this report, readers will be able to discover effective lessons for accident prevention from their own individual perspectives.

I was appointed to the position of Chairman of the JTSB in February of this year, and am dedicating myself to the serious responsibility of working to prevent aircraft, railway, and marine accidents and reducing the damage that they cause.

Your understanding of, and cooperation with, our activities is deeply appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'K. Nakahashi'.

Kazuhiro Nakahashi
Chairman
Japan Transport Safety Board
July 2016