

Initiatives toward International Distribution of JR Freight

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Introduction to JR Freight

JR Freight, being a company that deals only in freight transportation and that was launched in 1987 accompanying the privatization and separation of Japanese National Railways, differs from the JR passenger companies that were separated on a regional basis and conducts its operations on a nationwide network. It operates some 599 trains per day, centered on high-speed container trains, at handling railway stations in some 259 locations.

Initiatives toward International Distribution

At JR Freight in June 2002, in order to strengthen initiatives toward the transportation on Japanese railways of import and export freight, which had increased via the shifting overseas of Japanese domestic plants, etc., we set up a unit to deal solely with import and export freight. The "Sea and Rail Service," that combines railways and ships which is developing between Japan and China and Japan and the ROK, is a service which has a high time-reliability at high speed which incorporates the advantages to date of both air and maritime transportation, and combines this with frequency. We provide six maritime routes between Japan and China, and four between Japan and the ROK, with services that combine mainly with high-speed regular services of ferries and ro-ro ferries using small 12-foot containers, and currently utilizing the ports of Hakata, Shimonoseki, Kobe, Osaka, Yokohama, and Tokyo. It has the convenience of being usable one-way for door-to-door transport between JR Freight's container-handling network in some 140 places nationwide and China and the ROK, and with the air freight of electrical and electronic components, etc., as the main target, we are increasing our results for freight handled every year. In addition, between Japan and the ROK in 2007, via a tie-up with Korail, we arranged an R-S-R (rail-sea-rail) service system conducting rail transportation from Busanjin Station in the vicinity of the Port of Busan to a freight terminal on the outskirts of Seoul. Thereby, we have been able to construct a service with the least environmental burden for international transportation, and we have become able to operate JR Freight's 12-foot containers on railways overseas as well.

In 2009, for the improvement of the convenience of the international transportation of the customer, at the JR Freight group, in order that consistent arrangements can be carried out, we have made the International Freight Railway System Co., Ltd., which has forwarding functions, a 100% subsidiary company and accordingly changed the name to JR Freight International Inc., have been undertaking the evolution of combined operations with the main International Cargo Development Department, and are increasingly strengthening the systems involved in import and export freight.

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