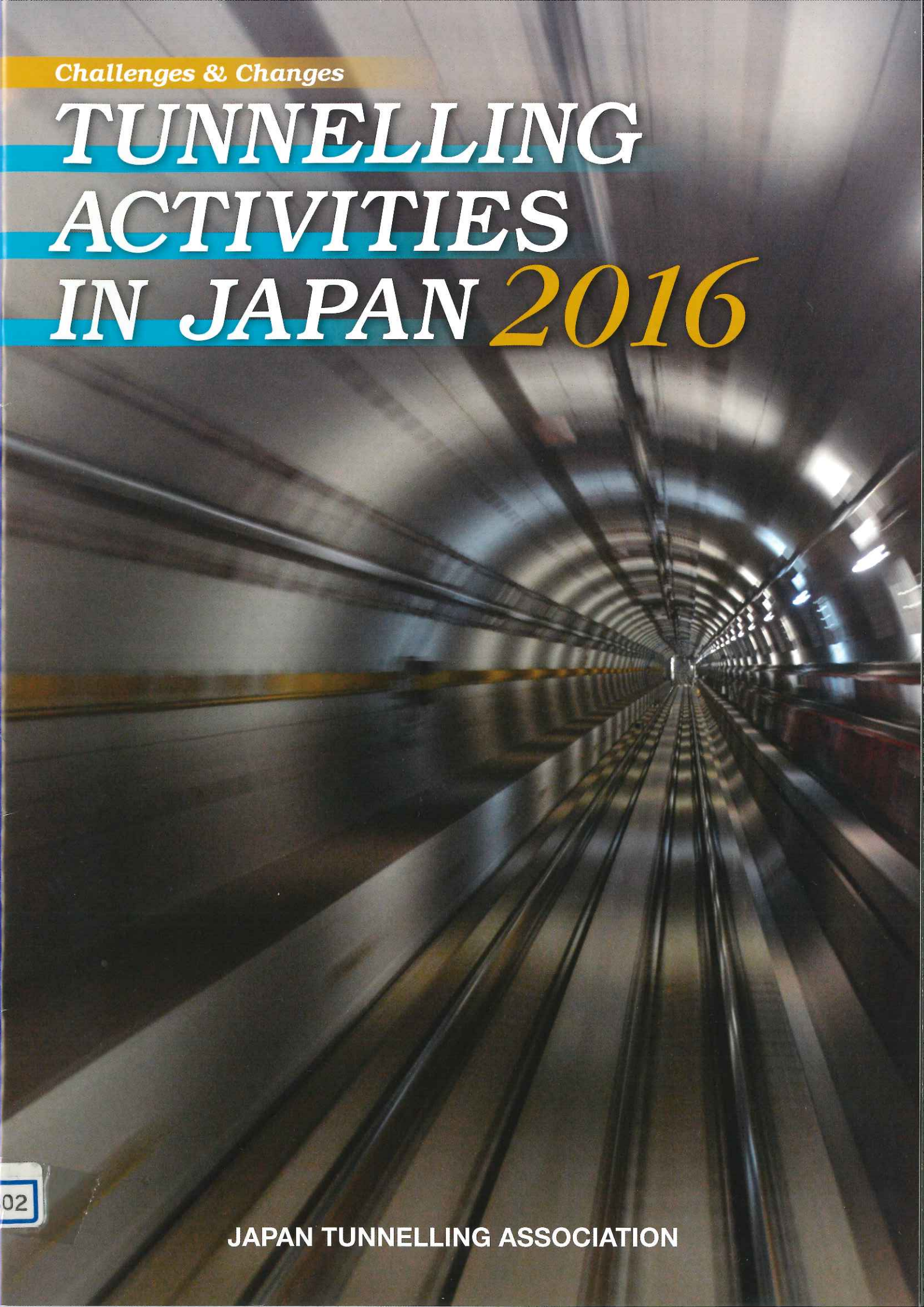
Challenges & Changes

TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN 2016



JAPAN TUNNELLING ASSOCIATION

PREFACE

I feel really privileged to be given this opportunity to address tunnel engineers throughout the world on the occasion of the publishing of the 2016 edition of Tunnelling Activities in Japan, the biennial publication of the Japan Tunnelling Association. Despite the fact that in recent years tunnel construction projects in Japan are on the downturn, our country remains one of the outstanding global leaders in terms of tunnel construction volume.

The Japan Tunnelling Association was founded in August of 1975 and will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2016. During this time, the increase in demand for tunnel construction and the progress of technology has been remarkable. Efforts to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of tunnel construction have led to steady development of various types of tunneling technologies, bringing about current developments. In recent years, in order to contribute to economic activity and regional interchange, big projects have been underway in Japan in the fields of road and railways.

Along with utilizing the tunneling technology that has been accumulated up to the present, these projects seek to develop and improve technology that will streamline construction even further. In order to respond to these needs, along with technology that has been amassed to date, we are continuing to tackle improvement and development of new technologies.

On the other hand, there are extensive reserves of tunnel structures that have been accumulated in the past. Along with utilizing these structures safely and securely, in order to bequeath them to the next generation as sound assets, we are working to gather knowledge of members regarding technical development and innovation relating to proper maintenance and updates.

Recently, taking full advantage of the superior tunneling technology of Japan, many Japanese companies have been broken through and had success in major overseas projects.

This booklet presents a selection of some typical examples representative of the numerous tunnel projects and technological developments in Japan. I will be pleased if these articles prove useful for tunnel engineers around the world.

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