The Trans-Siberian Railway

By: Ir. Chin Mee Poon

Most people like to travel and engineers are no exception. And we all enjoy sharing our travel experiences with our friends and relatives. That's part of the fun in travelling. In the process of sharing, we are actually refreshing our memory and reliving the joy of experiencing new places and new faces one more time.

This corner welcomes any contribution from any engineer in the form of an interesting photograph and a brief write-up of not more than ***200*** *words. The subject should preferably be related to engineering.*

To kick the ball rolling, here's a piece from our Chief Editor Ir. Chin Mee Poon:

About 3 months ago, I travelled from Beijing to Moscow, a distance of 7,865 km, by train. The line from Beijing to Ulan Ude in Siberia, passing through Mongolia, is known as the Trans-Mongolian Railway. The line from Ulan Ude to Moscow is part of the Trans-Siberian Railway. The other part of the Trans-Siberian Railway runs eastwards from Ulan Ude to Vladivostok, Russia's important naval base on the Pacific coast.

I travelled with my wife, our younger son and a friend for 35 days, taking in the following picturesque sights:-

- The Mongolian capital of Ulaan Baatar;
- The great steppes and Gobi Desert
- The beautiful Lake Baikal and the lakeside city of Irkutsk;
- Krasnoyarsk on the banks of the magnificent Yenisey River;
- Yekatarinburg, where Russia's last tsar Nicholas II and his family were massacred;
- Nizhny Novgorod, Russia's 'wallet' in the 19th century beside the mighty Volga River;
- Moscow with its colourful Kremlin and Red Square;
- St. Petersburg, Russia's old capital established by Peter the Great;
- The quaint little Golden Ring town of Suzdal; and
- The fairy-tale Island of Kizhy with its wooden church of 22 domes.

The construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway was started in 1891, and the Railway was introduced to the world at the Paris Expo in 1900. The completion of the Railway, not only opened up Siberia for settlement and development, it has made travelling by train from one end of the 9,289 km long track to the other, a great romantic journey, which many a traveller aspires to undertake. ■