

Loco Shed

Asia Pacific Heritage and
Tourist Rail Organisation

No. 5
30 June 2014

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



APHTRO

Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation



Our first year 2013 and next term (Kyoichi Oda, President)

Our train left the starting station, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia last July, and arrived at the first 2014 Conference station, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, on 2nd May. This was a test run for us, checking the state of the engine and fixing any minor problems. The line has steep gradients and severe bends but these we have passed to lay our foundation.

The next term is a little anomalous up to Autumn 2015 when we change the conference dates to around November. However, the line seems to improve: fewer windings, we will be able fully to open the regulator at 30% cut-off. Let's try for top speed!

I would very much like to thank Kibu Hseih, Henyi Jen, Noa-Yi Hshu and friends at Railway Cultural Society Taiwan, also sponsors and supporters for holding a brilliant conference in Taiwan.



Current state of our activities

1. Incorporation

Incorporation process is ongoing. The application has been submitted to the Queensland Government of Australia. It needs a few amendments to our constitution. After this, incorporation will be complete and Bank & PayPal accounts will be opened at once.

2. Facebook

APHTRO Facebook has been opened to circulate our news and activities quickly.
<https://www.facebook.com/aphtro>

3. APHTRO Forum

An on-line discussion facility, "APHTRO Forum" will be set up, probably by the end of this year. This forum is going to be open to all heritage railway people in the Asia Pacific region. Only registration is required.

4. Railway Heritage Site Database

Heritage Railways, Museums and other sites about heritage and tourist railways in Asia Pacific region will be listed with full information on our website. It is good for

all heritage railway people know each other.

5. APHTRO Charter

We intend to base our APHTRO Charter on the Riga Charter. It will be an guideline for heritage railway activities in the Asia Pacific region. Some articles or amendments can be made to fit the circumstances of this region.

6. Support for members

Alishan Forestry Railway in Taiwan - It is hoped to designate this railway as a World Heritage Line. Our vice president Kibu Hsieh is a member of the working group run by Chiayi county. Our other vice president Rajesh Agrawal could advise them from his long experience of mountain railways in India designated as World Heritage Lines.

Jordan Hejaz Railways – Financial support through UNESCO or any other international bodies is being sought, co-operating with Turkish Railway, part of Hejaz Railways. We will encourage these plans.



New Member and Webmaster

We are delighted to welcome

Jordan Hejaz Railways

as a full member.

Jordan Hejaz Railways is the only heritage and tourist railway in the Western Asia and Middle East region nowadays. It is a part of the Hejaz Railway built in 1905 between Damascus and Medina for pilgrims to Mecca. The steam engines in Amman depot are operated for tourist charter trains. Further engine restoration is planned.

We are also able to invite our webmaster from Taiwan :

Mr. Youwei Liu, webmaster of the Railway Cultural Society Taiwan

who has great website technology skills. APHTRO Council is happy to invite him to be our new webmaster, expected to be a most important position for setting up the APHTRO Forum and Railway Heritage Site Database.

Conference 2014 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

The APHTRO Conference 2014 was held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan from 2nd to 6th May and hosted by the Railway Cultural Society Taiwan (RCST). This year we have a special guest: Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Member of House of Lords in Britain, Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary British-Taiwanese Group, and President of Heritage Railway Association of Britain.

More than 20 delegates from Australia, Japan, Taiwan, India, Jordan and UK participated.



Day 1 (Friday 2 May) – Following registration at hotel, we had a superb welcome party on a cruise boat, hosted by Legislator Dr. Bi-Ling Kuan. The boat cruised around Kaohsiung Harbour, all delegates enjoying the night view on deck after a fantastic dinner.

Day 2 (Saturday 3 May) – APHTRO AGM was held in the morning, at Takao Railway Museum, the home of RCST. Council members discussed and made decisions. Lunch was in the remodeled restaurant within the historic building and business continued from 2 pm. There were welcomes from Kyoichi Oda, Kibu Hsieh, Henyi Jen, and YuRen Hsu of the Bureau of Cultural Heritage, then the Keynote speech and presentation were given by Lord Faulkner of Worcester. He described the situation in Britain, Railway Heritage Committee and so on. Next speaker was Owen Johnstone-Donnet from Australia, introducing many great heritage railways in Australia. After a break, Mahmoud Al Freihat from Jordan Hejaz Railways presented

background and current state of their railways, with an impressive video assisted by our director Maisoon Shaheen. Our vice president Rajesh Agrawal from Indian Railway introduced some important ideas about heritage railways, with an interesting video of dancing on a rain roof. Our last speaker was Ting-Wei Ku from RCST who welcomed all delegates and presented heritage railways in Taiwan.



Day 3 (Sunday 4 May) – First day of visit programme. Delegates met at MRT Formosa Boulevard station's “Dome of light” in the morning for a short tour of beautiful stained glass. We then moved to Changhua station by MRT, High Speed and ordinary trains, then we got on a steam cruise train. This train runs around a mountain line and coast line then returns to Changhua. The train made stops at some stations with historical station buildings. So many Taiwanese passengers and visitors enjoyed it. It seems railway tourism is very popular in Taiwan.

After arrival at Changhua station, we stayed on the train and moved to engine shed. This roundhouse engine shed was saved from demolition thanks to great effort by RCST. In crowded many visitors, the steam engine was turned on the turntable and returned to shed. Here an impressively great idea was the observation deck beside the turntable. After a short visit to the High Speed Rail Taichung station we had dinner at a papercraft restaurant, and returned to Kaohsiung.

Day 4 (Monday 5 May) – Delegates moved to Chiayi station in the morning, were welcomed by the Chiayi stationmaster, and then took a trip on Alishan Forestry Railway. This fabulous railway is one of the best heritage railways in Taiwan. The line goes up to more than 2000m high through this very scenic area. Unfortunately it suffered severe damage by a typhoon six years ago. We went up to the triple loop, one of highlights of the line.

The train was pulled and pushed by a Shay steam loco built by Lima and by a Japanese diesel engine. At Luman station, delegates were very surprised by the passionate welcome by Chiayi County Magistrate Helen Chang and many people. The ceremony demonstrated their enthusiasm for the designation of Alishan Forestry Railway as World Heritage. Despite dense fog at triple loop, delegates nevertheless enjoyed this lovely train ride.

The train made its final stop at Peimen Railway Park, formed from the former engine shed and yard. Lovely old coaches and locos are displayed and delegates watched the Shay steam loco returning to its shed.



Day 4 (Monday 5 May) – The last day was a visit to Wushulin sugar train and Taipei Railway workshop. A bus took delegates to Wushulin in the morning. This narrow gauge railway was built for carrying sugarcane like many other narrow gauge lines in Taiwan and all over South East Asia. Now the line is operated for tourist trains, very popular for local people even in cold and rainy weather. Historical DMU and steam loco hauled by diesel engine took our return trip on the line, and delegates visited a small exhibition and shop besides Wushulin station.

Next place was Taipei Railway Workshop, closed in March 2014 but with many historical buildings and facilities built by the Japanese in 1930s. RCST is tackling to save part of this precious workshop as a railway museum. The tour guided by Ting-Wei Ku showed us how this workshop is an important example of railway history in Taiwan. Delegates hope that RCST's activity will be successful.

We had final visit to Taipei 101 skyscraper and after a farewell Taiwanese dinner, returned to Kaohsiung.

These were very nice days for delegates and it is hoped to meet again next year.

News from members

Kaohsiung Railway Museum and Historical Park awarded.

On 2 December 2013, Kaohsiung Harbor Railroad Historical Park was awarded the Gold Award of Natural Project Section of The International Awards for Liveable Communities with UNEP. The main section of the park is Takao Railway Museum, which is home of our member, the Railway Cultural Society Taiwan.



The site was close to Kaohsiung Harbor station and has been transformed to a Railway Museum and Park through great effort by RCST. The park and museum are now popular for local people with increasing numbers of visitors year on year.

This Newsletter cannot be sustained without fresh content. Latest news, photos and articles from your heritage railways will be welcomed.
The next issue will be appear in December 2014.

info@aphtro.org



See you next year!

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