

## A Message from the Chairman



The Japan Transport Safety Board (JTSB) was established in October 2008 as an independent and multi transport-mode accident investigation agency through the merger of the Aircraft and Railway Accidents Investigation Commission (ARAIC) and the Japan Marine Accident Inquiry Agency (JMAIA). It aims to enhance the investigation function which is to determine the causes of aircraft, railway and marine accidents or incidents, and to prevent their recurrence.

Our mission is to contribute to preventing the occurrence of accidents and mitigating the damage caused by them, thus improving transport safety while raising public awareness, and thereby protecting the people's lives by accomplishing appropriate accident investigations which thoroughly unveil the causes of accidents and damages incidental to them, and urging the implementation of necessary policies and measures through the issuance of safety recommendations and opinions or provision of safety information. Since its establishment until 2011, the JTSB has published 72 aircraft investigation reports, 49 railway investigation reports, and 3,831 marine investigation reports, together with its recommendations and opinions where required.

This Annual Report is the summary of the JTSB activities in 2011. We are honored to be able to share with people around the world our work and activities in the Report.

In 2011, investigation reports on 12 accidents and 8 serious incidents were published regarding aviation, and an opinion on a fatal helicopter accident was issued to the Minister of the Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. In terms of railway safety, investigation reports on 8 accidents and 6 serious incidents were published, and a recommendation regarding a serious incident involving an electric tramway was issued to the operator. In marine safety, investigation reports on 1,027 accidents and 138 incidents were published with 16 recommendations and opinions issued.

2011 was also an important year in determining how the JTSB should operate in future.

Following a problem in connection with a previous investigation conducted by the ARAIC, a series of verification meetings involving victims, their families and experts were convened to carry out a verification of the investigation. After a year and a half of verification, the meeting issued a proposal regarding the ideal future of the JTSB in April 2011.

Responding to the proposal, we decided to work together for the improvement of our duties, and in July 2011 a panel of experts for improvement of duties was established. Subsequently, we established the Duty Improvement Action Plan and since then, we have been continuously working on duty improvement together with experts. Some of the specific improvements include a regular press conference conducted by the Chairman, and the establishment of the Victims and their Families Liaison Office so that accident investigation information can be provided to accident victims in a timely and appropriate manner.

In this Annual Report, we provide introductions in relation to the JTSB's activities in general. I hope that the Annual Report will provide people with a better understanding of the JTSB and also contribute to improving the safety of international transport.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norihiro Goto' in a cursive style.

Norihiro Goto  
Chairman