



# 65 Years of Publishing Activity of OSJD Bulletin



Mirosław ANTONOWICZ,  
Sergey KABENKOV

*The OSJD Bulletin – the edition of the Organization for Co-Operation between Railways – celebrates its 65th anniversary. Being of the same age as the organisation itself, Bulletin has been diligently informing about its activities, acquainted the readers with all their aspects, and with the achievements of its members, revealed the most important projects, popularised scientific and engineering ideas.*

*With the kind consent of our colleagues from editorial board of OSJD Bulletin, we present the main content of the article by the OSJD Committee Chairman Mirosław Antonowicz and Editor-in-Chief Sergey Kabenkov published in the anniversary issue.*

Keywords: OSJD, OSJD Bulletin, railways.

**The double issue 1–2 (2022) of OSJD Bulletin contains material dedicated to the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publishing activities.**

The welcome message by the OSJD Committee Chairman Mirosław Antonowicz and Editor-in-Chief Sergey Kabenkov highlights that more than 380 issues have been published since the inauguration of the Bulletin.

Throughout its long history, the multilingual technical and economic information specialised journal has been fulfilling its most important function as an OSJD press organ with dignity and to the full extent, having become a kind of «spotlight» for popularising the OSJD activities in the field of development and improvement of international railway transport, highlighting on its pages all the most important events both in the activities of the Organisation and in the life of the railways of the OSJD member countries, observers and affiliated enterprises, as well as

other international organisations being partners for cooperation.

## Foundation, Background and Development of the OSJD Bulletin

The journal was founded in accordance with the decision of session II of the OSJD Ministerial Conference held in Beijing in 1957, where the Minister of Railways of the USSR Boris Beshchev proposed to start publishing the OSJD Bulletin journal in Chinese, German and Russian languages to popularise the decisions and recommendations adopted by the OSJD governing bodies, as well as for the exchange of information on the experience and achievements of the railways of the OSJD member countries. The journal began to be published in 1958 6 times a year in Chinese, German and Russian, and since January 2015 the German version has been replaced by the English one.

For citation: Antonowicz, M., Kabenkov, S. Yu. 65 Years of Publishing Activity of OSJD Bulletin. World of Transport and Transportation, 2022, Vol. 20, Iss. 3 (100), pp. 222–229. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30932/1992-3252-2022-20-3-13>.

*The text of the article in Russian is published in the first part of the issue.*

*Текст статьи на русском языке публикуется в первой части данного выпуска.*

For 60 years, the journal, like the entire Organisation as a whole, has managed to undergo the important stages of formation and development. The journal has played and continues to play an important role in popularising the activities and decisions of the Organisation for Co-Operation between Railways, bringing together the personnel of railways in all OSJD member countries.

The very first publication in the first issue of the journal in 1958 (the first editor-in-chief at that time was Heinz Heiss – a representative from Germany) was an article by the Chairman of the OSJD Committee – representative of the Polish State Railways Henryk Drażkiewicz dedicated to the OSJD foundation, its structure and main fields of activities.

Subsequently, the journal published on its pages the articles by the ministers in charge of railway transport in the OSJD member countries, heads of OSJD railways, OSJD observers and affiliated enterprises, governing officials and members of the OSJD Committee, specialists and experts in the field of railway transport from all OSJD member states.

At the initial stage of its functioning, the journal was printed in black and white option using a letterpress (or typographical) printing technology. The simplicity of the printing process using this technology, the ease of making a printing plate, clear lettering, even strokes and contours of letterpress prints have made letterpress printing method dominant for a long time.

With the development of digital technologies and computerisation in all areas of human activity the new tendencies in the journal printing and publication appeared in the late 90s – early 2000s




Pic. 1. Henryk Drażkiewicz.

(the chief editors at that period were A. Glonti, L. Slobodinyuk and A. Filimonov): there was a transition to electronic typing of articles using personal computers, which greatly improved, accelerated and simplified the preparation of materials for their subsequent printing.

The technology of printing itself has also changed, with modern digital types of offset printing being introduced: computer-to-plate or CtP. Greater attention has also been paid to the journal's exterior design, where digital photo technologies have become more widely used, thus leading to the creation of its existing design: colourful, variegated, using photographic pictures illustrating the main topics of the articles in each issue. The use of the latest computer technologies has made it possible to improve the quality of editorial and publishing preparation, illustrative material, design, technical and printing performance, as well as the efficiency and relevance of the information provided.

It is worth mentioning that the Editorial Board of the Journal, represented by the highest-

### OSJD: 65 Years in Service of the World's Railways 1956-2021



*2021 is a significant year for the Organisation for Co-Operation between Railways (OSJD): it turns 65. All those years of OSJD's continuous development were filled with significant events and changes both in the Organisation's activities and in the economic and geopolitical situation in the Eurasian space.*

*Mirosław ANTONOWICZ, Chairman of the OSJD Committee, dwells in his article on the stages the OSJD has passed through in its development in the course of 65 years of its activities, as well as on the challenges and tasks it is facing at present.*

Pic. 2. In 2021, OSJD celebrated its 65th anniversary, to celebrate this event the OSJD Bulletin published in its issue 1–2 (2021) an article by Mirosław Antonowicz, Chairman of the OSJD Committee, dedicated to the history in the Organisation's development and its activities at the present stage.





*Pic. 3. Front covers of the issues of OSJD Bulletin of previous years.*

level specialists of various OSJD commissions and PWGs from various countries, makes an invaluable contribution to the preparation, publication and further distribution of materials during various events in all corners of the Eurasian space. Of great importance and value is the contribution of the OSJD Committee members, representatives of the ministries and railways of the OSJD member countries, observers and affiliated enterprises, cooperation partners from other international organisations – UNECE, UNESCAP, EU (DG MOVE), OTIF, CIT, EAEU, CSZT, UIC, ERA, CCTT, WCO, UPU, FIATA, FTE, FERRMED, ECO, etc., from other publishing houses of the Eurasian space – Bahnfachverlag (Germany), Gudok, RZD-Partner, Eurasia-Vesti, Railways of the World, World of Transport and Transportation, Innovations of Transport, Educational and Methodological Centre for Railway Transport (UMC ZDT) (Russia), Zheleznopoten Transport (Bulgaria) and others.

In connection with the ever-increasing role of the English language in international relations, starting from January 2015, the journal has begun to be published in English, replacing the German version. All this, together with the improved quality of the content of the articles, contributed to an increased demand among readers in various

countries and to an increased competitiveness among railway periodicals.

### Today's OSJD Bulletin

In recent years, following the requirements of the time and progress in the field of digital technologies, the editorial staff of the journal was also entrusted with the task of providing the operation of the OSJD Website, which made it possible not only to more quickly inform readers about the most important events in the activities of OSJD and its member railways, but also ensure the exchange of relevant documents for the fulfilment of the tasks set by the working bodies as part of the implementation of their work plans and programmes. The information relating to the structure, membership, tasks and activities of OSJD is published on the Website, all documents are posted up to date: SMPS and SMGS Agreements and their Service Instructions, Rules for the use of passenger coaches (PPW) and freight wagons (PGW) in international traffic, tariffs (MPT, MTT and ETT), Harmonised Commodity Code (GNG), contracts, agreements, memoranda, leaflets and all other documents adopted and valid within the OSJD framework.

Currently, the journal is issued in three languages (Russian, Chinese and English)



Fig. 4. Home page of the OSJD Website, supported in Russian, Chinese and English.

6 times a year with the following information related to:

- decisions and recommendations adopted by the sessions of the Ministerial Conference, meetings of the Conference of General Directors and the OSJD Committee;

- the meetings of the OSJD working bodies and their main outcomes;

- cooperation between railways in the field of international railway traffic between the countries of Europe and Asia, including combined transport;

- the progress of the International Conference on the adoption of the text of

the Convention on Direct International Railway Traffic;

- issues connected with the transport policy, economic, legal and environmental aspects of railway transport;

- aspects arising from conventions and agreements on international passenger and freight traffic by rail and other legal documents and tools related to the international transportation, including the rules and tariffs;

- the interaction of railways in the field of the rules for the use of rolling stock and rules for the technical operation of lines on which international transportation is carried out;

- the topical issues of improvement and development of railway transport, on the activities of the railways of the OSJD member countries, as well as OSJD observers and affiliated enterprises and other railways;

- cooperation and joint work of OSJD with other international organisations dealing with railway transport issues;

- the exchange of experience between the ministries of transport and railways in the field of operational activities, introduction of new equipment and advanced technologies, including the digitalisation of the transportation process, improving economic performance, as well as other issues;

- reference information for practical use by the OSJD specialists and experts.

In recent years, due to the structural and economic changes taking place all over the world, including on the railways of the OSJD member countries, with the transition of railway transport to market relations, more and more articles began to appear related to financial and economic activities and structural reforms of the railways.

Meanwhile, recently such new subjects of current interest are covered as «Work on the adoption of the text of the Convention on Direct International Railway Traffic», «Improving the competitiveness of railway transport», «Facilitation of border crossing procedures in international railway passenger and freight traffic», «Work on the improvement of transport law and on the creation of a unified transport law», «Expanding the use of the unified CIM/SMGS consignment note for international freight railway traffic», «International experience», «Logistics», «High-speed traffic», «Environmental protection and traffic safety», «Digital technologies and digitalisation processes in transport».

The Bulletin is distributed in the OSJD member countries, dispatched to the OSJD







Pic. 5. Editions published by OSJD Bulletin.



Pic. 6. In 2014 and 2016, the OSJD Committee published two collected works with articles and materials under the titles «Best Practices for Improving the Efficiency of International Railway Transport in the Eurasian Space» and «Directions for the Strategic Development of Railway Transport in the OSJD Member Countries».

observers and affiliated enterprises, subscribers, as well as forwarded within the framework of information exchange to other international organisations and publishing houses dealing with the railway transport industry – in total it is distributed in more than 50 countries of the world.

Of course, the functioning of the OSJD Bulletin journal would not have been possible without active support from the ministries of transport and all railways of the OSJD member countries, observers and affiliated enterprises, without interaction with the international organisations in the field of transport and other publishing houses dealing with the railway transport industry. Therefore, it is worth expressing gratitude to everyone for the assistance and cooperation provided.

### Events to Commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OSJD Bulletin

On 8–9 December 2008, the OSJD Committee in Warsaw hosted 2 events dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the journal and the release of its 300<sup>th</sup> issue: an anniversary meeting of the Editorial Board and the International Seminar on the subject «The role of specialised railway periodicals in the development of railways». The events were attended by the heads and members of the OSJD Committee, members of the Editorial Board of the OSJD Bulletin, chief editors and representatives of specialised railway publishing houses, press services, railways and international organisations in the field of transport. In total, more than 50 delegates from 27 countries attended the first-in-the-history-of-railways forum of



*Pic. 7. Participants in the jubilee meeting of the Editorial Board of the OSJD Bulletin journal and in the international workshop on the subject «Role of Specialised Railway Periodicals in the Development of Railways», dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the journal foundation and publication of its 300th issue (08-09.12.2008, OSJD Committee).*

the railway publishing houses of the OSJD member and observer countries.

The representatives of the railway media made presentations and reports on the work of their publishing houses. As part of the discussions and exchange of opinions, close business relations were established between the representatives of the railway media branch from various countries, which further contributed to a more efficient and high-quality exchange of information in the field of operation and development of railways in the OSJD area.

All delegates expressed their great gratitude to the OSJD Committee and the editorial staff of the Bulletin for the great work being done to popularise the activities of the OSJD and its member railways, as well as for bringing together the specialised media in the field of railway transport. They were unanimous in their opinion that the exchange of experience between industry publishers was of vital importance, as the market conditions they had to live in required a strong competition for attracting more customers, readership, modern technologies, distribution and dispatch. Only by strengthening cooperation and interaction, by combining efforts aimed at popularising the activities of the railways of the OSJD member countries, it is possible to reach an increased level of competitiveness of railway transport, attract clientele for passenger and freight traffic onto the railways, and develop railway transportation both in international traffic between Europe and Asia as well as within the countries.

## **International Recognition of the OSJD Bulletin**

The «OSJD Bulletin» journal has repeatedly become a winner of various international prizes and rewards in the field of publishing multilingual specialised railway periodicals, including of the International Transport Award «Golden Chariot», as well as in the International Competition of Publications «University Book – 2019», etc.

Within the framework of the XXVIII International Book Fair, which was held in Moscow from 2 till 6 September 2015, on 3 September a solemn ceremony of awarding the winners of the III International Competition «University Book – 2015» was held, where the OSJD Committee was awarded diplomas of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree and a medal in the branch of «Equipment and technology of land transport» in the nominations: «The best printing publication» – for the publication of the technical and economic information journal «OSJD Bulletin» and «The best foreign periodical on railway transport» – for highlighting topical problems of the railway transport evolution and development.

On 6 September 2019, as part of the business programme of the XXXII Moscow International Book Fair at VDNH in Moscow, a solemn meeting and award ceremony for the winners of the International Competition of Publications «University Book – 2019» in the branch of «Material and technology of land transport» were held,





*Pic. 8. Diplomas of the 1st degree and a medal awarded to the OSJD Committee as a winner in the III International Competition «University Book – 2015».*



*Pic. 9. Awards for OSJD for the best printed periodicals in foreign languages in the field of «Material and technology of land transport».*



*Pic. 10. Diploma of the 1st degree in the nomination «Best in Printing Quality» following the outcomes of the VI International Competition of periodicals «University Book – 2021 / Transport».*

where the Organisation for Co-Operation between Railways (OSJD) was awarded highranking awards and won the title of laureate in the field of publishing specialised railway periodicals in foreign languages (Russian, Chinese and English), including: «Report on the Activities of the Organisation for Co-Operation between Railways», the journal «OSJD Bulletin» and a collection of articles and works «Directions of Strategic Development of Railway Transport in the OSJD Member Countries».

On 16 November 2021, within the framework of the exhibition «Transport of Russia» (16–18 November, Moscow), the award ceremony for the winners of the VI International Competition «University Book – 2021» of publications in the field of «Transport» was held, in which the «OSJD Bulletin» journal was awarded a Diploma of the 1st degree in the nomination «Best Printing Quality».





*Pic. 11. Participants in the joint meeting of the UIC-OSJD Terminology Group (Paris, October 2015).*

### **Cooperation in the Field of Multilingual Terminology Unification**

For many years, the editorial staff of the journal has been cooperating with the UIC Terminology Group in the field of producing thematic thesauri on railway subjects, including electronic ones, in order to generalise and standardise the terminology used in translations into working languages in international cooperation activities in various areas of railway transport. Since the OSJD Bulletin is published in three languages (Russian, Chinese and English), this work is of great importance for the unification and standardisation of terminology when translating articles and information in these languages in terms of solving technical issues of functioning and improving electronic dictionaries, developing terminology management software, practical use of electronic dictionaries in work, etc.

2022, like the previous two years, began in the difficult conditions of the pandemic and related restrictions. Despite this, the activities of

the Organisation and the railways of its member countries continue to be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and programmes of work, including thanks to the use of modern technologies and means of communications. During this difficult period, OSJD demonstrates its stability and ability to adapt flexibly to the new operating conditions. The OSJD Bulletin continues its work to popularise the activities of the Organisation in these difficult conditions, and we hope that our readers will continue to be able to satisfy their information needs in the field of railway transport on the journal's pages.

Of course, the publication of the OSJD Bulletin would not have been possible without the active support and participation of the management, specialists and experts of the ministries and railways of the OSJD member countries, members and working staff of the OSJD Committee members of the editorial board of the journal, as well as representatives of OSJD observers and affiliated enterprises and organisations – partners for cooperation. ●

