

Loco Shed

Asia Pacific Heritage and
Tourist Rail Organisation

No. 25
30 June 2024

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



APHTRO
Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation

We expect a new steam train!

(Kyoichi Oda, President)

In Asia-Pacific region, each country has very different social and historical backgrounds. This is more prominent than other regions, North America or Europe. We are making efforts to unite and co-operate with rail heritage people in Asia-Pacific but the situation is strongly under political and social influences in some countries. For instance, the still serious problem of civil war in Syria and Myanmar. The steam train operation has ceased or decreased in some countries because of the Covid pandemic. Most of our members and friends are in developing countries and it seems their situation is harder than in other regions where most are in rich countries.

A few months ago, we got some bright and good news: 'The Revolution Express' in Vietnam, a new steam train between Da Nang and Hue, is planned to start operation next year. Two Class 141 steam locomotives have been restored and are now ready to run. The route for the steam train is in the most scenic section of Vietnam: the track passes the mountain beside the South China Sea. We hope their plan will proceed on schedule and result in the first new steam train in new countryside for a long time in the Asia-Pacific region.

I am planning to visit Ho Chi Minh City in late September and expect a meeting with them. We will have a visit programme 2025 in Vietnam if everything goes alright.

Supporting members' projects

We are currently supporting the following projects:

- a. Encouraging building relationships between the new Taipei Railway Museum, York NRM, IATM and others.;
- b. Proposing TICCIH Congress 2028 in India;
- c. A steam train revival plan by the Manila Railroad Club in The Philippines;
- d. Supporting holding a Rail Heritage Trail Tour, in Thailand and Taiwan;
- e. Holding photography tours in the Southern region of Jordan Hejaz Railways;
- f. Starting Kandy Badulla Railway in Sri Lanka;
- 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.

Conference Visit Programme in India 2024

This years plan includes business session in New Delhi for local rail heritage people. The schedule is as follows:

23 Sep – 26 Sep: Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Experience

23 Sep (Mon): Arrival Delhi.

24 Sep (Tue): Morning flight Delhi /Bagdogra and drive to Siliguri.

25 Sep (Wed): Day trip to experience DHR.

26 Sep (Thu): Drive Siliguri – Bagdogra and afternoon /evening flight to Delhi.

27th Sep (Fri): Conference at NRM Delhi

Keynote address

Morning sessions on ‘Tourism’ and ‘Industrial Heritage’

Afternoon: ‘Railway Stations’ and a ‘Session by APHTRO President, Mr. Kyoichi Oda’

28th Sep (Sat): Conference at NRM Delhi

Morning session: ‘Steam Heritage’, ‘Museums’, ‘Indian Railway’

Afternoon – Vote of thanks and a talk on ‘strengthening APHTRO-NRM’

29th Sep (Sun): DELHI

Mainline Steam Train Delhi to Rewari.

Drive back via Transport museum

30 Sep -02 Oct: Nilgiri Mountain Railway Experience

30th Sep (Mon): Delhi /Coimbatore by flight.

01st Oct (Tue): Full day NRM experience.

03rd Oct: Flight Coimbatore /Delhi.

04th Oct: Departure Delhi

For those who want to do more in terms of the Kalka Shimla Railway or spend more time, we can tailor-make the trips.

Please visit our website for the latest information.
Any inquiry, request and booking to: aphtro.indiarail@gmail.com

Conference On-line Presentations and Discussion 2024

This year's on-line discussion part was held on 19 & 20 October. Most of presentations will be from the business session in New Delhi a month before. The expected schedule and speakers so far:

Sat. 19 October

Slot 1 UTC 09:00-09:45 Speaker from India 1

Slot 2 UTC 09:45-10:30 Speaker from India 2

Break UTC 10:30-11:00

Slot 3 UTC 11:00-11:45 Speaker from India 3

Slot 4 UTC 11:45-12:30 Speaker from India 4

Sun. 20 October

Slot 5 UTC 09:00-09:45 Speaker from Alishan Forest Railway, Taiwan

Slot 6 UTC 09:45-10:30 Ms Hasti Tarekat Dipowijoyo, Heritage hands-on, Indonesia

Break UTC 10:30-11:00

Slot 7 UTC 11:00-11:45 Introduction: expected conference visit programme 2025

Further conferences beyond 2025

Our Conference will be held as a 'hybrid' - comprising a real visit programme and on-line presentations and discussion. Our Visit Programme 2024 will be held in India, and is expected in Vietnam 2025, Taiwan 2026 or 2027.

Further conferences beyond 2027 are now being planned. The venues of visit programmes under consideration are :

- **Thailand (2nd)**
Visit to Railway museum and exhibition at Hua Lamphong station, Makkasan workshop and some other sites planned.
Special steam train on Nam Tok line.
- **Sri Lanka**
- **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

- **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 2024.

info.aphtro@gmail.com

(We thank *tw* for checking the draft)