

A Message from the Chairman



The Japan Transport Safety Board (JTSB) is a government organization tasked with investigating the causes of accidents and serious incidents in the transport sector. The sector is closely connected to all of our lives in the modes of aviation, railways and marine. Based on the outcome of these investigations, our goal is to improve transport safety and protect people's lives by safety recommendations to prevent accidents or to reduce damage when an accident occurs.

In 2016, many accidents and serious incidents still occurred throughout Japan. For example, there were the "Serious incident involving an aircraft of Korean Air at Haneda airport" in May in aviation mode, the "Kyusyu Shinkansen derailment due to the Kumamoto earthquake" in April in railways mode and the "Capsizing accident of a fishing vessel, Daifuku Maru" in December in marine mode. We are proceeding with these investigations.

In addition, the JTSB is striving to enhance and upgrade its system of investigation to ensure accurate and prompt investigation of accidents and serious incidents. We are also working hard to prevent a recurrence of such accidents or serious incidents by releasing information on the findings obtained in our investigations.

As well as the above, we publish investigation reports at the end of investigations. The 938 investigation reports published in 2016 included: the report in November on the "Accident involving an aircraft of Asiana Airlines (collision with ground facilities) at Hiroshima airport" in April 2015 in aviation mode; the report in July on the "Serious incident (fall of a utility pole on tracks) on JR Tohoku Line (Yamanote Line)" in April 2015 in railways mode; and the report in July on the "Capsizing accident of a fishing vessel, Genpuku Maru No.1" in December 2014 in marine mode. Among these, safety recommendations to take measures to enhance safety were issued in the investigation report of the Asiana Airlines accident based on the Chicago convention.

"JTSB Annual Report 2017" gives brief descriptions of accidents that occurred and became subject to investigation in 2016, and an outline of investigation reports published in 2016, with additional statistics and other data. I expect the Annual Report will provide useful lessons for improving safety in your various activities.

I hope I can count on your continued understanding and support in connection with JTSB activities in future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "K. Nakahashi". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kazuhiro Nakahashi
Chairman
Japan Transport Safety Board
June 2017