

# Loco Shed

**Asia Pacific Heritage and  
Tourist Rail Organisation**



**APHTRO**

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

## **Free from any political view**

(Kyoichi Oda, President)

Our organisation has been run for four years since its establishment in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in 2013. This has not been clear in any documents, but is remedied here.

Our activities must not take a political side in any country; we have to be on neutral ground. Any person, activity, country and district must be treated equally.

If you feel a problem or unpleasantness regarding some countries, that should be considered separately from our interest in rail heritage in those countries. Those governments' acts and decisions are not determined by rail heritage people. In some countries, they are public service staff on the national railway, but they are far from any diplomatic affairs and are not politicians.

I have met and talked with more than one hundred rail heritage people in over thirty countries. It is not so easy to separate from politics and this could be a personal problem in some cases I suppose.

I believe that APHTRO must not take any side; we must treat rail heritage activity equally and ensure our international co-operation creates no political problem or confrontation. I suggest a view of rail heritage as independent, isolated from political situations. If you do not entirely agree with your government's policy, rail heritage people in the country are usually much more of one voice.

## **Supporting members' projects**

We are currently supporting the following projects:

- a. Transforming the former Taipei Railway Workshops into a Railway Museum in Taiwan;
- b. The steam train revival plan by Manila Railroad Club in The Philippines; and
- c. Steam locomotive boiler inspections at Royal Railways in Cambodia.

## **Consulting service**

Consulting Services for our members will be provided as and when requested. Currently some of our members are excellent at organising social activities, heritage evaluation, fund-raising etc. These are important parts of our international co-operation.

## **Support scheme for conference delegates**

The scheme will be considered and discussed for Conference 2018 in Chengdu, China.

## **Incorporation moving to India**

This is on hold until Autumn 2018 due to the postponement of Conference 2018.

## **Topics in second half of 2017**

### **Heritage Rail Alliance (HRA) Conference 2017, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA**

North American regional Organization, Heritage Rail Alliance, which was rebranded in 2016 from the Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums (ATRRM), held their Fall Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota from 3 to 7 October.

The conference included Duluth's Lake Superior Railroad Museum and a trip on the North Shore Scenic Railroad, Excelsior Streetcar Line and some nice rail museums and rail heritage sites.

The parallel seminars and presentations on various themes and spheres were held on the last three days. Your president Kyoichi Oda gave a presentation which introduced APHTRO and rail heritage in the Asia – Pacific region.

The conference was made possible through support from many vendors. Exhibition booths are available for vendors in the main meeting area; participants see and get to know their products and services for rail heritage activities.

The conference usually has more than 200 participants - the biggest regional one.





### **Meeting with Sichuan Proyncial Investment Group Co Ltd**

In the afternoon of 18 October, your President, Kyoichi Oda visited Sichuan Proyncial Investment Group Co Ltd which operates Shibaxi Railway, the only regular scheduled tourist steam train in mainland China. Mr. Fang Junxian, Chairman, and Mr. Zhang Xiang, Deputy Manager of Marketing Dept., met and we discussed, then agreed further co-operation and holding our Conference 2018. The railway not only attracts many people but also keeps old provincial era and rural landscapes. Some very good ideas were seen on their operation; their business seems very healthy. The railway site is entirely good – well worth a visit to see how it is run. (I would like to thank Ms. Claire Guo who helped our communication in Chinese.)



### **Conference 2018 in Shibaxi Railway, China**

Next conference will be held in Shibaxi Railway in Qianwei, Sichuan, China.

#### **Conference Programme**

The conference programme Schedule (TBD):

15 Oct Mon – Visit Giant Panda research and breeding centre in Chengdu (optional)

- 16 Oct Tue – Travel from Chengdu to Qianwei
- 17 Oct Wed – Visit and ride in Shibaxi Railway steam train
- 18 Oct Thu – AGM and business session
- 19 Oct Fri – Visit Leshan Giant Buddha and Luocheng Ancient Town (optional)

Delegates will fly to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan, on or before Sunday 14 October. Qianwei, the venue of conference is located two hours bus ride from Chengdu.

We will visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding on Monday. This is another sphere exhibition, not a heritage site, but is very popular and good to visit and bring something for our museums and activities. The entrance fee is 58RMB.

<http://www.panda.org.cn/english/>

We will move to Qianwei the next day. Steam train ride on Wednesday, we will leave Qianwei in the morning to take a 30 minutes local bus ride to the station. We expect to visit the engine shed and workshop, then make the return trip on a steam train with a few hours stay at the terminus, where you can visit a mine exhibition.



AGM and business session on 18 October is planned to be held in meeting room at Sichuan Proyncial Investment Group Co Ltd.

Other visits on Friday can be to popular local heritage sites: Leshan Giant Buddha is registered as World Heritage; Luocheng Ancient Town is famous as an old and

historic town which is kept as it would have appeared hundreds of years ago.

For long distance delegates, other steam train rides are available in Bangkok, Thailand on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia on every Wednesday and Saturday. Please ask for details.



<https://www.newsflare.com/video/51089/travel/mothers-day-steam-train-in-thailand>



<http://www.suteraharbour.com/rail-train-sunset-cruise/north-borneo-railway-train>

## Future Conferences

### Conference 2019

We hope to hold our 2019 Conference in Amman, Jordan. Confirmation and announcement will be in Autumn 2018.

### COTMA conference

COTMA (Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia) will hold its bi-annual conference from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Perth, Australia.

Two session days on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> with a visit programme to beautiful tram heritage sites, etc., are being planned.

Post conference tour is also planned from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The details will be shown on <https://www.cotma.org.au> and also in our next issue.

## No. 650 Steam Locomotive Comes Back to Track

(Nai-Yi Hsu: Railway Cultural Society Taiwan)



After a 14 years' waiting, No. 650 steam locomotive of Taiwan Sugar Corporation (Taisugar) came back to track on Nov. 11th, 2017 when a ceremony was held in Suantou Refinery.

This 1928 Koppel Germany made locomotive was once sold to a hotel in Zao Miyagi Japan after its retirement. But Zao hotel could not support it for long. Fortunately, another Japanese Mr. Kazumi Ito who is also a fan of Taiwan sugar rail bought it with only one reason: To return it to Taiwan to run again. He contacted Taisugar at first but was turned down. Then he ask my assistance to find anyone who would make his dream come true. Finally Chiayi County Government (CCG) made this deal. Ito gave it without any fee to CCG under only one condition: To restore and run it. After signing an agreement in Yokohama Harbor, No 650 SL came back to Taiwan in December 2003.

However, there was no any branch of CCG to operate a railway, nor they had

such money to restore it. No. 650 was put at the old Putzi Station for many years without any progression. At last, our Administration Yuen (Cabinet) had a project to make a railway of 762mm (2ft6in) gauge using the existing sugar railway system to connect Taiwan High Speed Rail Chiayi Station to the South Branch of The National Palace Museum. It included the running of this locomotive as an attraction. So No. 650 started restoration since 2016.

Since there is no original paper left, we could not be sure what the exact shape it was. Under the help of Professor Chi-wen Hung and Mr. Shiang Wang, we compared some old pictures of Koppel made locomotives to put the figure and color of it. A new boiler was made and two new water injectors were bought while other parts were reused. The test by CCG was done on Sept. 26th. And it was brought to Suantou Refinery for its new life. On the day of the ceremony on Nov. 11th, a lot of fans came to see it. A cruise train for VIPs ran after ceremony using usual tourist train. Then an additional special train using an old passenger coach ran for fans and made fans very surprisingly and happily.

There are still many problems remained. The locomotive boiler itself need a certification and drivers should be trained to operate it. The real route of railway is not constructed yet. And finally who will operate it? CCG or Taisugar? It is still a long

way for it to come back in service. But it is a good start and a good story of arailway enthusiast's love to train and to Taiwan.



(Ito and No. 650 when it was displayed in a symbolized Putzi Station.)

## **Vacancies**

Please recommend if you or someone you know would be happy to help us.

### **Secretary**

We are seeking a new secretary following the retirement of our former secretary Nathan Williams.

### **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. The next issue will appear in June 2018.

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