

Loco Shed

Asia Pacific Heritage and
Tourist Rail Organisation



APHTRO

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<http://www.aphtro.info>

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Join our new on-line based service

(Kyoichi Oda, President)

Next year will be a big change for us. Our service is planning to move to on-line based one, based on our new website and webinar.

Our members and potential members are in a widespread area, from Jordan to New Zealand. It is not so easy to gather and meet even once a year at our conference, some of them are from developing countries. The on-line activities we are planning should be one of the solutions to resolve this problem.

Our Chief Communication Officer Ripan Dhawan and his team are working enthusiastically to put it into practice. We thank them and predict all services we are planning will be implemented in a year. It will accelerate communication and co-operation among anyone in the rail heritage sphere in the Asia-Pacific region.

On the other hand, many people from our members and potential members, and individuals who are involved in rail heritage in the Asia-Pacific region are expected to visit, join and use our service. We only develop those for the improvement of our rail heritage. It does not bring its ability into full play without your participation.

For example, your idea, information etc. could help others and vice versa on our on-line communication forum. If you have a problem on your business, others could help you, or they could bring information as a key to a solution.

The rail heritage site database could work if you want to find the information for your activities.

We anticipate your participation in our new on-line services to help and interact with each other, in the Asia-Pacific rail heritage sphere.

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 Shibanzi 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

Our new website was launched in November although it took three month to change web hosting service. As the first version was appeared, further contents and services, which includes an on-line communication platform and rail heritage information base, will be added by turn:

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.



On-line conference 2022

(Naiyi Hsu, VicePresident)

Our conference was held on Dec. 17th and 18th successfully. Due to the endemic of COVID-19, we have on-line conferences consequently for 2 years. However, by our president Kyoichi Oda's effort, many new members joined our conference year by year and offered very interesting and inspirational presentations.

We would thank those speakers including Mr. Craig from FRONZ, Mr. Pearce from Perth Electric Tramway Society, Dr. Siriphone from State Railway of Thailand, Mr. Mahoney from New Zealand, Mr. Widoyoko from Indonesia, Ripan.Dhawan our APHTRO website coordinator, and Mr. Dicky A.S. Soeria-Atmadja from Indonesia. We knew many things such as how our friends managing their group or their trams, the wonderful things and history of New Zealand forest railways, many splendid heritage sites in Thailand, India and Indonesia from the presentations.

Our conference 2023 should have been held in Indonesia were there no COVID. After we saw the presentation by Mr. Dicky showing the railway heritages trail in Indonesia, it makes us more interesting and confident to visit there.

Thank everyone for joining this conference and look forward having our conference 2023 in Indonesia and see our friend each others face to face.

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 soon taking into account the Covid-19 situation.

Our visit programme is planned for late November 2023 in Indonesia including steam

train rides, etc.:

West Java Railway Heritage Trail Tour;
Steam train on Cepu Forest Railway (TBD);
Railway museum in Ambarawa and steam train ride;
Steam train of Jaladara;
Steam train of Tasik Madu sugar mill;
Steam train of Sawahlunto Railway Museum in Sumatra Island.

An on-line discussion is planned in mid December 2023 as a MS-Team 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 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 from m June 2023.

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(We thank *tw* for checking the draft)