

2 November—Shiodome Station of Oedo Subway Line and *Yurikamome* New Transport opened at 31-ha Shiodome redevelopment site in Tokyo

3 November—Ferry carrying over 200 people sank off coast of Ambon in Indonesia, drowning five and leaving 73 missing

6 November—One of several firefighters on tracks of JR West Tokaido Line in Osaka's Yodogawa Ward hit and killed by *Super Haku* 11 express while responding to emergency call

6 November—Luxair Fokker 50 crashed near Findel airport in Luxembourg, killing 18 of 22 passengers and crew

6 November—Express sleeper train bound for Vienna from Paris caught fire in Nancy, eastern France, killing 12 passengers

7 November—Light plane carrying 10 people crashed shortly after takeoff on Indonesia island of Kalimantan (Borneo), killing seven passengers and crew

11 November—Light plane owned by Philippine Laoag International Airlines crashed into Manila bay shortly after takeoff from Manila Airport, killing six passengers

12 November—First carriage for Tobu Kyuryo Line, Japan's first commercial High Speed Surface Transport (HSST) maglev unveiled at test line in Nagoya. Maglev to run on 8.9-km line linking Fujigaoka Station of Nagoya Subway and Yakusa Station of Aichi Loop Line near site of EXPO 2005 Aichi

13 November—Lequios Airlines announced plan to begin twice-daily return service between Haneda and Naha (Okinawa) starting 1 June 2003 using Boeing 767

20 November—Kobe Municipal Transportation Bureau announced start of female-only cars on all Kobe City Subway (30.6 km) services from 16 December

20 November—Odakyu Electric Railway announced launch of Odakyu Good Pass linking automated ticket gates to mobile phone email function from 3 February 2003

27 November—JR West signed agreement with Shiga and Fukui prefectures to convert 44 km of JR West's Hokuriku and Kosai lines to DC power with worked scheduled to begin in late FY2006

27 November—Alitalia Airlines plane with 74 passengers and crew bound for Paris from Bologna hijacked by Italian before making emergency landing at Lyon Airport where hijacker apprehended

1 December—Morioka–Hachinohe 96.6-km extension of Tohoku Shinkansen opened, extending shinkansen service from Tokyo to Hachinohe in northern Aomori Prefecture in just 2 hours and 56 minutes

1 December—Rinkai Line belonging to Tokyo Waterfront Area Rapid Transit extended 4.4 km from Tennozu Isle to Osaki, linking Shin Kiba and Osaki with connections to JR East's Saikyo Line

1 December—Tail of Airbus A300-600 belonging to Japan Airlines System brushed main wing of A340-600 belonging to Lufthansa while taxiing on temporary runway at New Tokyo International Airport (Narita)

3 December—Bureau of International Exposition (BIE) named Shanghai as host for 2010 World Expo

5 December—Groundbreaking ceremony held for 7.1-km rail–air link between Natori Station on JR Tohoku main line and Sendai Airport with opening scheduled in FY2006

5 December—Lufthansa announced start of world's first onboard broadband Internet service for passengers from 15 January 2003

9 December—UAL parent company of United Airlines filed for Chapter 11 protection under Federal Bankruptcy Code with debts totalling about ¥2,800 billion

11 December—As part of transport reforms, Japan's House of Councillors passed Tokyo Subway Company Law, Independent Administrative Institution Railroad Construction/Operation Facility Construction Support Organization Law and other laws, dissolving Teito Rapid Transit Authority (TRTA) on 1 April 2004 and establishing Tokyo Subway

13 December—Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MLIT) published *Railway Consumer Report* on homepage of Railway Bureau to provide statistics on JRs and other major private railways in Japan

14 December—Norwegian-flagged car transporter carrying 2862 luxury cars collided with Cuban-flagged container ship near Dover in North Sea and sank without loss of life

16 December—Overloaded ferry capsized in river near Robertsport in Liberia, drowning at least 48 people

18 December—JR West announced IC Operating CARD (ICOCA) prepaid card and commuter pass to be adopted at about 250 stations in Kansai area in 2003

18 December—Large overloaded boat capsized on Para River in Amazon, drowning 33 people and leaving about 40 missing

20 December—Boeing Corporation cancelled development of next-generation *Sonic Cruiser* planned to travel close to speed of sound

23 December—Antonov 140 passenger plane crashed outside Isfahan in central Iran, killing 46 passengers and crew

24 December—Opening ceremony held to commemorate opening of first 8.3 km of planned Delhi Metro partly financed by Japanese ODA grant aid and using Korean-built carriages

24 December—MLIT announced Global Tourism Strategy to increase 4.77 million foreign visitors to Japan in 2001 to 8 million by 2007

25 December—Ceremony held at Ruzhino Station on eastern end of Trans-Siberian Railroad to celebrate full electrification of entire 9300 km of line

31 December—German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji took ride on 30-km Shanghai MAGLEV (world's first commercial MAGLEV) scheduled to open in March 2003 and linking Pudong International Airport and Yang Road Station in 8 minutes at speeds up to 430 km/h

2 January—National Police Agency reported 8326 traffic fatalities in 2002 (down 421 from 2001 and half worst-ever figure of 16,765 in 1970)

3 January—JR East announced plan for joint use of its SUICA commuter/passenger pass and JR West's ICOCA to be introduced by late 2004

3 January—Passenger and cargo trains collided at Ghatandur Station in western India, killing 18 and injuring about 40

4 January—*Talgo* express train derailed near Albacete in central Spain, killing two passengers and injuring about 20

6 January—Boeing announced deliveries totalling 381 civilian aircraft in 2002 (down 28% from 2001) blaming fall on impact of 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks and long airline recession

6 January—Commuter train collided with truck on crossing in Burbank near Los Angeles, killing truck driver and injuring at least 30 train passengers

8 January—Turkish Airlines RJ100 passenger plane crashed on landing at Diyarbaki in southeastern Turkey, killing 75 out of 80 passengers and crew

8 January—Small Air Midwest aircraft crashed after takeoff in Charlotte, North Carolina, killing all 21 passengers and crew

8 January—Narita Airport introduced test check-in system using personal bio-data such as iris pattern and face contour for personal identification

9 January—Bus fell into ravine in jungle, southeast of Quito, Ecuador, killing at least 12 and injuring 27

9 January—Wreckage of Peruvian Fokker F28 carrying 46 passengers and crew found in Amazon jungle with no survivors

12 January—Groundbreaking ceremony held on Lantau Island for Hong Kong Disneyland with planned opening in FY 2005–06

17 January—US Department of Transportation conditionally approved alliance of Delta, Northwest, and Continental airlines with cooperation to include code sharing on international and domestic flights

17 January—MLIT approved application by Echizen Railway to take over operations of Keifuku Electric Railway with both currently shut lines to return to service in late 2003

21 January—Tokyo Immigration Bureau announced that 24.506 million people left and entered Japan via Narita Airport in 2002 (up 12% over previous year and highest number since airport opened in 1978)

23 January—Consortium of seven Japanese companies won ¥100-billion contract to build high-speed section at northern end of Taiwan Shinkansen with construction planned to start in October 2005

23 January—JR Freight announced start of test runs of prototype M50 express container train dubbed *Super Rail Car* consisting of 12 wagons to carry 28 special small-lot containers with locomotive at each end

25 January—Eight-car subway train on London Underground Central Line derailed and collided with platform at Chancery Lane Station, injuring 30 passengers

26 January—Chartered China Airlines B-747 became first plane from Taiwan to land on mainland China at Shanghai's Pudong International Airport

31 January—Four-car commuter train derailed near Sydney, Australia, killing 9 and injuring 15

Milestones

Mr Hiroshi Ishida

Former JTB President died on 16 December. After graduating from Wakayama Commercial High School in 1942, entered JTB-forerunner Toa Travel in 1943, becoming JTB Director in 1973, President in 1982, and Board Chairman from 1990 until 1996

Mr Susumu Takizawa

Appointed President of Hokkaido International Airlines (Air DO) on 27 January. Entered former Ministry of Transport (now MLIT) after graduating in liberal arts from University of Tokyo in 1969, where occupied various posts in Civil Aviation Bureau before retiring in 1997. Appointed Chairman of Japan Tourist Association in July 1997

Mr Masayuki Inoue

Appointed President of Skymark Airlines on 28 January. Joined British Airways in February 1989 and then Skymark Airlines in May 2002, where served as general manager in President's Office and Sales Department. Obtained masters degree from Hosei University in March 1998 while at British Airways