

Loco Shed

Asia Pacific Heritage and
Tourist Rail Organisation



APHTRO

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Accelerating on the main line

(Kyoichi Oda, President)

We have left our starting station, are running on mainline, increasing speed. I would like to thank all who help and support our activities, and hope these would help improve and propel railway heritage in the Asia – Pacific region.

Top news since our last newsletter is that APHTRO, on 2nd April, was incorporated in Queensland, Australia.

The other big news is that our Taiwanese friends, Railway Cultural Society Taiwan has succeeded to save the Taipei Railway Workshop as a historical Monument. I profoundly praise their great achievement.

Our important forthcoming business is forming a committee and establishing a charter at our next conference, 20-23 October in Bangkok, Thailand.

We will make step by step progress, with our wonderful heritage railway friends from many Asia – Pacific countries: we all have quite different backgrounds, but have the same passion for Railway Heritage!

The current state of our activities

1. Incorporation – done!

Finally the application was accepted by the Queensland Government in Australia. We has been incorporated now. Many thanks for our secretary, Nathan Williams.

2. Committee

We expect our Finance Committee will provide information and consultation for fundraising starting from next Conference. This committee is the first one and its role

is very important for most APHTRO members: to advise on the financial aspects of their activities. Nomination and negotiation are proceeding.
A Marketing Committee is planned to follow to improve members' business.

3. APHTRO Forum

APHTRO Forum as a Facebook group should be one of the most important and useful services of APHTRO. This forum is the place heritage railway people in Asia – Pacific region share experience and knowledge and is a key value of APHTRO. Someone could help with your problem, you could help someone else's problem. Thriving active discussion will make mutual co-operation even more fruitful.

4. Asia-Pacific Railway Heritage Site Database

Process is at present disappointingly slow. A sample page is still under construction and we hope the pace to fix the format and design will improve; we need somehow to make it quicker.

5. APHTRO Charter

We expect the draft version will be circulated in September. Discussion will be take place on-line in advance of next Conference. After a Resolution at the AGM of the Conference, the Charter will be called the “Bangkok Charter”.

Conference 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand

Message from Ms Kanrawee Thongpull, State Railway of Thailand.

STEAM DOWN THE MEMORY LANE WITH SRT

Four times a year, the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) has excited rail fans especially steam lovers with steam excursion hauled mostly by Pacific steam locomotives to commemorate its anniversary on 26 March; Her Majesty's Birthday aka Mother's Day on 12 August; King Chulalongkorn Memorial Day on 23 October and His Majesty's Birthday aka Father's Day on 5 December, to revive the glorious days of steam when trains connecting the country, opening new horizon to many, creating businesses, opportunities and many more.

The October 2015 steam excursion train is yet to mark another step of an effort to preserve and cherish the grandeur of steam as it will welcome members of APHTRO on board as part of the annual conference to be hosted by SRT.

The age of steam in Thailand began on 26 March 1896 when the first ever train ride, the Royal Train for King Rama V hauled by Dübs, was made to Ayudhdaya and faded in late 1960s and early 1970s. Replaced, completely in 1973, by more modern, powerful, economic and environmental friendly diesel locomotives, some steam locomotives were preserved and exhibited at various station and landmarks yet many have been scrapped and ignored. Nonetheless, effort were made to gather and build body of knowledge on steam locomotives based on professional experience of SRT staff and existing foreign text books including the establishment of Railway Technical School in 1974. After much effort, some steam locomotives have been back into action with the first 'nostalgic' excursion on 23 October 1986 to commemorate King Chulalongkorn, the visionary King who modernized the Kingdom and also the father

of Thai Railway.

The fleet of five – Pacific no. 824 and 850; Mikado no. 953; and Mogul C56 no. 713 and 715, are now stabled at Thonburi Depot where the participants of APHTRO Conference would visit and converse with the men behind the boiler!

Becoming member of APHTRO is another step forward to better preservation of heritage locomotives and trains along with partnership for development of sustainable heritage train excursions beyond the existing occasional ones. Nonetheless, it is not only preservation of steam that SRT aims for but also history, knowledge, culture and various train relating facets that would help nurture the body of knowledge and understanding of the rail people and the public at large.

The State Railway of Thailand deems it an honour to become a part of APHTRO community and to welcome all participants to the Bangkok Conference and is looking forward to the future collaboration that would assist us to realise our dream in the rail world.

The Conference schedule is shown below and the Conference fee is 150 USD or 5000 THB.

20 Oct Tue – Return trip on Nam Tok line (optional)

21 Oct Wed – Train ride on Maeklong Line and a visit to Thonburi Depot

22 Oct Thu – Business Session: APHTRO Annual General Meeting and Presentations

23 Oct Fri – Steam train ride: return trip to Ayutthaya

Booking is open now. Please visit our website for details.

<http://www.aphtro.org/news/?cat=4>

Conference 2016 will be held in **India** - details will be announced soon.

Vacancies

We currently have following vacancies open for candidates;

- **Newsletter Editor**

News from members, Asia - Pacific Region

Taipei Railway Workshop – Congratulation!

Very good news came on 15 March: Taipei Railway Workshop was named as a National Historic Site, by the Ministry Culture of the Taiwanese Government. This achievement results mainly from long, enthusiastic effort by the Railway Cultural Society Taiwan. They have carried on a social campaign through the Internet and mass media, talked to government and local council to persuade for this change. Finally they have achieved this marvellous result. The next stage is transforming the site to a railway museum. APHTRO is happy to support this in every possible way.
<http://taiwantoday.tw/ct.asp?xItem=228310&CtNode=436>

Steam train project in Manila

Now under consideration is which steam engine to restore for the plan. One likely candidate is the British built 0-6-2 Dübs tank engine preserved in Dagupan city, 150km north of Manila. It depends on negotiation with local municipal at first. If everything is going well, next step will be estimating the cost and seeking supporters.
<http://www.manilarailroadclub.org/>



This Newsletter cannot be sustained without fresh content. Latest news, photos and articles from your heritage railways will be welcomed.
The next issue will appear in **December 2015**.

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(I would like to thank *tw* for checking the draft.)