

1 June—JR East started centralized lost-property system for entire Tokyo metropolitan area

2 June—Upper house of Japanese Diet approved plan to privatize four public road corporations, including Japan Highway Public Corporation, by end of FY2005

2 June—Overturned tractor-trailer dumped lumber on tracks of JR West's Kisei main line, causing four-car express train to derail and injuring six passengers and two crew

7 June—International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced plan for 100% usage of electronic tickets by 2007 to streamline airline business

8 June—Twin-prop Gabon Express Airlines plane with 30 passengers and crew crashed off Gabon coast, killing at least 16 people

12 June—JR West ferry hit submerged rocks in Seto Inland Sea near Miyajima, slightly injuring six passengers

15 June—Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) published FY2003 Tourism White Paper showing total of 5.34 million foreign tourists to Japan in FY2003 (+0.5% on FY2002) and largest number ever

16 June—Railcar and 11-car passenger train collided on bridge 160 km south of Mumbai, western India, derailling train and killing at least 20 people

19 June—98 passengers stranded for 1 hour when cableway on Mt Asahidake (2290 m) in Hokkaido stopped

20 June—Small aircraft crashed in Java, Indonesia, killing all five passengers and crew

21 June—Typhoon blew metal roof off building onto catenary of Tokaido Shinkansen, disrupting 94 shinkansen services between Tokyo and Shin Osaka

22 June—Pleasure boat capsized by strong winds in dam reservoir in lower Yellow River in China, killing one passenger and leaving 42 missing

24 June—JR East announced plans to build special carriage for Japanese royal family and five high-grade carriages for foreign VIPs as part of Omeshi train

28 June—Singapore Airlines started direct flight between Singapore and New York as world's longest non-stop direct flight (16,600 km) using latest Airbus A340-500

30 June—Heavy rain in Shizuoka Prefecture caused cancellation of 54 trains on Tokaido Shinkansen

3 July—Thailand's first 20-km subway opened in Bangkok between Hua Lamphong (central station of national railway) and Bang Sue in city outskirts for total construction cost of \$2.716 billion (¥285.18 billion) with 80% financing through Japanese government yen loan

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9 July—Newly incorporated Skymark Airlines announced plans to merge with Internet Service Provider Zero on 1 November to reinforce bottom line by selling Internet business, and repaying debts of about ¥3.2 billion

15 July—Surutto Kansai Committee of three private Kansai railway companies (Keihan, Hankyu, and Nose Electric Railway), announced start of PiTaPa smart-card ticket-gate service from 1 August

18 July—Swollen rivers fed by torrential rain in Fukui Prefecture washed away five steel bridges on JR West's 52.5-km Etsumihoku Line between Fukui and Kuzuryuko as well as track bed scour at 19 locations, leaving line out of service between Fukui and Echizen Ono

19 July—Five-car tram service started in Athens, Greece, in preparation for summer Olympics, travelling some 26 km in about 8 minutes from city centre to sports complex south of city

21 July—Large-scale power outage on subway Line 1 in Guangzhou, China, had wide-reaching impact on passengers, including ticket refunds to 3900 people

22 July—High-speed train carrying about 240 passengers derailed and overturned outside Pamukova in western Turkey, killing 36 people and injuring 60

23 July—Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced plans to expand number of locations issuing visas to Chinese tour groups visiting Japan to three cities and five provinces, starting 15 September

25 July—Lightning strike disabled cable car on Mt Komagatake (2956 m) in Japanese Central Alps, stranding about 1050 tourists at Senjo-jiki Station (2615 m) until following morning

26 July—Air China B737 with 116 passengers and crew bound for Changsha from Beijing hijacked by Chinese man before making emergency landing at Zhengzhou Airport where hijacker arrested

30 July—Hongkong Tramways' famed double-decker streetcar marked 100th anniversary of service start with 163 trams currently in service on 30 km of tracks in northern area of Hong Kong Island

1 August—SL Yamaguchi hauled by C57-1 steam locomotive marked 25th anniversary of return to service on 62.9-km run between Shin Yamaguchi (Ogori) and Tsuwano on JR West's Yamaguchi Line and carrying some 1.5 million passengers during that time

3 August—Small twin-prop airplane crashed into house on outskirts of Austin, Texas, killing all six people onboard

5 August—Japan Airlines (JAL) announced start of service from next year first at New Tokyo International Airport (Narita), allowing passengers to board by swiping credit card with embedded IC chip at gate

11 August—Head-on train collision in Kocaeli, Turkey, killing six people and injuring 100

24 August—Suicide bombers blew up two passenger planes departing from Moscow almost simultaneously, killing all 89 passengers and crew

29 August—Chinese Ministry of Railways placed order for 200 train carriages from three companies, including Chinese carriage manufacturer partnered with six Japanese companies, French company, and Canadian company, as part of plan to increase train speeds on five lines

31 August—Typhoon Chaba hit Japanese archipelago causing 1314 flight cancellations over 3-day period, affecting about 100,000 people

7 September—Thai government approved plan to build seven new elevated railway lines (Skytrain) around Bangkok, increasing current 44 km of tracks to total of 291 km

7 September—MLIT revised takeoff and landing slots for Tokyo International Airport (Haneda), taking total of 20 (round-trip) flights from JAL and All Nippon Airways (ANA) and allocating them to new airline to promote competition in air industry

10 September—Joint venture by five companies, including JR East, started redevelopment of Yaesu side of Tokyo Station, building ultra-high twin 200-m towers at north and south ends of station

12 September—US Airways, America's seventh-largest airline, applied for Chapter 11 corporate reorganization at Virginia federal bankruptcy court after suffering poor performance due to economic factors, such as skyrocketing fuel costs

14 September—Combined commercial facility opened on site of old Japanese National Railways (JNR) Headquarters at north exit on Marunouchi side of Tokyo Station

20 September—Total passengers using Narita Airport since May 1978 opening passed 500 million

22 September—Japan Airport Terminal Co., Ltd., operator of Haneda Airport terminal building, decided to charge ¥100 facility fee to passengers on domestic flights starting April 2005 to cover construction costs of second terminal building opening in December

27 September—Passenger boat capsized near Nanchong, China, drowning 20 people and leaving six missing

30 September—American government included short-term tourists in mandatory photo ID and fingerprinting system for long-term visitors to USA

1 October—Tokaido Shinkansen (Tokyo–Shin Osaka, 552.6 km) marked 40th anniversary of start of world's first high-speed railway service in 1964, carrying over 410 million passengers and travelling over 15 million km in that time

2 October—Chongqing Light Rail started test operation of China's first straddle-beam monorail (19.15 km) in Chongqing, China, with revenue operation starting as tourist line expected from June 2005

3 October—Smuggling ship sunk in Mediterranean Sea off the eastern coast of Tunisia, killing at least 17 people and leaving 47 missing

5 October—Ceremony held to commemorate completion of passenger terminal building for Central Japan International Airport (CENTRAIR) off the coast of Tokoname City, Aichi Prefecture. Airport will open on 17 February 2005 with Nagoya Railroad (Meitetsu) line connecting airport to Nagoya City centre

8 October—Ceremony held to commemorate completion of 18,000 m² Passenger Terminal 2 building at Haneda Airport serving mainly ANA flights from 1 December 2004

14 October—Ghana's MK Airlines B-747 cargo plane crashed on takeoff from Halifax Airport, Canada, killing all seven crew on board

15 October—JR East announced tie-up with new Shin Ginko Tokyo to be created in 2005 by Tokyo Prefecture, adding Shin Ginko ATM capability to JR View Card with commuter-pass and credit-card functions

16 October—Cargo train of about 50 wagons derailed outside Los Angeles, California, forcing evacuation of more than 2000 local residents

19 October—Twin-prop aircraft from St. Louis crashed on landing in Missouri, killing 13 of 15 passengers and crew on board

20 October—Two-car train derailed and overturned on JR East's Iida Line in Tatsuno Town, Nagano Prefecture after torrential rains from Typhoon Tokage undermined track bed

20 October—Kawasaki Heavy Industries announced joint order worth ¥140 billion for 60 shinkansen train sets (480 cars based JR East's Hayate) with Nanche Sifang Locomotive Co. (Chinese rolling stock manufacturer in Shandong Province), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Hitachi, and others, for Chinese-government project to increase speed of existing railway lines with delivery starting from February 2006

23 October—Richter 6+ earthquake struck central Niigata Prefecture, derailing Joetsu Shinkansen (first shinkansen derailment in 40 years) between Urasa and Nagaoka, causing structural damage to line

27 October—New York subway celebrated 100th anniversary with restoration of 1917-era train

28 October—MAGLEV linear motor car passed total of 400,000 km travelled on Yamanashi Test Line since start of test operation in April 1997

29 October—Following damage caused by Niigata Earthquake to Joetsu Shinkansen, MLIT instructed all JR companies operating shinkansen to inspect total of about 120,000 pillars supporting elevated shinkansen tracks

1 November—JR East opened travel centres in both stations at Terminal 2 of Haneda Airport to provide ticket sales and tourist information in partnership with local governments

1 November—Airbus Industries announced plan to establish first Asian R&D centre in China in 2005

6 November—Express train derailed by car at crossing in Berkshire, England, killing six people and injuring 11 seriously

8 November—MLIT approved application from Meitetsu to close Gifu Shinai and Tagami lines (10.9 km) and Minomachi Line (Hinobashi–Sekima; 13.0 km), following already approved closure including Ibi Line (Chusetsu–Kuroko; 12.7 km) by 31 March 2005

8 November—World Tourism Organization (WTO) announced total of 526 million people travelled overseas between January and August 2004, marking 12% increase over same period in previous year

9 November—Ten-car cargo train carrying concentrated sulphuric acid derailed on Kosaka Railway's Kosaka Line in Odate City, Akita Prefecture

12 November—After rails stolen, train derailed and rolled 10 m down embankment into river in central Philippine province of Quezon, killing 12 people and injuring about 160

15 November—Major French transportation group Connex submitted proposal to Gifu Prefecture, Gifu City, Chubu Transportation Bureau, and others, to take over 600-V Meitetsu lines in Gifu Prefecture scheduled to close in late-March 2005

15 November—CENTRAIR announced landing fee of ¥655,700 for B747-400 jets on international flights—less expensive than ¥948,000 charged by Narita Airport and ¥825,600 charged by Kansai International Airport but still more expensive than other countries

16 November—High-speed *Tilt Train* derailed and overturned in outskirts of Bundaberg on east coast of Australia, injuring 128 passengers and crew

16 November—JR Central and Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI) recorded closing speed of 1026 km/h during high-speed test run of two MAGLEV linear motor cars on Yamanashi Test Line

16 November—NASA achieved new aircraft world speed record of almost mach 10 about 12,250 km/h) over Pacific Ocean using X43A unmanned supersonic test aircraft

21 November—China Eastern Airlines' Bombardier CRJ-200 jet crashed on takeoff in Baotou City in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, killing all 54 people on board

29 November—Kashiwazaki–Nagaoka section of JR East's Shin'etsu Line resumed services 37 days after sustaining severe damage in Niigata Earthquake on 23 October

30 November—Government Strategic Conference for Promotion of Tourism released report containing 55 recommendations, including staggering holidays, to make Japan internationally competitive tourist destination

30 November—Indonesian Lion Air MD82 aircraft (carrying 148 passengers and crew) ran off runway into rice paddy and cemetery while landing at local airport on Java, Indonesia, killing at least 31 people

1 December—Terminal 2 opened at Haneda Airport with new Tokyo Monorail station to serve ANA and other carriers with JAL remaining in Terminal 1

10 December—Tokyu Corporation, Tobu Railway, and Odakyu Electric Railway applied to MLIT for permission to increase fares centred on increases in commuter tickets to reflect costs of several major construction projects, including double- and quadruple-tracking

10 December—Japanese government's International Organized Crime and Terrorism Task Force released Terrorism Prevention Action Plan mandating fingerprinting and photographing from FY2006 of all foreigners entering Japan as anti-terror measure

10 December—Airbus announced design and production of A350 next-generation mid-sized passenger plane (245 to 285 seats) to compete against Boeing's planned 7E7 Dreamliner

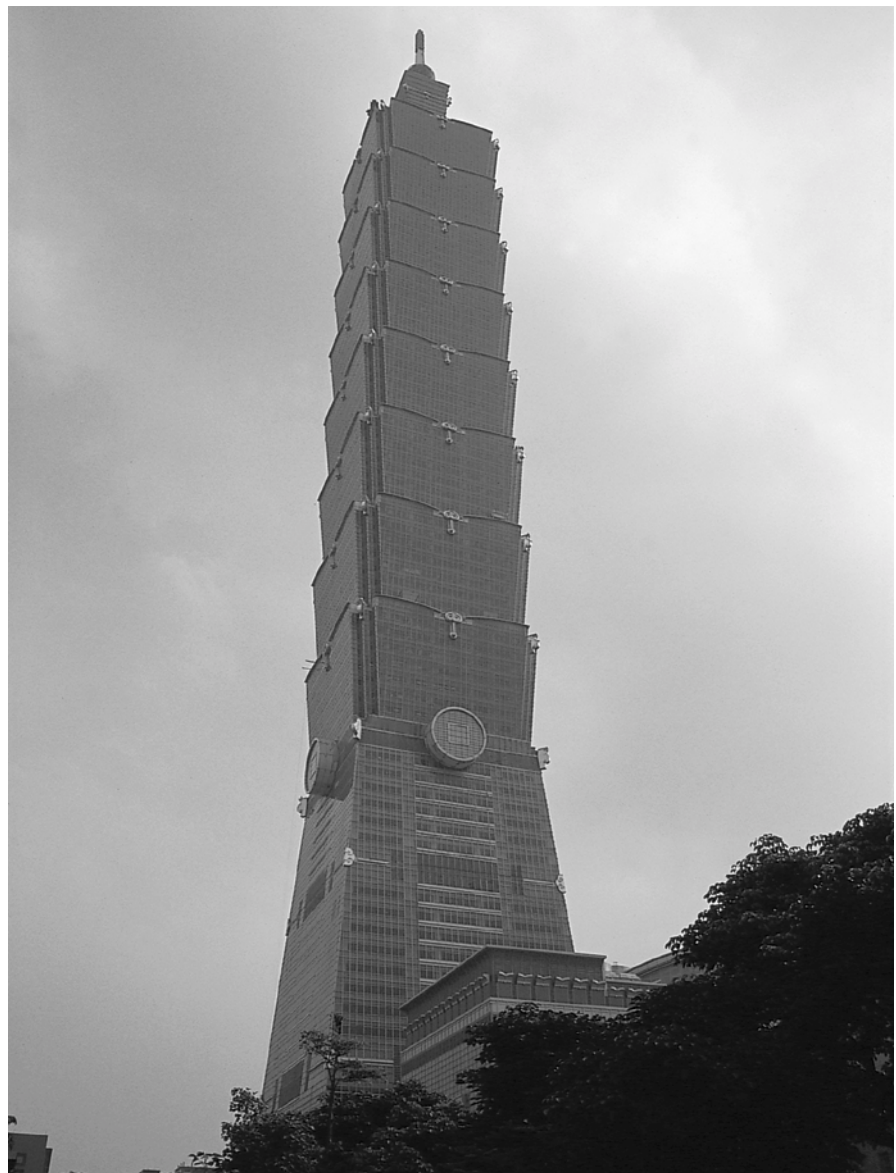
14 December—Express and local trains crashed head-on in northern Indian state of Punjab, killing 50 people and injuring approximately 150

14 December—World's highest road bridge (343 m above river and 2460-m long) completed in Millau, France across River Tarn

16 December—Liberal Democratic Party convened Seibi Shinkansen Committee (studying new shinkansen construction) and announced new construction to start in 2005 on three routes: Shin Aomori–Shin Hakodate on Hokkaido Shinkansen; Toyama–Kanazawa Depot on Hokuriku Shinkansen; and Takeo Onsen–Isahaya on Kyushu Shinkansen (Nagasaki section)

16 December—Toshiba Elevator and Building System Corp. announced installation of world's fastest lift (16.8 m/s) in Taipei 101 (world's tallest building at 508 m and 101 stories) in Taipei, Taiwan

18 December—Change to FY2005 draft budget negotiated by ministers of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, and Finance to build second 4000-m runway at Kansai International Airport by 2007 at cost of ¥30 billion



World's tallest building, Taipei 101 (508 m and 101 stories)

(Tourism Bureau, Rep. China)

21 December—Airbus announced first order for A350 next-generation mid-sized plane from Air Europa

22 December—JR Group of passenger companies announced major timetable revisions from March 2005 including discontinuation of *Asakaze* and *Sakura* sleeper trains between Tokyo and Kyushu and more Nozomi services on Tokaido and San'yo Shinkansen

22 December—JAL announced order for thirty Boeing 7E7 Dreamliner aircraft currently in development as future backbone of mid-size fleet with planned introduction in 2008 to replace B767, A300-600, and other aircraft

24 December—Robinson R44 helicopter crashed in Ariake Sea in Saga Prefecture, Japan, killing all three people onboard

26 December—Richter 9 undersea earthquake off coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered tsunami striking countries bordering Indian Ocean and leaving more than 280,000 people dead and missing, including 1000 passengers on train on Sri Lankan coastal line

26 December—China's first high-capacity (200 people) express bus (18-m long) started operations in Beijing

28 December—Repairs to Echigo Yuzawa-Nagaoka section of Joetsu Shinkansen completed 66 days after Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake

7 January—Mizuho Bank announced plan to partner with JR East from autumn 2005 by issuing new credit cards with built-in *Suica* prepaid functions

7 January—Passenger and freight train collided head-on in outskirts of Bologna, northern Italy, killing at least 13 people

12 January—For second successive year, Airbus announced more orders (370) and deliveries (320) than rival Boeing Company

14 January—Boeing announced record extraordinary losses of \$340 million between October and December 2004 with total extraordinary losses for 2004 of \$615 million

17 January—Out-of-service subway train ran wrong way on Thailand's Bangkok subway, colliding with packed three-car train and injuring more than 180 passengers

18 January—Airbus held unveiling ceremony at Toulouse plant in southern France to celebrate completion of A380, world's largest next-generation passenger plane with standard seating capacity of 555

21 January—MLIT announced record number of foreign travellers to Japan in 2004 of 6.143 million (930,000 more than 2003)

25 January—High waves capsized high-speed boat carrying tourists near Samui Island in southern Thailand, drowning at least 8 people

26 January—Commuter train struck large passenger vehicle parked on tracks by suicide in outskirts of Los Angeles, California, to collide with stopped freight train and derail another commuter train, killing 11 people and injuring some 200

27 January—Taiwan High Speed Rail (345-km between Taipei and Gaoxiong) based on Japan's shinkansen started test runs between Tainan and Gaoxiong in preparation for opening by late October 2005

29 January—Meitetsu opened Kuko Line (4.2 km) between Central Japan International Airport and Tokoname Station

31 January—IATA reported total airline industry losses of \$4.8 billion for 2004 due to skyrocketing fuel prices and price competition

2 February—RTRI announced successful development of hybrid train using lithium-ion batteries to store braking energy for re-use during running

2 February—WTO announced total of 760 million people travelling overseas in 2004—year-on-year increase of 69 million and highest ever number of international travellers

2 February—Small jet overshot runway after failed takeoff at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey, USA, cutting across highway, slamming into warehouse, and injuring at least 14 people

3 February—Fukuoka City Transportation Bureau opened 12-km extension to Nanakuma subway between Tenjin Minami and Hashimoto, giving total length of 29.8 km

3 February—Kam Air B-737 passenger plane crashed east of Kabul, Afghanistan, killing all 104 people on board

15 February—Boeing held ceremony at Washington plant to mark completion of 777-200 LR (301 passengers) with world's longest non-stop travel duration for passenger plane (17,446 km)

17 February—CENTRAIR opened on artificial island off Tokoname with 24-h services using single 3500-km runway to 28 cities in 15 countries

17 February—High-speed ferry from Hong Kong collided with Chinese cargo vessel off Lantau Island, injuring 102 people

19 February—River ferry capsized near Bangladesh capital of Dhaka, drowning 116 people and leaving more than 80 missing

22 February—JR East modified SUICA smart-card season tickets for shopping at most stores in Ueno Station

22 February—MLIT approved application by Tobu Railway, Odakyu Electric Railway, and Tokyu Corp—three major private railways in Kanto—to lower some ordinary fares and raise season tickets

23 February—Japan's Metropolitan InterCity Railway Company announced planned opening of Tsukuba Express (TX) between Akihabara in central Tokyo and Tsukuba Science City (58.3 km) on 23 August

Financial Results of JR Companies

(¥ billion)

Company	Fiscal Year	Operating Profit/Loss			Non-operating Profit/Loss	Ordinary Profit/Loss	Extraordinary Profit/Loss	Pre-tax Profit/Loss	Profit/Loss after Tax
		Revenues	Expenses	Profit/Loss					
JR East	2002-03	1,899.5	1,598.1	301.4	-137.3	164.1	2.0	166.1	87.0
	2003-04	1,897.2	1,589.7	307.5	-124.3	183.2	6.2	189.4	104.3
JR Central	2002-03	1,109.3	784.6	324.7	-234.0	90.7	5.9	96.6	43.2
	2003-04	1,127.8	800.5	327.3	-209.8	117.5	-3.5	114.0	67.0
JR West	2002-03	849.1	745.5	103.5	-41.9	61.4	1.5	62.9	33.5
	2003-04	845.9	740.4	105.5	-40.4	65.0	3.5	68.5	37.2
JR Hokkaido	2002-03	90.2	118.9	-28.7	30.3	1.6	0.1	1.6	1.1
	2003-04	89.2	117.6	-28.4	29.9	1.5	-1.1	0.5	0.0
JR Shikoku	2002-03	38.1	45.4	-7.3	7.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2
	2003-04	36.7	44.0	-7.3	7.6	0.3	-0.2	0.1	0.1
JR Kyushu	2002-03	149.7	153.1	-3.4	9.2	5.7	-1.0	4.8	1.3
	2003-04	150.3	152.9	-2.6	8.8	6.2	-0.4	5.9	2.7
JR Freight	2002-03	157.4	154.7	2.7	-2.1	0.6	1.2	1.8	0.5
	2003-04	165.7	161.9	3.9	-1.9	1.9	0.5	2.4	1.6

26 February—Out-of-service single-car train ran into collapsed earth embankment on JR West's Tsuyama Line in Okayama City

27 February—Workers broke through from both ends of Hakkoda Tunnel (26.455 km) currently being cut between Hachinohe and Shin Aomori on Tohoku Shinkansen to become world's longest land tunnel but soon to be second longest land tunnel when Lötschberg Tunnel (34.6 km) opens in Switzerland in 2007

Milestones

Mr Satoshi Iwamura

Appointed Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on 24 June. Joined former Ministry of Transport (MOT) after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1969. Held Director General posts in Maritime Transport Bureau, Civil Aviation Bureau, Transport Policy Bureau, Secretariat, and Policy Bureau of MLIT before becoming Vice Minister for Transport and International Affairs of MLIT in July 2002

Mr Masafumi Yasutomi

Appointed Vice Minister for Transport and International Affairs of MLIT on 24 June. Joined former MOT after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1970. Held posts as Director General of Railway Bureau and Maritime Bureau before becoming Deputy Vice Minister in July 2002

Mr Harumi Umeda

Appointed Director General of Railway Bureau on 24 June. Joined former MOT after graduating in law from Kyushu University in 1973. Held post as Deputy Director General of Railway Bureau before becoming Deputy Vice Minister for Policy Coordination in Minister's Secretariat in July 2003

Mr Satoru Kanazawa

Appointed Director General of Road Transport Bureau on 24 June. Joined former MOT after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1972. Held post as Assistant Vice Minister in Minister's Secretariat's before becoming Assistant Commissioner of Tourism Department of Policy Bureau in August 2002

Mr Teiji Iwasaki

Appointed Director General of Civil Aviation Bureau on 24 June. Joined former MOT after graduating in economics from University of Tokyo in 1974. Held post as Assistant Vice Minister in Minister's Secretariat before becoming Assistant Commissioner of Air Traffic Services Department of Civil Aviation Bureau in August 2002

Mr Kazuo Kitagawa

Appointed Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport in second reshuffle of Koizumi Cabinet on 27 September. Graduated in law from Soka University in 1975 before becoming attorney and certified tax accountant. First elected to Lower House of Japanese Diet in 1990 and held posts including Parliamentary Vice Minister of Finance, and Chairman of Komeito Political Investigation Committee

Mr Matsuo Toshimitsu

Former President of JAL died on 9 November aged 88. Joined JAL in 1947 after graduating from Sophia University. Held post of President from 1990 to 1995. Became JAL Board Advisor in 1995, Advisor in 1998 and President of Japan Aeronautical Association in 1999. Famed as originator of JAL Pack, which blazed overseas travel trail by Japanese

Mr Masao Ishibashi

Managing Director of Seibu Railway named President on 28 January after resignation of former President Mr Terumasa Koyanagi. Joined Seibu Railway in 1969 after graduating in economics from Keio University. Held post as General Manager of Transport before becoming Managing Director in 2004

Mr Mineo Yamamoto

Named President of ANA from 1 April 2005. Joined ANA after graduating in law from Kyoto University in 1970, becoming Director in 1999, Managing Director in 2001, and Vice President in 2003