

## Chapter 2 Summary of major investigation activities in 2015

### 1 Statistics of accident investigation activities

In the case of occurrence of aircraft, railway, or marine accidents, the JTSB designates an investigator-in-charge and accident investigators who begin investigations to determine their causes. Since we can never know when or where accidents may occur, the personnel of the Board, including accident investigators, are making continuous efforts to be able to conduct investigation activities immediately when accidents should occur.

Various accidents occurred in 2015.

Regarding aircraft, 27 accidents occurred, such as an accident where an Airbus A320-200 operated by Asiana Airlines, Inc. veered off a runway at Hiroshima Airport while landing, leading to injuries for the passengers and crew in April; and the crash of a privately-owned Piper PA-46-350P into a residential area in Chofu City, Tokyo, catching fire and leading to casualties for people on board and residents of the area in July. We conducted 49 investigations during the past year, including the ongoing 22 investigations from the previous year. In addition, 9 serious incidents occurred, such as a serious incident that occurred on a runway of Naha Airport involving a Boeing 737-400 operated by Japan TransOcean Air Co., Ltd., a Boeing 737-800 operated by All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd., and a CH47 operated by the Japan Air Self-Defense Force in June. We conducted 23 serious incident investigations during the past year, including the ongoing 14 investigations from the previous year.



Of these we have published the investigation reports of 18 accidents and 11 incidents that completed the investigations.

Of the investigation reports that were published, we made recommendations to IHI Corporation and J-Air Co., Ltd. on the serious incident of a Bombardier CL-600-2B19 operated by J-Air Co., Ltd. (For details, please refer to “Chapter 1: Summary of Recommendations and Opinions Issued in 2015”, page 2.)

Regarding railways, 13 accidents occurred, such as the derailment of an East Japan Railway Company train on the Yonesaka Line between Uzen-Numazawa Station and Tenoko Station after climbing up snow that had accumulated on the tracks in January. We conducted 31 investigations during the past year, including the ongoing 18 investigations from the previous year. In addition, 3 serious incidents occurred, such as an incident where an electrification pole scheduled for removal fell onto and obstructed the tracks of the East Japan Railway Company Yamanote Line and Keihin Tohoku Line between Kanda Station and Akihabara Station. We conducted 5 serious incident investigations during the past year, including the ongoing 2 investigations from the previous year.

Of these we have published the investigation reports of 18 accidents and three incidents that

completed the investigation.



Of the investigation reports that were published, we stated our opinions to the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism based on the results of investigations into the derailment of a Japan Freight Railway Company train on the Esashi Line between Kamaya Station and Izumisawa Station that occurred on September 11, 2012, and 2 other derailment accidents occurring on the Esashi Line.

(For details, please refer to “Chapter 1: Summary of Recommendations and Opinions Issued in 2015”, page 7.)

Regarding marine, 793 accidents occurred, such as the fire on passenger ship Funada in April, and the fire on passenger ferry Sunflower Daisetsu in July. We conducted 1,475 investigations during the past year, including the ongoing 688 investigations from the previous year and excluding six non-applicable accidents due to the results of the initial investigations. Moreover, 106 incidents occurred; consequently, we conducted 192 investigations during the past year, including the ongoing 87 investigations from the previous year and excluding one non-applicable incident due to the result of the initial investigation.



(Provided by Japan Coast Guard)

Of these we have published the investigation reports of 862 accidents and 126 incidents that completed the investigation.

Accident investigators conduct investigations and invite comments from parties relevant to the cause of the accident; accordingly, they make draft recommendations or opinions regarding the measures to be taken to prevent the recurrence of accidents and to mitigate damage caused by accidents. Therefore, they shall endeavor to improve their level of skill and knowledge by participating in national and international training; moreover, they share accident information among international society by attending international conferences.

In the future, we will continue to carry out thorough investigations into the causes of aircraft, railway, and marine accidents, and will publish our investigation reports as soon as possible. Based on the results of our investigations, who will also make recommendations and state our opinions as necessary to related government institutions and parties relevant to the causes of accidents to prevent the recurrence of accidents.