

Loco Shed

APHTRO Newsletter No. 1

12 February 2012

This is the first issue of the newsletter of APHTRO, Asia Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation. "Loco Shed" is intended as a 'base' for all the people in the heritage and tourist railway sector in the Oceania - Asia region. It will be circulated at least twice a year (Winter and Summer) to APHTRO members.

The Aim and Purpose of APHTRO

Although there are many separate activities in the heritage and tourist railway sector in the Oceania - Asia region, they are busily advancing their plans separately; it seems there is little co-operation between countries. APHTRO will mainly help the improvement of our treasured heritage railways and museums by forming a co-operative organisation to unite the countries. It will provide a forum where we can share experience and exchange ideas, advice and information from specialists in marketing, finance and technical aspects. This of course cannot be achieved overnight; it will need five, ten, perhaps fifteen years. However, nothing is accomplished without a first step - which you have taken. This starts mutual co-operation for the future of our railway heritage: open the regulator in full forward gear!

Schedule for Launch

We are 'lighting up the engine' to launch the organisation in Spring 2013. This will be done through discussions and resolutions on-line and at our Working Group assemblies as part of our Annual Conference.

We will discuss and pass resolutions for objectives, administration, and a membership programme at our next conference in Indonesia.

Other business from 2012 will be discussed at the next assembly; then resolutions and a final vote to launch the organisation is planned for the conference next year.

Working Group

Any key plans about establishing APHTRO are to be discussed and passed as resolutions by working group members from six countries so far;

Mr. Grant Craig - President, Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand

Mr. Kyoichi Oda - Director, World Association of Tourist Trams and Trains

Mr. Karel Brouwers - President, Railways and Industrial Heritage Society of the Philippines., Inc.

Ms. Ella Ubaidi - Executive Vice President, Head of Heritage and Conservation Department of Indonesian Railways

Mr. Rajesh Agrawal - Mountain & Heritage Railways of India, ICOMOS

Exc. Mr. Abdel Al Boucai - Member of the Parliament of Jordan

Ms. Maisoon Shaheen - Business Development Manager, AL Boucai Group

We hope to have new members from the Railway Cultural Society, Taiwan and Sabah State Railway in Malaysia.

Patrons

The most imminent problem is travel costs for Annual Conferences. We hope to find honorary patrons to sponsor and help our activities. Your facilitator is trying to make a contact with a couple of persons who have helped heritage railways in the past. We would welcome any information about people or organisations who might be happy to support us.

Joining the Worldwide Network through WATTRAIN

WATTRAIN, World Association of Tourist Trams and Trains, is an organisation supporting heritage and tourist railways worldwide. APHTRO will join WATTRAIN soon after our launch, to become part of the worldwide network with WATTRAIN and the other international regional member organisations: FEDECRAIL (Europe); ALAF (Latin America); and ATR&RM (North America).

Conference 2012 and Working Group Assembly

Our first conference is planned to be held in Indonesia, 7-11 June 2012.

This will be the first gathering of Working Group members and a good opportunity to learn of their activities via their presentations. Guest speakers, WATTRAIN President Mr. David Morgan and Vice President Mr. Chris LeMarshall, will come and give presentations too.

One important item in the programme for this conference is the Working Group Assembly: we shall discuss the founding of a robust organisation and pass resolutions. This conference is also a good chance to can see the magnificent heritage railways and museums of Indonesia, most of which are operated by the Heritage and Conservation Department of Indonesian Railways.

Booking is open until the end of April. Of course you and any friends interested in heritage railways and museums will be warmly welcomed.

Please visit the Notice page: <http://aphtroconference.web.fc2.com/> for a link to the Booking Form.

Conferences and Meetings Calendar

APHTRO Working Group

FRONZ Conference 2012 (New Zealand)

2-4 June, Rotorua, New Zealand

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

RPSJ Annual General Meeting 2012 (Japan)

Autumn (tbd), Wakasa town, Tottori prefecture, Japan

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

International Organisations

FEDECRAIL conference 2012 (Europe)

10-16 May, Helsingborg and Jönköping, Sweden

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

APHTRO conference 2012 (Oceania & Asia)

7-11 June, Solo, Indonesia

Contact : Kyoichi Oda, prairie@kun.ne.jp

WATTRAIN Congress 2012 (Worldwide)

30 September - 7 October, York, UK

Contact : Ian Smith, i.b.s@btinternet.com

ATR&RM Annual Conference 2012 (North America)

5-11 November, Montreal, Canada

Contact : Suzanne Grace, scg@lagniappeassociates.com

This Newsletter cannot be sustained without fresh content. All latest news, photos, articles or anything else about your heritage railways will be welcomed. The next issue will be appear in August 2012.

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Kyoichi Oda

Facilitator, APHTRO working group

(I would like to thank *the helper* checking for language errors)