

Loco Shed

Asia Pacific Heritage and
Tourist Rail Organisation



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

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

On-line conference has been held successfully.

(Kyoichi Oda, President)

Our On-line conference 2021 was held successfully on 4 & 5 December. We would like to thank all speakers, participants and our Webmaster Youwei Liu who did the technical operation. It proved the benefit of on-line communication for our co-operation among countries and districts over a wide area - from New Zealand to Jordan.

The Covid-19 situation is still unclear. The Omicron variant is spreading in many countries and districts, in our members' countries too. Nobody can predict the state in a year, the season for our next conference. We will decide in six months how we hold the next conference.

As a successful result of the on-line conference this year, one possible plan is to hold it in two parts: the on-line discussion and the Indonesia visit programme. If the Covid-19 situation is not good and to cross the border seems difficult, it will be held on-line only, same as this year.

An on-line conference is superior - much easier to link rail heritage people in the whole Asia-Pacific region. The only problem is time difference: eleven hours difference between Jordan and New Zealand; and some participants join from Europe. This is why we cannot hold the event for more than four hours on each day.

Our other target, useful under Covid-19 too, is our new on-line forum. Our council members are discussing its functions, features and how we implement it to provide best service and benefit for our members to contribute their activities. We estimate the service will start in eight months, depending mainly on the technical assistance to place it on our website.

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 Shibanxi Railway in China;
- e. Forming friends' association and introducing driving courses at Jordan Hejaz Railways;
- f. Transforming the Hua Lamphong Railway Station, Bangkok into a Railway Museum in Thailand; and
- g. Financial assistance for some delegates coming to our annual conferences.

Incorporation

The incorporation process has been completed under Section 8 of The Company Act in India.

We would like to thank so much Mr. Peter Hyde in Queensland, Australia and Mr. Ripan Dhawan and our Vice President Rajesh Agrawal in India for their effort and assistance.

On-line Communication Platform

Our On-line Communication Platform is planned as:

a) On-line forum

An on-line BBS to share and exchange information for members. A discussion facility will be provided for each category and topic. A 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.

It is expected in service in eight months.

b) Noticeboard

This would function as a part of the On-line forum.

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.

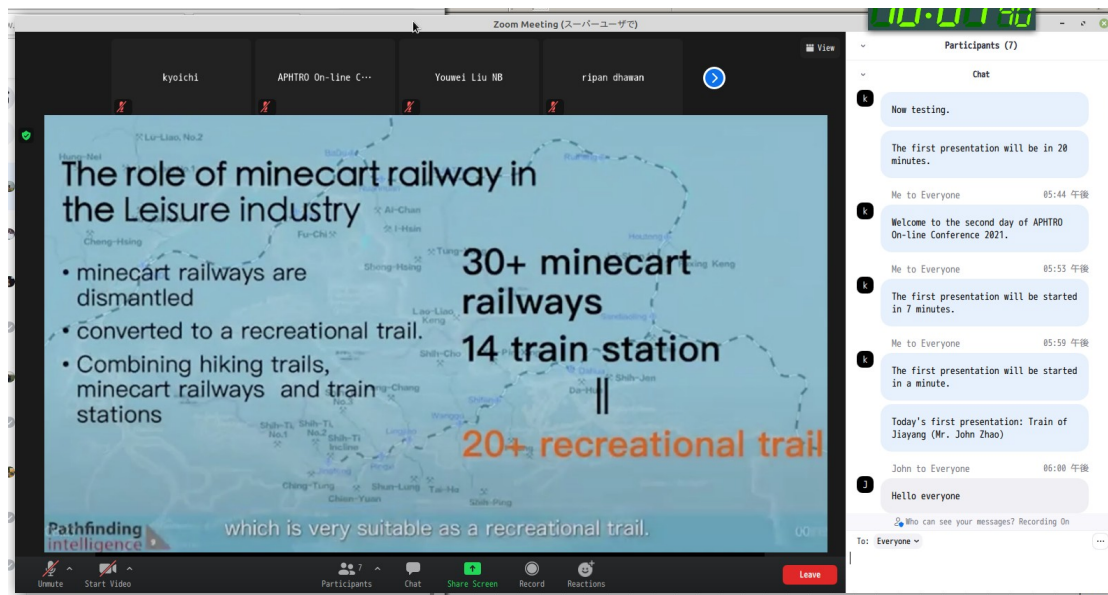
d) Real time presentation and discussion
Implemented as last on-line conference.
Holding shorter, more frequent ones will be considered.

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.

On-line conference 2021

(Nai-yi Hsu, Vice President)

On Dec. 4th & 5th, we had an APHTRO on line conference. Thanks for all the participants, including presenters and audiences, we had an opportunity to make our members knowing each other more.



APHTRO started since 2012 and had a conference every years. For many reasons, not few members could not participate the annual conferences before. We tried an on line meeting in Jordan conference 2019 for those who could not join the conference. However, due to some technical problems, it was not successful. Moreover, there is a COVID-19 epidemic since last year and we postponed our 2020 conference. So we set up a basement in Taiwan and use Zoom for this on-line conference 2021. Fortunately it worked well this time. President Kyoichi Oda organized the whole plan and Webmaster Youwei Liu kept the channel and prepared the hard and soft wares to make it possible to go on. But our members stand on many different time zones and

all have to compromise their daily schedule to join it on the same time. So we had to thank everyone join this first on-line conference of APHTRO.

During these two days, we had topics from Taiwan sharing the Old Mountain Line Preservation by Mr. Youwei Liu, the Coal Mine Cart Systems in Keelung River Valley by Mr. Daniel Chia-Hong Chien, and the Preservation of the Taipei Railway Workshop that our APHTRO helped Railway Cultural Society Taiwan to let government to pay attention to its value by Vice President Nai-yi Hsu.

Indonesia showed the history, location, organization, collections and works of the Indonesian Railway Museum in Ambarawa by Mr. Hendy Helmy . And we knew from this that we can joy steam train riding there.

Mr. John Zhao from Sichuan Chuantou Emei Tourism Development Co.Ltd, China made a wonderful report about the Jiayang Baxi Coal Mine Railway. This industrial heritage still digs coal from their pits but modified one of them to show visitors the works of coal mine. Steam narrow gauged trains are running for both visitors and local transportation with the original devices and skills.

Mr. Malcolm Rowe from Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia, Australia presented their preservation of trams in Australia and New Zealand. They collected a lot of used trams and restored many of them to move by many organizations themselves from making parts to assembling them.

Dr. Hsiao-Wei Ling, professor of Chungyuen Catholic University Taiwan and also a member of TICCIH told us the progress of industrial heritage preservation in Taiwan and the establishing of ANIH, Asian Network of Industrial Heritage, to make a platform for Asian countries to communicate each other and to shape the Asian view of our industrial heritages linking with the world.

Finally India presented by Mr. Ripan Dhawan the three famous mountain railways of world heritage. Also, they introduced the longest narrow gauge railway of the world, the 164km long Kangra Valley Railway and another tentative list of world heritage the Maharashtra Railway. All are fascinating.

There are a lot of challenges remained for us. But to make a close relationship is the first step and we are happy that we can move up the first step by this on-line conference. Hope we can keep contact more frequently and closer by this method. Moreover, hope we can meet face to face soon.

All presentation files and text chat discussion are available for download from:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rmxSP6XYNG3Xt0_mZA3zu46b5apeoMNB

Further conferences beyond 2022

The conference 2022 is planning as a 'hybrid' one which consists of on-line discussion and real visit programme. It will be decided until June 2022 as seeing Covid-19 situation.

The locations under consideration for our conference venue are:

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

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 2022.

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