Feature

Railway and ICT (Information and Communication Technology)

• ‘JR East App’ for Smartphones
• Tokyo Metro Efforts in Utilization of Open Data
• Innovation in Railway Maintenance utilizing Information and Communication Technology
  (Smart Maintenance Initiative)

Special Feature

• Hosting the 9th UIC World Congress on High-speed rail

http://www.jrtr.net/
Railway Operational Information

The significance of modes of transportation varies according to differences in society and culture of countries. And even within a country, how modes of transportation are used differs between urban and provincial areas according to the level of propagation. Looking at movement of people, not freight, provincial areas of Japan rely relatively more on automobiles instead of railways, but the situation is the opposite in urban areas. Even amongst urban areas, those with private railways and subways (which are often municipally operated) have an overwhelmingly larger share of transport made up by railways. People rely on railways as a means of transportation closely tied to their lives in areas such as commuting to work or school. For example, doctors and nurses with surgery scheduled, managers with business negotiations and contracts scheduled, and students headed to entrance exams almost always rely on railways in urban areas almost to a critical level. However, railways unfortunately are not always operated smoothly every day. Sometimes, there are chronic delays and cancellations. In recent years, it has become possible for railway operators to predict within a certain range of allowance from years of experience disruptions to operations—rolling stock failures, injury accidents, power outages, and the like—and time until restoration of operations if details can be identified. Alternate means of transport can now be provided quickly. The issue to overcome is how to convey that information to passengers. Informing at stations is the surest method, but the very act of passengers going to the station could likely involve waste of time and money. It would be best to have an environment where passengers could come in contact with the information wherever they are. It is very significant that a clue to a solution for how to provide the information needed most can be seen in utilization of smartphone apps.

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