

Loco Shed

Asia Pacific Heritage and
Tourist Rail Organisation

No. 10
31 December 2016

<http://www.apthro.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/apthro>



APHTRO

Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation



Principles of our international co-operation

(Kyoichi Oda, President)

This year, our conference in New Delhi, India was the biggest we have ever held and successful thanks to much effort and support of our dearest Indian friends and Indian Railways. I would like to thank them very much and hope it was fruitful for all participants.

To confirm premise of our activities, I would like to show three principles for our international co-operation by heritage railways.

Firstly, for every country, for every activity, all must be treated equally. Each country has its own history of railway development and the extent to which railways have been used and are used today can be very different. People's understanding of railways, industrial heritage and heritage railway can vary from country to country. In some places activities are more advanced, in others, less so. It would be unfair to see and evaluate only their present state without considering the social and historical context.

Secondly, administration of an international organisation must not be done solely to one country's way of thinking or business style.

Things can be very different by region or country. We have members and potential members in;

New Zealand and Australia in Oceania,

China, Japan, Taiwan and Korea in Eastern Asia,

South East Asia, each country in a different social situation,

India and Sri Lanka in Central Asia,

and Jordan in the Middle East.

Their ways of thinking, business styles and social situations are not the same region by region, or even country by country in the same region. It is very important that we try to understand such differences.

Our international organisation of heritage railways must be administered by balancing ways of thinking and business styles. This might not be so easy, but administration as 'one size fits all' is entirely wrong, because that could never be supported by people with different backgrounds.

Thirdly, we must not forget our friends who are making the effort in difficult situations in developing countries.

Around three quarters of our members and potential members are from developing countries, or third world level. We know ordinary life is not so easy in some developing countries so we have to consider this in administering this, our international organisation.

For example, we must keep our conference fee at less than 300USD. It is very good price this year, 105USD for APHTRO members thanks to the efforts of our Indian friends. If the price is too expensive, say more than 500USD or 1000USD, it would be like saying to the people in developing countries: "We don't need you", even though this were far from our purpose.

If our administration were to be planned only from the viewpoint of people in richer countries, we would not be an Asia-Pacific organisation but a rich countries' organisation. We must never allow this.

Supporting members' projects

We are currently supporting following members' projects:

- a. Transforming former Taipei Railway Workshops into a Railway Museum in Taiwan;
- b. The steam train revival plan by Manila Railroad Club in The Philippines; and
- c. Steam locomotive boiler inspections at Royal Railways in Cambodia.

Consulting service

We have found difficulties in forming committees so we will concentrate on Consulting Services for our members. The expected first two services would be fundraising, and negotiating where opposition by government or local council arises. The details of the scheme will be discussed in our on-line forum.

Support scheme for conference delegates

Only myself and Mr. Hsu from Taiwan from Asia-pacific countries other than India attended our last conference.

In the light of this we should consider a Support Scheme for conference delegates from developing countries.

This too will be discussed on our forum: your ideas and information will be welcomed.

Incorporation moving to India

Due to some business problems in Queensland, Australia, we decided to move our incorporation to India. India is one of the most co-operative countries and cost should be much less. It is planned to be completed by our next conference in October 2017.

Relationship with travel agencies for rail enthusiasts

Relationship and co-operation between APHTRO and travel agencies which run tours for rail enthusiasts has been set up because:

1. Sharing information brings benefit for both us and them; and
2. Supporting them to organise tours brings profit to our members.

Four agencies are in co-operation with us so far:

Tanago (Germany)

FarRail Tours (Germany)

Mutual Trust Society (UK)

Juche Travel Services (UK)

New Members

We are delighted following new members to APHTRO Forum;

Mr. Grant Craig (Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand)

Mr. Grad Piadon (Strange Modelers of Universal Trains and Philippine Railway Historical Society)

Mr. Phil Clark (Manila Railroad Club)

Mr. Suparada Kruttin (ex. State Railway of Thailand)
Mr. Subrato Nath (Indian Railways)
Mr. Er Naman Chopra (RSS, BJP India)
Mr. David Thompson-Rowlands (Juche Travel Services)

Conference 2016 in New Delhi, India

The last conference was held in New Delhi, India, hosted by Indian Railways. It consisted of three parts: Pre-tours, Main programme and Post-tours.

Conference Pre-tours

Conference Pre- and Post-tours were organized by Travel Pals India Pvt. Ltd. Participants can select six options at Pre-tours; Golden Triangle Tour, Kalka Shimla Railway, Kama Sutra and Ganges Tour, Kangra Valley Railway, Overnight Agra and Nilgiri Mountain Railway.

I took Kalka Shimla Railway and it was a very nice visit to view and ride this scenic mountain line. The railway line starts at Kalka, four and half hours from New Delhi by express train. Unfortunately no seat was available for onward trip so I took a local bus to get to Shimla, a famous summer resort place in India.

There is a small railway museum converted from the old Shimla station. The train, '52456 Himalyan Queen', departed from Shimla station and went down to Kalka taking five and half hours. The winding mountain line provided such beautiful views, everyone enjoyed it hugely. Some nice local food was provided at stations. You may think five and half hours is too long, but it seemed much shorter. All coaches and other trains passing by were full of passengers so it looked very successful at attracting local people and foreign tourists.





Main Programme - Day 1. Wednesday 19 October

The venue of the business session was the National Railway Museum in New Delhi. In the morning after registration, the session was opened with a Keynote Speech by Mr. Tim Fischer, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia then followed a presentation by Mr. Tarun Thkaral, Founder and Managing Trustee of Heritage Transportation Trust.

After lunch, delegates were separated into two groups: one visited the Heritage Transport Museum; the other had a delegation meeting with Hon'ble Railway Minister.





Main Programme - Day 2. Thursday 20 October

The main session was held on this day. The introductory session was given by Mr. R K Verma, Member of Secretary Board of Indian Railways; then there were addresses by Mr. Kyoichi Oda, President of APHTRO; Dr. Bibek Deb Roy, member of NITI Ayog; Dr. Debashish Nayak, Director of Centre for Heritage Management at Ahmedabad University; and closed by Mr. Rajesh Agarwal, Vice President of APHTRO.

Following the First Technical Session were presentations by: Mr. Adrian Shooter, Economic Values of Tourism; Mr. David Morgan, President, of WATTRAIN and FEDECRAIL; Mr. Sanjoy Mookherjee, ex. Financial Commissioner of Indian Railways; and Dr. Debashish Nayak, Director of Centre for Heritage Management at Ahmedabad University.

The Second Technical Session, after lunch, was presented by: Mr. Hsu, Member of Railway Cultural Society Taiwan; Mr. Chahatey Ram, General Manager of NF Railway and Indian Railways; Mr. Rajesh Agarwal, Vice President of APHTRO; Mr. Amit Chopra, Travel Pals India Pvt. Ltd.; and Mr. Kyoichi Oda, President of APHTRO.

The day closed with a Panel discussion, “How to make India a centre of Heritage Rail Tourism”. The four panellists were Mr. David Morgan, Mr. Adrian Shooter, Mr. Heimo Eechensperger and Mr. Rajesh Agarwal.

The oldest working steam engine in the world “Fairy Queen” and steam monorail were exhibited in the museum, many exhibitions about beautiful Indian rail tourism were outside. An excellent conference dinner was served in the evening.



Main Programme - Day 3. Friday 21 October

The final day started with the Third Technical Session with presentations by Dr. Sanjeev Kishore, Divisional Railway Manager of NF Railway; Mr. Uday Singh Mina, Director of National Railway Museum; Mr. Vinoo Mathur, President of RES and Retired Member Traffic of Railway Board; and Mr. Subrata Nath, Executive Director /Heritage of Indian Railways.

The day was closed with a Concluding Panel Discussion, chaired by Mr. Chahatey Ram and Mr. KyochiOda, Mr. Rajesh Agarwal, Mr. Vinoo Mathur and Dr. Sanjeev Kishore as panellists.

After Lunch, some delegates enjoyed excursion to Rewari Heritage Steam Centre.



Conference Post-Tours

Post Conference Tours had six options: Golden Triangle Tours; all Day Agra; two Delhi Heritage Tours; Shopping Tour; and The Maharaja Express.

Delegates enjoyed beautiful New Delhi and India, and expect seeing again at next year's conference.



Future Conferences

Conference 2017

Is expected to be held in Myanmar in late October 2017. The possible venue is Mandalay or Naypyidaw, following a visit and steam train ride at Namtu Mine Railway and main line of Myanmar Railways. Cepu Forest Railway in Indonesia or Bashi Railway in Southern China are alternative venues. This is not finalised as at December 2016 – there will be an announcement on our facebook page when it is.

Conference 2018

Conference 2018 will be held in Amman, Jordan as inauguration of new railway museum of Jordan Hejaz Railways. The details will appear late next year.

Vacancies

Please recommend if you or someone you know would be happy to help us.

Secretary

Due to retirement of former secretary Nathan Williams, we are seeking a new secretary.

Volunteers

APHTRO activities are maintained by volunteers. We need volunteers on the following tasks and project so far:

- Website designer and editor - To build Railway Heritage Site Database
- Newsletter Editor - This newsletter appears at least twice a year

This Newsletter cannot be sustained without fresh content. Latest news, photos and articles from your heritage railways will be very much welcomed. The next issue will appear in **June 2017**.

info@aphtro.org

(I would like to thank *tw* for checking the draft.)