

Loco Shed

Asia Pacific Heritage and
Tourist Rail Organisation

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<http://www.aphtro.info>
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APHTRO

Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation

Under continuation of Covid-19

(Kyoichi Oda, President)

It was expected that the outlook for the state of Covid -19 would be ending, but we have still no clear prospect. It is becoming worse as of late December 2020; nobody can find when we can travel across borders without strict restriction. The spread of vaccination is the only hope for change for the better, but we cannot be sure about when this will be. In this situation, our activities will be re-examined with periodical reviews every few months.

From the beginning, on-line communication has been an important part of our activities. It is not easy to cover the countries and districts in such a wide area - from New Zealand to Jordan - especially travelling between each other. It is all getting more difficult with the Covid-19 situation. However, an opposite viewpoint would suggest that the increasing latent demand brings opportunities to strengthen it.

The scheme of our new on-line communication platform has been almost decided except some details. We need more views and ideas from members to make it all work and effectively benefit our members and others engaged in rail heritage activities in the Asia Pacific region. It will be a major part of our activities regardless of the Covid-19 situation, and fundamentally significant.

I hope for your help regarding your requests - it will never work well unless it is both useful and fruitful for you on your periodical visits. It is for your rail heritage.

Supporting members' projects

We are currently supporting the following projects:

- a. Transforming the former Taipei Railway Workshops into a Railway Museum in Taiwan;
- b. A steam train revival plan by Manila Railroad Club in The Philippines;
- c. Steam locomotive boiler inspections at Royal Railways in Cambodia;
- d. Converting a steam engine to oil burning at Shibaxi Railway in China;
- e. Forming friends' association and introducing driving courses at Jordan Hejaz Railways; and
- f. Financial assistance for some delegates coming to our annual conferences.

Incorporation

We will not be incorporated in India. We are seeking in other countries – the most likely place is Taiwan, so far.

On-line Communication Platform

Our On-line Communication Platform is planned as:

a) Communication and exchange

An on-line BBS to share and exchange information for members. A discussion facility will be provided for each category and topic. Thread floating BBS system is a considerable one.

WhatsApp or other messenger service could be used as an alert for new postings. The archive provided can easily be found.

b) Noticeboard

Information from the organisation or its members to all members.

c) 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.

d) Real time presentation and discussion

Instead of presentation just at conference, this would provide real time sessions for on-line presentations. Streaming service is not suitable: still and text base ones would be better because of slow internet connections in some countries.

Sessions could be held bi-monthly or several times a year with an annual conference;

holding shorter, more frequent ones will be considered.

These facilities will be included in our website, or the website could work as a portal. The proper roles of such facilities and other communication media - Facebook, Newsletter etc., will be considered and updated for further improvement.

Conference 2021

Unfortunately APHTRO Conference 2020 has to be postponed, we are watching the situation and will make a decision for Conference 2021 hopefully by next LocoShed which is due to appear in June. The likely date is in November or December, the venue will be selected from the current list of proposed sites:

- **Indonesia**
 - 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
- **Myanmar**
 - The content and visit programme will be fixed.
 - It includes a main line steam train ride and visiting their engine shed.
- **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

Latest information will be posted on our website and on Facebook.

Further conferences

Conferences from 2022:

2022 India – Steam Train on Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Class WP on mainline and Nilgiri Mountain Railway

Thailand (2nd) – after inauguration of the new railway museum in 2024

Myanmar

China

Sri Lanka

Pakistan

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 June 2021.

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(We thank *rw* for checking the draft)