UK Japan Symposium on High Speed Rails, University of Birmingham, 21 September 2018

This symposium attracted about 140 participants over the course of the event from Academia, Rail Industry, Research Institutions, Rail Suppliers and Local school students. The breakdown can be seen below. In addition, Facebook Live feeds have already been watched by more than 2,100 online viewers worldwide.

There were 3 invited speakers from Japan and 5 from the U.K. Also, an additional 3 oral presentations were given from practical engineers, researchers and students. A poster session (with 12 research posters) was organized during lunch that demonstrated a lot of interest in this research theme of life cycle management and sustainability. The knowledge and experience of high speed rails' life cycle management and sustainability were directly and actively disseminated from presenters to the audience. Conference proceedings will be published and registered for open access Digital Object Identification (DOI). It will publish short papers drawn from the presentation and poster sessions. Every paper will be peer reviewed by industry experts and research scholars. The proceedings will create long-term and sustainable knowledge transfer to industry and the public. It will be made 'gold' open access via the Multi Disciplinary Publishing Institute's proceedings platform and will serve as an open-science medium to connect researchers and industry practitioners.

This symposium overall created formal and informal arenas for researchers, government officials, policy makers, engineers, consultants, students and interested parties to meet and build connections and relationships. As the symposium was hosted at the University of Birmingham, the surrounding city is well served by public transport (buses and trains) and fully accessible by car. Birmingham is the 2nd largest city in the U.K. and is well connected by trains and Birmingham international airport. The city centre has recently been revamped as a modern and vibrant mega city. Birmingham has benefitted from this symposium by showcasing its vibrant city and urbanization and has propelled itself as a hub for research and education for high speed rails technology. After this symposium a technical visit to Japan will be arranged to really satisfy the goal to build new collaboration. The collaboration will enable joint research grants and projects related to this very important and timely topic in the future. Proposals to the JSPS-EPSRC Core-to-Core coordinated call will be considered for future joint research. **Dr Sak Kaewunruen**

Symposium Attendees