

6 June — White Paper on Tourism reported that more tourists headed for foreign countries but domestic travel flattening. 187 million people made overnight travel within Japan and 16.69 million visited foreign countries in 1996, up 9.1% from previous year. Foreign tourists visiting Japan reached 3.8 million

8 June — JAL flight 706 from Hong Kong to Nagoya encountered turbulence over Chita Peninsula, Japan, injuring 11

8 June — Propeller plane operated by domestic airline crashed near Bunia, Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) killing 30 crew and passengers

19 June — Tunnel boring machine with world largest cross section (14.18 m) made debut in Japan. Will excavate three tracks over 363.8-m section, including retaining track between Seishoko-mae and Azabu

25 June — Two Union Pacific freight trains collided head-on and exploded in huge blast in Devine, Texas, derailing 29 rail cars, and killing four people

27 June — Explosion in toilet of train bound for St. Petersburg from Moscow killed 3 passengers and injured 7

28 June — Typhoon No. 8 hit Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan, causing two train accidents. Outbound train on San-in line derailed, injuring 16 of 43 passengers. Four-car train on Tohoku line ran into track mired by landslide injuring 11

2 July — Panamanian tanker *Diamond Grace* (259,999 tonnes) ran aground off Yokohama Port spilling approx. 1,556 kl of crude oil into bay

3 July — Helicopter crashed in Akame Valley, Nabari City, Japan, killing four persons on board

5 July — JR West opened renovated Umekoji Steam Locomotive Museum displaying 18 steam locomotives. Museum displays front of former Niijo Station, oldest wooden station building in Japan

5 July — Railway accident in Stadlendorf, Germany, caused by 15-m long pipe twisting off freight train and slicing open final car of packed passing train, killing 6 and injuring 15

7 July — Vienna-Warsaw express ca-reened off bridge in torrential rain near Ostrava, Czech Republic, injuring 64

7 July — Romanian passenger train derailed from buckled tracks after week-long heat wave, injuring 12

8 July — Bomb exploded in Punjab train, killing 23 and injuring 45

8 July — Large bus fell into Chang Jiang River in Sichuan, China, leaving 33 missing

9 July — Explosion in Brazilian TAM Airways Focker 100 flying near Sao Paulo, Brazil, made hole in fuselage. Plane made emergency landing south of Sao Paulo. One male passenger killed when blown out of hole

10 July — Eurotunnel shareholders approved debt restructuring plan allowing creditor banks to swap \$3.4 billion of debt and unpaid interest for large stake in company. Vote also enables Eurotunnel to operate Channel Tunnel until 2086

11 July — Cuban plane flying from Santiago de Cupa to Havana crashed into sea leaving 44 crew and passengers missing

12 July — JR West and other companies opened Kyoto Station Building. 60-m high, 470-m long, 19-story structure contains theatre, hotel, and department store making it largest station building in Japan

17 July — Domestic airliner crashed in West Java, Indonesia, killing 26

21 July — L23 glider crashed after takeoff in Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan, killing 78-year old pilot and severely injuring 73-year old instructor

26 July — Small plane crashed at Ostend Municipal Airport, western Belgium, during acrobatics at international air show killing 8 and injuring 46

31 July — Federal Express MD11 crashed at Newark International Airport, USA, but 5 crew escaped safely



New Kyoto Station Building

(JR West)

6 August — Korean Air B747-300 flying from Seoul to Guam crashed 5 km south of Agana International Airport killing 227. Bad weather and landing guidance system failure blamed

7 August — DC8 freight plane stalled shortly after take-off from Miami International Airport and crashed into nearby industrial area killing 4 crew and 2 people on ground

9 August — Los Angeles-Chicago train derailed by collapsed wooden bridge weakened by heavy rain injuring 116 passengers

10 August — Formosa Airline propeller plane flying from Taipei to Mazu Island, Taiwan, crashed into mountain killing 14 passengers and 2 crew

11 August — Crowded ferry collided with barge and overturned outside Hanoi, Vietnam killing 4 and leaving 20 missing

11 August — Streetcar service returned to Sydney after 36 years. Each train consists of five cars and serves 3.6-km section connecting city centre and nearby vicinity

12 August — Container freight train stopped at level crossing hit by sleeper train with approximately 300 passengers on Numazu-Katahama section of JR Central's Tokaido Line derailing two sleeper cars and injuring 47 passengers

15 August — Cruise ship capsized in Manila Bay killing 7

21 August — Mid-air collision over Ryugasaki City, Japan, between Japanese Self Defense Forces helicopter and light plane killed 2 helicopter crew and plane pilot

25 August — Head-on collision between two trains at Tateda Station of Konan Line serving western Aomori Prefecture, Japan, injured 32

Milestones

Yoshiharu Takamatsu

Appointed Vice President of Japan Railway Construction Public Corp. on 1 June. Joined JNR after graduating from Faculty of Engineering of University of Tokyo in 1962. Appointed JR East Director of Tokyo Construction Office in April 1987. Became Board Member in 1990, and Executive Vice President in June 1995

Satoshi Isozaki

Died on 19 June, aged 84. Joined Ministry of Railways in 1935 and oversaw post-war labour reductions. Became JNR Chairman in 1969 and promoted controversial 'productivity movement'. Appointed Chairman of Sunshine City development in Ikebukuro, Tokyo after retirement from JNR

Yoshio Kaneda

Appointed President of JR Freight on 23 June. Joined Ministry of Transport after graduating from Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo in 1961. Appointed Executive Director of JR Freight in 1993. Former President Yasushi Tanahashi becomes Executive Advisor

Koji Tanaka

Appointed President of JR Kyushu on 24 June. Joined JNR after graduating from Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo in 1960. Appointed Managing Director of JR Kyushu in April 1987. Former President Yoshitaka Ishii promoted to Executive Chairman

Mutsutake Otsuka

Appointed Vice President of JR East on 27 June. Joined JNR after graduating from Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo in 1965. Appointed JR East Managing Director in 1994

Masaru Kotani

Appointed President of Keihin Electric Express Railway Co., Ltd. on 27 June. Joined company after graduating from Tohoku University. Appointed Vice President in 1993 and Executive Vice President in 1995. Former President Ichiro Hiramatsu appointed Executive Chairman

Akira Niwa

Appointed President of Japan Airport Terminal Co., Ltd. on 27 June. Joined Ministry of Transport after graduating from Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo in 1958. Retired from Ministry in 1991 after serving as Director General of Maritime Safety Agency. Served as Chairman of Japan National Tourist Organization. Former Chairman Hisao Takahashi becomes Executive Advisor

Hiroyoshi Akashi

Appointed President of Nishi Nippon Railroad Company (Nishitetsu) on 27 June. Joined company after graduating from Keio University in 1958. Appointed Executive Director in 1995. Former President Naoyuki Hashimoto becomes Advisor

Makoto Kitanaka

Appointed President of Odakyu Electric Railway Co., Ltd. on 27 June. Joined company after graduating from Hitotsubashi University in 1959. Appointed Executive Vice President in June 1995. Former President Takashi Kitagami becomes Executive Advisor

Masahiko Kurono

Appointed Administrative Vice Minister of Transport on 1 July. Joined Ministry after graduating from Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo in 1964. Assumed posts of Deputy Director of Railway Bureau and Director of the Minister's Secretariat. Appointed Chief of Civil Aviation Bureau in June 1995. Former Administrative Vice Minister Minoru Toyoda retired