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 Asia Pacific Heritage &
 Tourist Rail Organization
 [APHTRO]

Oct 2013

APHTRO
 Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation

2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – JOURNEY ON THE SABAH STATE RAILWAY

IN THIS ISSUE

Our Train has departed!

by Kyoichi Oda [President]

At the business session, 7 July 2013, of our second conference in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, a resolution of launching APHTRO was passed unanimously. I would like to thank all delegates, especially Mr. Ismail Ahmad and Sabah State Railway for great support.

We accomplished first step, then proceeding second step; starting our activities and make it work well for improvement of each members' activities. This cannot be carried out without gathering members' strength. Each member have wide knowledge and experience of precious railway heritage, it is expected making good use of it for our future progressing.

We are hauling heavy train, could not make it so fast. It would take long, we will see five, ten years and probably more. I hope all members understand this and being patient. I believe we can achieve it if member unite their force under the passion for heritage railway.

Our train has departed for the future of our railway heritage. Let it get the speed and run it well. Our locomotive is best designed one running toward our goal. It depends on how we drive it.



Welcome by Sabah State Railway

On Thursday 5 July 2013, The President Mr. Oda, Secretary Mr. Williams, and our special guests from the UK Mr. Peter Ovenstone and Mr. David Morgan were welcomed by Mr. Ismael Ahmad, Senior Manager of Sabah State Railways, Malaysia.



North Borneo Steam Railway

A subsidiary to Sabah State Railways, the NBSR, operates steam services with the finest international class from Kota Kinabalu through to Tenom on a journey set in 1930s colonial style.

Administration

Our administration structure in below has been approved at last conference in Malaysia. It started works for managing our organisation for future development.

Honorary Patrons



David Morgan TD MBE
(UK)

- President of the World Association of Tourist Trams and Trains
- President of the European Federation of Museum and Tourist Railways
- Chairman of the Heritage Railway Association



Abed Al Rahim Al-Boucai
(Jordan)

- Member of the Jordan Parliament
- Former Member of Board of Directors, Public Transportation Organization Authority
- Former Deputy Mayor of Amman



Kyoichi Oda (Japan)

President

- Director of the World Association of Tourist Trams and Trains
- Honorary Life Member of Mid-Hants Railway



Rajesh Agrawal (India)

Vice President

- Former Director of National Rail Museum
- Executive Director (Heritage) in Indian Railways
- Former UNESCO's fulltime Expert Consultant



MingHsun Hsieh (Taiwan)

Vice President

- President of Railway Cultural Society Taiwan
- Curator of Takao Railway Museum
- Chief of Operation Section, Railway Bureau, Ministry of Transportation



Nathan Williams (Australia)

Secretary & Treasurer

- Life Member of the International Association for Community Development
- Member of Australian Sugar Cane Railway
- Former Queensland Young Volunteer awardee



Maisoon Shaheen (Jordan)

- Business Development Manager of Al BOUCAI Group for Consulting & investment
- Former Investigator of Ministry of Municipalities, Architectural Heritage Department
- Member of Jordan Engineering Association

The following offices are vacant:

- Webmaster - TBD
- Newsletter Editor (from 2014) - TBD
- Event Organizer - TBD

Special Thank-you

by Nathan Williams [Secretary]

I would like to offer a sincere thank-you to Mr. Ismael Ahmad, Senior Manager of Sabah State Railways, the staff from North Borneo Steam Railways, who conducted an excellent train service.

The representative of the Minister for Infrastructure and Development asked me for feedback on how the steam railway compared with railways around Asia and the Pacific.

I commented the point of difference was that NBSR provided "an experience" and "not just another rail trip". For example, the 1930s British colonial uniform from "hat-to-sock", the speed of changing 100 table settings between 3 courses at each 20minute stop, the youngness of the staff, the PA system providing commentary, through to the menus, and embroidered face-washers soaked in Johnson & Johnson product for guests to refresh in the humidity offered an experience.

The Sabah State Railway hosted our 2 day steam trips, our meeting room for the AGM, and our farewell dinner.

A personal special thank-you goes to Ismael who also took me to a medical clinic in Malaysia one evening I was unwell, and for using his private vehicle to support our travel needs. Ismael – thank-you! ☺

Another special thank-you to our British and Scottish friends, Mr. David Morgan MBE, President WATTRAIN, and Mr. Peter Ovenstone, Secretary of Heritage Railway Association. Not only did everyone enjoy their jokes about Australia, Peter welcomed Kyoichi, Maisoon and I into his room for a pre-conference drink, Peter and David surprised us by covering the cost of lunch which was extremely kind, and David provided me with a temporary loan of 100 Ringgit [~AU\$30] in currency to make a purchase. We excited the local economy as we sat in the train wearing our new Colonial Hats and everyone rushed to buy one!

Aside from the friendship and having David as our Honorary Patron, the extensive stories, knowledge and contacts of railways and history not only reinvigorated my passion for steam railways as a young person, their years of experience and suggestions during our business session were welcome and have helped our APHTRO team to make some good decisions.



SPECIAL MEMORIES

- Drinks with Peter Ovenstone in the hotel
- Meeting our members (friends) for the first time!
- A rail-car repair demonstration
- Viewing the Borneo rainforest by steam engine and rail car for the first time!
- Laughing along the line with British jokes about Australia with David Morgan & Peter Ovenstone, our special guests & friends ☺
- Kyoichi and his love of photographing sleeping people!
- Maisoon's stories about Jordan culture & life
- Kibu, Ismael and I talking about civil engineering
- Erin's stories about Taiwanese railways
- Dr. Nai and his friendliness when I was unwell
- Speaking with the Ministry of Infrastructure
- Official APHTRO Launch speech by Kyoichi
- Farewell dinner!

An illustration created from the Constitution of APHTRO - objectives



Signal Box - Communications 😊

DR NAI-YI HSU (TAIWAN)



Fast Fact

With more than 5 languages, APHTRO covers a large area and many cultures but with team spirit we will make a difference.

COVERAGE OF ASIAN MARKET

53% +

Asian railways represented in APHTRO

47%

To encourage and support to join

VACANCY

Newsletter Editor

APHTRO is seeking someone interested in being our Loco-Shed newsletter editor with the following skills:

- English written language (good)
- Time management (5hrs per month)
- Friendly 😊
- A passion for railways
- IT Skills (Word, Emailing)

For more info or to help us, please contact Kyoichi or write to:

Secretary - APHTRO
PO Box 5848 Bundaberg West QLD
4670 AUSTRALIA.

Website and Logo Design

The website is currently a temporary version until beautifully reformatted by Arriane Lea Caringal. The work is under going and new website will be opened by October.

The main part of on-line discussion facility is planning to be installed to our website at the same time. This should satisfy at lease following functions;

- Multi-thread bulletin board.
- Photos and other document files can be attached.
- Can be accessible from PC, tablet and smart phone.
- Password lock for full members.
- The other important work has done is APHTRO corporate logo which you can see on the top of this issue.

Kota Kinabalu [Malaysia] Conference 2013

The APHTRO conference for 2013 was a successful event held in Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia, and was hosted by the Sabah State Railway. The management, staff and volunteers were gracious in the assistance they offered and our stay was most comfortable.

The conference consisted of both a railcar trip along the Sabah State Railway, a steam journey with staff impeccably dressed in full 1930's period costume, an elegant five star dining experience with the finest cuisine, and staff who waited on customers superbly. The steam journey made its way up the mountainside through Sabah's rugged North Borneo wilderness. The pouring rain, white steam clouds, humidity, giant rainforest and raging unforgiving rivers eroding the land on the edge of the railway line added to an incredible experience.

Following the return trip in the evening, the conference delegates enjoyed sharing stories, free beverages, and returned to hotels for a quick refresh before visiting a local Kota Kinabalu famous seafood restaurant for dinner. We enjoyed visiting the local shopping district and speaking with locals about their lifestyle, culture and railway stories.

On Sunday, our association held the formal conference business by affirming the administration of the organization, including the patrons and council members; commencing formal presentations, welcome speeches, messages of congratulations, and thanking dignitaries from the Malaysian Government who attended to support the work of our association.

Overall, our conference was an enormous success, with memories full of nostalgia, souvenirs and an amazing trip to the famous North Borneo Railway.

Kaohsiung [Taiwan] Conference 2014

The APHTRO conference 2014 will be held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan: 2th - 7th May 2014. Everyone with an interest in heritage railways and museums will be warmly welcomed.

The schedule planned is:

2 May Fri - Arrival, Registration and Banquet (from early evening);

3 May Sat - APHTRO AGM and Business Session;

4 May Sun - Steam train in the Old Mountain Line and Changhua Round House;

5 May Mon - Wushulin Sugar Railway and Taipei Railway Workshop;

6 May Tue - Mt. Ali Forest Railway round trip to Mt. Duli, and

7 May Wed - Free tour in Kaohsiung City and Harbor (Optional)

Booking is planning to be opened in February 2014.

Please visit our website for details and latest information.

<http://www.aphtro.org/>

APHTRO conference 2015 will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November.

Further APHTRO conferences will be held in November, dry, cool and less typhoon season, apart from other organisations' conference and not to be in Ramadan, Diwali, Christmas, New Year and Chinese New Year.

Conferences and Meetings Calendar

Organizations in Asia Pacific Region

RPSJ Conference 2013 (Japan)

24 - 25 October, Takasaki

<http://www.rpsj.jp/> (Only Japanese)

Contact : Junichi Yoneyama,
yoneji1122@yahoo.co.jp

FRONZ Conference 2014 (New Zealand)

30 May - 2 June, Wanganui

<http://fronz.org.nz/>

Contact : Peter McCallum,
secretary@fronz.org.nz

International Organisations

ATRRM Annual Conference 2013 (North America)

17-19 October, California, USA

Contact : Suzanne Grace,
scg@lagniappeassociates.com

FEDECRAIL conference 2014 (Europe)

3 - 9 April, Budapest, Hungary

http://www.fedecrail.org/en/index_en.html

Contact : John Fuller,
jrfuller_chalk@yahoo.co.uk

This Newsletter cannot be sustained without fresh content. Latest news, photos and articles from your heritage railways will be welcomed.

The next issue will be appear in February 2014.

info@aphtro.org



"Designed thanks to Arriane Lea Caringal of The Philippines"

APHTRO

Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation

LocoShed
- OCTOBER
2013

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The State of Queensland

4670

AUSTRALIA