

# Loco Shed

Asia Pacific Heritage and  
Tourist Rail Organisation



**APHTRO**

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<http://www.aphtro.info>

<https://www.facebook.com/aphtro>

## **On-line conference and further plan**

(Kyoichi Oda, President)

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 situation is becoming still worse in some regions or countries, especially with the spread of variants. On the other hand, vaccinations would make things better; we are anticipating a post-Corona world with travel crossing borders possible in the near future.

After considering the current state carefully, we have decided to hold an on-line conference in late November or early December this year. The dates, schedule, speakers, etc., are under discussion and will be confirmed in a month or two, then be announced on our website and facebook. Ideas and suggestions would be welcomed. If it works well, this will provide a further way for our international co-operation and possibly for our conferences in the future.

We have always been having difficulties regarding how to meet physically at our conferences among countries and districts over a wide area - from New Zealand to Jordan. However, these geographical difficulties and recent pandemic have made clear the importance of on-line facility for our co-operative activities. Now we understand and seek how to get a satisfactory result through on-line activities. It also has potential to become a main part of our organisation.

Looking at this way to ameliorate misfortune, we will be able to reach the destination by this other route.

## **Supporting members' projects**

We are currently supporting the following projects:

- a. Transforming the former Taipei Railway Workshops into a Railway Museum in Taiwan;
- b. A steam train revival plan by Manila Railroad Club in The Philippines;
- c. Steam locomotive boiler inspections at Royal Railways in Cambodia;
- d. Converting a steam engine to oil burning at Shibaxi Railway in China;
- e. Forming friends' association and introducing driving courses at Jordan Hejaz Railways; and
- f. Financial assistance for some delegates coming to our annual conferences.

## **Incorporation**

The incorporation process in India is making progress towards establishment as a Non-Profit Organization.

## **On-line Communication Platform**

Our On-line Communication Platform is planned as:

### a) Communication and exchange

An on-line BBS to share and exchange information for members. A discussion facility will be provided for each category and topic. A thread floating BBS system is a considerable one.

WhatsApp or other messenger service could be used as an alert for new postings. The archive provided can easily be found.

### b) Noticeboard

Information from the organisation or its members to all members.

### c) Database and background

Introducing information about members' sites - essentially anything useful for other members. For example practice, methods and techniques to sustain and improve their activities. Information on railways in members' countries can be added as background.

### d) Real time presentation and discussion

Instead of presentation just at conference, this would provide real time sessions for on-line presentations. Probably a webinar service which works under slow internet connections in some countries will be adopted. It contains text chat for discussion and Q&A.

It is planned to be used for our next on-line conference.

These facilities will be included in our website, or the website could work as a portal. The proper roles of such facilities and other communication media - facebook, Newsletter etc., will be considered and updated for further improvement.

## **On-line conference 2021**

Covid-19 variants are still spreading so we have decided our APHTRO Conference 2021 will be held on-line. The likely date is late November or early December. Announcement will be put on our website and facebook - the addresses are at the top of this issue.

## **Further conferences beyond 2022**

- **Indonesia**  
Steam train on Cepu Forest Railway  
Lawang Sewu heritage building in Semarang  
Railway museum in Ambarawa and steam train ride  
Steam train of Jaladara  
Steam train of Tasik Madu sugar mill
- **Thailand (2nd)**  
New railway museum renovated from Hua Lamphong station and some other sites is planned.  
Visit the museum and steam train hopefully as special.
- **India (2nd)**  
Darjeeling Himalayan Railway and Nilgiri Mountail Railway  
Class WP special steam train, hopefully on main line.
- **China**  
Yunnan Railway Museum in Kunming  
Chengdu–Kunming railway with some double or triple loops  
Steam train on Shibaxi Railway  
Steam train on Diaobingshan coal mine line  
Shenyang steam locomotive museum  
China Railway Museum in Beijing
- **Sri Lanka**  
TBD
- **Pakistan**  
TBD

Unfortunately, so far we cannot have any plan in Myanmar and Syria.

## **Vacancies**

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

### **Secretary**

We are seeking a new secretary.

### **Treasurer**

We are seeking a new treasurer.

### **Volunteers**

All APHTRO activities are maintained by volunteers and we are currently seeking a

- Newsletter Editor - This newsletter appears at least twice a year

### **Our Newsletter cannot be sustained without fresh content.**

Latest news, photos and articles from your heritage railways will be very much welcomed and will be a useful promotion of your railway.

Our next issue will appear in December 2021.

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(We thank **tw** for checking the draft)