

Loco Shed

Asia Pacific Heritage and
Tourist Rail Organisation



APHTRO

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<http://www.aphtro.info>

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

Our new website and further on-line services are coming

(Kyoichi Oda, President)

Because of the Covid-19 situation over the past two years, our activities have had to be changed. But this was a good opportunity to restructure on-line services based on our new website.

Since Ripan Dhawan joined as new Chief Communication Officer, he and his team are planning and building our new website with enthusiasm. It will be active soon with the current contents and more features including an on-line communication forum and rail heritage site database for the Asia-Pacific region.

On-line communication features will be provided as an organic network of Bulletin Board, Newsletters, Facebook and other tools to act as key features of our on-line service for members.

The Rail Heritage site database will be expanded to complex contents comprising information on each rail heritage site including map, link etc., photo gallery, rail museums and tourism possibilities with heritage rail. Such contents should be useful not only for our members' activities, but also to encourage people to visit members' sites. Of course our members' help is required to gather the contents. Publicising details of your rail heritage will help attract visitors and be helpful to your business.

We hope to make our website and on-line services a centre of rail heritage in the Asia-Pacific region. It will be based on communication and an information database. People in the Asia-Pacific rail heritage sphere can gather and interact with information on rail heritage sites in the region.

Supporting members' projects

We are currently supporting the following projects:

- a. Transforming the former Taipei Railway Workshops into a Railway Museum in Taiwan;
- b. Acquiring Brill 77E Bogies at Perth Electric Tramway Society in Australia.
- c. A steam train revival plan by Manila Railroad Club in The Philippines;
- d. Steam locomotive boiler inspections at Royal Railways in Cambodia;
- e. Converting a steam engine to oil burning at Shibexi Railway in China;
- f. Forming friends' association and introducing driving courses at Jordan Hejaz Railways;
- g. Transforming the Hua Lamphong Railway Station, Bangkok into a Railway Museum in Thailand; and
- h. Financial assistance for some delegates coming to our annual conferences.

New Website

As mentioned, our new website under construction includes an on-line communication platform and rail heritage information base. The first version is expected soon. We plan to have these features:

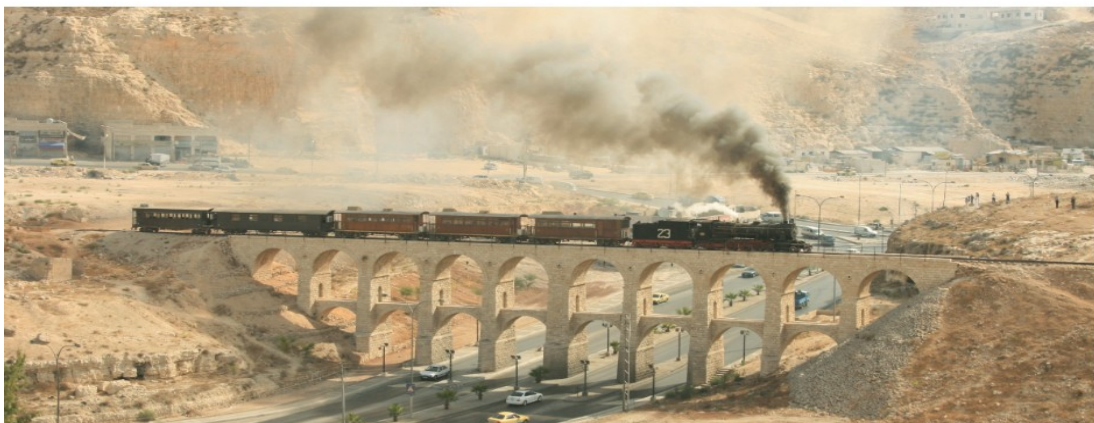
a) Blog / Bulletin Board / Newsletters as an on-line forum.

An on-line BBS for members to share and exchange information. A discussion facility for each category and topic. A thread floating BBS system makes for considerable progress.

WhatsApp or other messenger service could be used as an alert for new postings.

b) Heritage Rail Information – Photo Gallery, Rail Museums, maps, links, books etc. as our rail heritage site 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.

Appropriate roles of such facilities and other communication media - Facebook, Newsletter etc., will be considered and updated for further improvement.



WELCOME TO APHTRO

Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation

About APHTRO

Although there are many forums in the heritage and tourist railway sector in the

Asia - Pacific region, they are more focussed advancing their individual plans; that translates into limited co-operation between countries. On the other hand, the international co-operation has been achieved successfully in the other region. It is essential to establish



On-line conference 2022

This year's conference will be held as an on-line webinar, same as 2021, due to the Covid-19 situation. The dates have been fixed on 17 & 18 December.

The speakers are as follows and a few others are expected:

Mr. Grant Claig, Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand

Mr. Robert Pearce, Perth Electric Tramway Society

Mr. Paul Mahony, Department of Conservation New Zealand

Dr. Siriphong Singapore Preutthipan, State Railway of Thailand

Ripan Dhawan (CCO): Indian Steam Railway Society and APHTRO new web service

Kyoichi Oda (President): Introduction of 2023 Indonesia

The latest information will be updated on our website and Facebook page.

Further conferences beyond 2023

The conference 2023 is in planning as a 'hybrid' one which consists of real visit programme and on-line discussion. It will be finalised in December 2022 taking into account the Covid-19 situation.

Our visit programme is planned for late November 2023 in Indonesia including steam train rides, etc.:

- 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.

An on-line discussion is planned in mid December 2023 as a Zoom webinar.

The locations of the conference visit programmes beyond 2024 under consideration:

- **Thailand (2nd)**
New railway museum renovated from Hua Lamphong station and some other sites planned.
Visit the museum and hopefully special steam train.
- **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 Shibanzi 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.

Chief Communication Officer

Ripan Dhawan was appointed as our Chief Communication Officer. He and his team are engaging in building our new website and on-line platform. Our on-line based activities will be much improved by their enthusiastic effort. We would like to thank very much him and his team.

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 2022.

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