

1 August—SkyNetAsia Airways began services on Narita–Miyazaki route as third airline to start domestic services since Japan's airline deregulation in 1998

1 August—Kawasaki Heavy Industries announced order for 300 subway cars for New York City Department of Transportation

11 August—US Airways group filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy with \$7.81 billion in assets and \$7.83 billion in debts

22 August—Sightseeing plane crashed in Nepal, killing 18 people

23 August—Delta, Northwest, and Continental airlines announced business alliance, including code sharing on domestic and international routes

29 August—Antonov 28 of Vostok Airlines crashed on coast of Sea of Okhotsk, killing all 16 passengers and crew

30 August—Domestic passenger plane crashed in northern Brazil, killing all 24 passengers and crew

5 September—JR East announced start of shinkansen onboard ticket checking system from 1 December with opening of Morioka–Hachinohe section of Tohoku Shinkansen

12 September—Hokuriku Shin'etsu District Transport Bureau of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) granted application of Niigata Coastal Railway to stop railway operations between Kuroyama and Tarodai (5.4 km) and dissolve railway company

12 September—First board meeting of third-sector Echizen Railway that will take over threatened operations of Echizen main line and Mikuni Ashihara Line of Keifuku Electric Railway in Fukui Prefecture

17 September—All Nippon Airways announced business tie-up with Hokkaido International Airlines (AirDo), including code sharing, aircraft maintenance and sales

18 September—South and North Korea announced plans to start reconstruction of railway and road links destroyed/separated during Korean War

18 September—JR West announced full-scale operation of female-only carriages from 1 October after trial operation on Osaka Kanjo and Katamachi lines

20 September—JR East announced new train timetable from 1 December timed with opening of Morioka–Hachinohe extension of Tohoku Shinkansen. New *Hayate* to connect Tokyo and Hachinohe in 2 hours 56 minutes at top speed; *Shiratori* limited express to debut between Hachinohe and Hakodate, and *Tsugaru* limited express between Hachinohe and Hiroasaki

26 September—JR West announced donation of first ED70 AC locomotive to Old Nagahama Station Museum managed by Japan National Trust

26 September—Express train on Nagoya main line of Nagoya Railroad collided with passenger car on level crossing near Inazawa City in Aichi Prefecture, killing car driver and derailing first two train carriages

30 September—JR Central announced plans to install new and improved passenger information facilities, including train departure signs at gates, information boards, waiting-room smoke detectors, and new electric signboards on platforms, in preparation for opening of Shinagawa Station in autumn 2003 and consequent full-scale timetable revisions

1 October—Fire on *Diamond Princess* (113,000 tons) luxury liner under construction at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Nagasaki Shipworks destroyed about 51,000 m² of passenger cabins

2 October—Japan Airlines (JAL) and Japan Air System (JAS) merged to form Japan Airlines System Corporation, ranked world's sixth largest carrier and third in sales

4 October—Thirteen female 'service concierges' assigned to Kyobashi Station of Keihan Electric Railway after building remodelling

8 October—Railway Day Committee formed by Railway Bureau of MLIT and railway companies and groups, announced recipients of Japan Rail Award created to commemorate 130th anniversary of Japanese railways. JR East awarded for SUICA smart-card gate system (contribution to adoption of IT) and Okayama Electric Tramway awarded for contributions including super-low-floor tram and provision of service information (contribution to revitalization of local railways)

15 October—Qantas B-747 bound for Australia from Narita Airport hit turbulence after takeoff, injuring 12 passengers and crew

16 October—Bandai Resort Development (Bandai Town, Fukushima Prefecture) applied to Tokyo District Court for rehabilitation under Civil Rehabilitation Law, placing company in *de-facto* bankruptcy with debts totalling about ¥95 billion—investors include JAL and JR East

18 October—Council for Reform of Special Corporations decided to submit Reform of Special Corporations Bill 26 to 155th special assembly of Diet. Bill's provisions include privatization of Teito Rapid Transit Authority (TRTA) into special public corporation and merger of Japan Railway Construction Public Corporation with Corporation for Advanced Transportation and Technology, forming independent public corporation called Foundation for Railway Construction and Advanced Transportation and Technology

21 October—Vietnam Airlines announced plan to spin off short-haul domestic, Laotian, and Cambodian routes to new subsidiary called Express Airline. Vietnam Airlines to concentrate on international flights while retaining lucrative Hanoi–Ho Chi Min service

27 October—Shortest passenger railway in Japan, third-sector Shibayama Railway (2.2 km between East Narita–Shibayama-chiyoda) started service with connections to Keisei Electric Railway

30 October—First board meeting of Higa Orange Railway formed to manage existing Kagoshima main line running parallel to new Kyushu Shinkansen between Yashiro and Kawauchi

MILESTONES

Mr Hisashi Umezaki

Appointed President of TRTA. After graduating in law from Kyoto University in 1966, entered Ministry of Transport where held posts of Director General of Railway Bureau and Director General of Secretariat before becoming Administrative Vice Minister for Transport in July 1999

Mr Katsuhiko Nawano

Appointed Vice Minister for Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry. After graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1969, entered Ministry of Transport where held posts of Deputy Director General of Railway Bureau and Director General of Road Transport Bureau before becoming Commandant of Japan Coast Guard in MLIT

Mr Hiromasa Maruyama

Appointed Director General of Road Transport Bureau of MLIT. After graduating in economics from at University of Tokyo in 1972, entered Ministry of Transport. He held posts of Vice Director General of Policy Bureau and Director General of Policy Planning in new MLIT

Mr Hayao Hoya

Appointed Director General of Civil Aviation Bureau of MLIT. After graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1971, entered Ministry of Transport where held posts of Deputy Director General of Transport Policy Bureau, Administrative Counsellor, and Director General for Policy Planning for new MLIT before becoming Director General of Road Transport Bureau in July 2001

Mr Makoto Washizu

Appointed Director General of Policy Planning of MLIT. After graduating in economics from University of Tokyo in 1972, entered Ministry of Transport where held posts of Counsellor for Minister's Secretariat and Director General of Tourism Department of Transport Policy Bureau, before becoming Director General of Tourism Department of Policy Bureau in new MLIT

Mr Ken'ichi Sakaya

Appointed Commandant of Japan Coast Guard of MLIT. After graduating in law from Kyoto University in 1971, entered Ministry of Transport where held posts as Deputy Director General and Director General of Civil Aviation Bureau before becoming Director General of Civil Aviation Bureau in new MLIT

Mr Shin Sasaki

Former Osaka City Manager appointed President of Universal Studios Japan on 23 October at special shareholders' meeting. Joined Osaka City Office in 1959 after graduating from Graduate School of Kyoto University. Became head of Osaka City Port Authority in 1984, City Manager in 1992, USJ Chairman in 1997, and head of Osaka International House Foundation in 2000. Current President Akira Ishida announced resignation at meeting, taking responsibility for series of scandals that have rocked theme park

Mr Hidenori Fujita

Former Managing Director of Keifuku Electric Railway appointed President on 23 October and to take up new post on 6 November. Joined Keihan Electric Railway in 1967 after graduating in law from Kobe University. Became Managing Director of Kyoto Bus in 1993, Director of Keifuku Electric Railway in 1997 and Managing Director in 2001. Following company's declining performance since accidents in December 2000 and June 2001, current President Eiichi Ishida stepped down to position as Advisor to board of directors



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