

Loco Shed

Asia Pacific Heritage and
Tourist Rail Organisation



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<http://www.aphtro.org/>

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

APHTRO

Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation



Reaching the third year of APHTRO

(Kyoichi Oda, President)

We started activities a couple years ago, now are reaching the third year, 2016. Looking back this year, we have been incorporated in Queensland, Australia, and started discussion on our Forum on Facebook. Our last Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, was very successful thanks to great help and support by State Railway of Thailand. We are also happy to welcome State Railway of Thailand as our new full member. APHTRO Bangkok Charter, for all Asia - Pacific railway heritage activities, has been adopted at our last Conference.

Some parts of our activities are yet to start: committees, mainly finance and marketing committees, are the most expected two. These consist of experts in each sphere to give advice and consultation to the members - an important part of the APHTRO role. I would ask all those who have appropriate experience and knowledge

to join as members of these committees to support our railway heritage activities. The progress of our Railway Heritage Site Database is still slow, needing more volunteers to propel it.

We face exciting events in next year. Our next Conference in India would be one of the best thanks to the brilliant efforts of our vice president Rajesh Agrawal and friends at the Indian Steam Railway Society. We will attend Conference of FRONZ, Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand and visit the Workshop Rail Museum in Queensland, Australia in June.

I hope next year is fruitful for your heritage railways, and that APHTRO activities can help you.

The current state of our activities

1. Supporting members' projects

We are currently supporting following members' projects:

- a. Transforming former Taipei Railway Workshop into a Railway Museum in Taiwan;
- b. The steam train revival plan by Manila Railroad Club in The Philippines;
- c. Steam locomotive boiler inspections at Royal Railways in Cambodia; and
- d. Financial assistance for certain delegates coming to our annual Conference.

2. Committee

As mentioned, we need committees members: please see “Looking for committee members and volunteers” below.

3. APHTRO Forum

It seems we need to encourage more active discussion so we are attempting to draw people in to make it more useful.

4. Asia-Pacific Railway Heritage Site Database

Progress is still slow - only a few pages have been completed. We seek more volunteers to help to build it: please see “Looking for committee members and volunteers” below.

5. APHTRO Bangkok Charter

The first draft proposed was adopted at our last conference in Bangkok after a minor amendment. The Charter was written for all heritage railway activities in Asia - Pacific, to fit and be suitable for the situation in this region. Many thanks for our Vice President, Rajesh Agrawal.

New Member

We are delighted to welcome

State Railway of Thailand

as a full member.

State Railway of Thailand is one the biggest national railways in Southeast Asia. It keeps Japanese-built steam locomotives in good order and runs four times a year. A new railway museum is planned at Hua Lamphong station, the major terminal in Bangkok, after its facilities will then be moved to Bang Sue station.

Conference 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand

Our conference this year was held in Bangkok, hosted by State Railway of Thailand, with marvelous support. All delegates thank SRT people who helped make the conference so successful.

Thirty-three delegates from Japan, Taiwan, The Philippines, Thailand, India and Germany participated.

Day 1. Tuesday 20 October (Return trip on Nam Tok line)

Delegates gathered early morning at Hua Lamphong station and took taxis, to catch the 07:50 train for Nam Tok. The train departed almost on time, ran slowly and then faster on the main line in the rural landscapes of Thailand. The major attractive spot is famous bridge on River Khwae. Delegates continued on the train to Tham Kra Sae Wooden Bridge. The wooden bridge was built just beside steep cliff of River Khwae - about 300m. Very scenic and interesting walking on the bridge. Delegates went back to Bangkok on the return train.

Day 2. Wednesday 21 October (Ceremony at Hua Lamphong station and visit to Thonburi depot)

The day started with a marvelous event at Hua Lamphong station, inaugurating the Thai Railway Foundation & Thai Railway Museum, opening with welcomes by Dr. Siripong Preutthipan at SRT then Kyoichi Oda at APHTRO. Mr. Wuthichart Kalyanamitra, Governor of SRT visited and inaugurated the new museum and beautiful exhibition in main hall of the station. A Panel Talk “Train Tourism” followed.







After lunch, delegates visited Thonburi depot where steam locomotives are kept. The steam train would run two days later - locos were being prepared. Unfortunately we could not visit Maeklong Line due to bad traffic, so visited the Museum transformed from former Thonbiuri station instead.



Day 3. Thursday 22 October (Business Session: APHTRO Annual General Meeting and Presentations)

The session was held at a meeting room at headquarters, by courtesy of SRT. At APHTRO AGM in the morning, the application of State Railway Thailand as full member and APHTRO Bangkok Charter were adopted unanimously.

Presentations were held in the afternoon.

Dr. Siripong Preuthipan at SRT presented Thai Railway Foundation and Museum ideas of new project heritage activities of SRT.

Ms. Kanrawee Thongpull at SRT followed to explain the current state and direction of SRT Heritage and Tourist Trains in Thailand.

Mr. Jatinder Singh from Indian Steam Railway Society introduced the national organisation for heritage railways in India.

Mr. Alberto Nual at Manila Railroad Club explained The Philippine Trains : Engines of Ecotourism in Southern Luzon, Philippine. The state in The Philippines does not seem easy, however they are trying to make progress with their steam train projects.

Mr. Heimo Echensperger at FEDECRAIL from Germany spoke on European Heritage Railways and their Political Representation, mainly the political aspects in Europe and FEDECRAIL's activities concerning EU directives, etc.

Mr. Rajesh Agrawal from Indian Railways, and vice president of APHTRO introduced the plan of next year's Conference in India to round off the proceeding.



Day 4. Friday 23 October (Steam train ride: return trip to Ayutthaya)

Delegates gathered Hua Lamphong station to board the 08:00 SRT steam train. Before departure, a little ceremony was held in front of the steam locos for interviews with a local TV station. The event was featured in their programme.

<http://www.now26.tv/view/60405>

All delegates enjoyed the steam train ride to Ayutthaya. After welcome cold drinks and local food at Ayutthaya station, delegates visited the museum and World Heritage Buddhist temples. Some delegates took the return train from Bang Pa-in station to Bangkok, others took minivan direct to the airport.



Conference 2016 in New Delhi, India

The schedule and contents are under planning. Details will appear and booking will be opened around April on our website.

Pre-Conference Tours, 15-18 October 2016 : Selection from nine options

- Nilgiri Mountain Railway
- Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
- Kalka Simla Railway
- Kangra Valley Railway
- Matheran Light Railway
- Golden Triangle Jaipur & Agra
- Kama Sutra & Ganges
- Kerala Therapy & Backwaters
- Palace on Wheels

APHTRO 2016 Conference & Visit programme, 19-21 October 2016

19 October - Inauguration & Keynote Fairy Queen in Steam and National Rail Museum Ring Railway, by Steam

20 October - Business Sessions

21 October - Visit to Steam Shed Rewari and Valedictory

Post-Conference Tours, 22-23, 29 October 2016 : Selection from two options

- Steam Train to Sariska Tiger Sanctuary (22 and 23 Oct.)
- Heritage of India Maharaja Express (22-29 Oct.)

Unofficial visit to Workshop Rail Museum in Australia and FRONZ conference in June 2016

This is not an APHTRO official event, but you are welcomed to join this group visit.

FRONZ is a national organisation for heritage railways in New Zealand. Their next conference will be held in Auckland, 3-6 June.

<https://www.fronz.org.nz/>

Workshop Rail Museum is a museum which is transformed from the railway workshop. It should be helpful in particular for our Taiwanese friends involved with the Taipei Railway workshop. The date of this visit will be 7th June.

<http://www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au/>

Looking for committee members and volunteers: We need your help!

Committee members

We expect to start our Finance and Marketing Committee that will provide assistance for members. Please propose if you or someone you know has knowledge and experience in this sphere.

Committee members should discuss online perhaps on Facebook, issue an annual report to provide information for members and give consultations at the request of members. Details of activities will be decided by committee members.

Currently we are looking for the following committee members. Each Committee should consist of at least three members:

- Finance - fundraising assistance, 2 members required
- Marketing - improve members' business, 3 members required

Volunteers

APHTRO activities are maintained by volunteers. We need volunteers on the following tasks and project so far. Please recommend if you or someone you know would be happy to help us:

- 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 2016**.

info@aphtro.org

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