

# T O P I C S

## May

**5 May**—Boeing 737-800 belonging to Kenya Airways crashed on landing at Douala, Cameroon, killing 114 people onboard including 9 crew

**15 May**—Airbus started building first manufacturing plant outside Europe in Tianjin City, China, with construction of medium-range aircraft scheduled to start from August 2008

**16 May**—JR East (Suica), JR Central (TOICA) and JR West (ICOCA) announced start of fully compatible use of each company's IC card on all companies' lines from March 2008

**16 May**—JR West announced restoration of full services from 16 June on its entire 108.1-km Mie Line following severe storm damage in July 2006

**17 May**—Following 56-year break in connections after Korean War, test train services resumed between North and South Korea on 27.3-km Gyeongui Line and 25.5-km Donghae Line

**28 May**—JR East and JR West announced fully compatible electronic money function for Suica and ICOCA IC cards from March 2008

**30 May**—JR East started work on Tokyo Station to restore roof and third floor to original 1914 cupola design of Tatsuno Kingo with completion scheduled for late FY2011

**31 May**—Northwest Airlines announced completion of restructuring with new IPO at NYSE following Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in September 2005

## June

**5 June**—Train derailed after colliding with truck on railway crossing in Victoria, Australia, killing 11 passengers and injuring some 50 others

**7 June**—Bulk sand carrier sunk in the Pearl River off Guangdong Province, China, drowning 6 crew and leaving 3 missing

**10 June**—New 300-km Paris-to-Baudrecourt TGV line opened, providing services to Stuttgart in Germany, Luxembourg, and Basle and Zurich in Switzerland

**15 June**—Sand barge struck 1700-m long bridge in Guangdong Province, China, causing 200-m section with 4 cars crossing bridge to collapse and leaving 9 people missing

**15 June**—Test train at Dali Station in Taiwan ignored signal to collide with departing train, killing 5 and injuring 17 others

**16 June**—Drag-racing car left track in Tennessee to collide with spectators, killing 6 and injuring 18

**18 June**—World-famous QEII cruise liner retired from service to become floating hotel from 2009 at the Palm Jumeirah Island off Dubai

**23 June**—Collision between cruise ship and freighter off Shanghai, China, injured 23 passengers

**25 June**—Carriers announced agreement to start two daily return flights between Tokyo's Haneda Airport and Shanghai Hongqiao Airport from October 2007

**25 June**—Antonov 24 crashed southeast of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, killing 22 passengers

**26 June**—Tourism ministers from Japan, China and Korea meeting at Chintao Island issued joint statement on promoting standardization of prepaid IC cards for transport and inward regional tourism

**26 June**—China opened world's longest bridge (36 km) crossing Hanchow Bay and cutting 1 hour from prior 4-hour journey between Shanghai and Ningbo

**28 June**—Boeing 737 crashed on landing at M'banza-Congo Airport in north Angola, killing co-pilot and 5 passengers and injuring 66 others

**30 June**—JR West announced reopening of Etsuimihoku Line (52.5 km) 3 years after 5 bridges washed out by heavy rains in July 2004

## July

**1 July**—Air-spring tilting Series N700 jointly developed by JR Central and JR West entered revenue service on Tokaido (270 km/h) and Yamagata shinkansen (300 km/h), cutting 5 minutes off Tokyo to Osaka run (now 2 hours 25 minutes)

**5 July**—Train derailed on Central Line of London Tube network, slightly injuring 20 people

**5 July**—Cargo plane failed on takeoff from airport in Sinaloa State, Mexico, crashing into 3 cars and workshop before catching fire and killing total of 9 people in plane and on ground

**8 July**—Boeing unveiled first new medium-range, fuel-efficient B787 Dreamliner at Seattle Works for delivery in May 2008 with 677 orders from world's airlines on books

**16 July**—Magnitude 6.8 earthquake in Niigata Prefecture, Japan, killed 11 people injured 1307, and severely damaged infrastructure including roads, railway lines, and world's largest nuclear power station at Kashiwazaki

**17 July**—TAM Airlines Airbus A320 crashed on landing at Congonhas International Airport in Brazil, killing all 180 passengers and crew onboard and 19 other people on ground

**18 July**—Third-sector Miki Railway (6.6 km) taken over from JNR, announced closure at end of July 2008 with substitution of parallel bus service due to mounting losses caused by declining passenger levels

**23 July**—Out of control (due to power failure) passenger train collided with freight train to cause double derailment in Gansu Sheng Province, China, killing 1 train driver and injuring one other passenger

**24 July**—Light amphibious tourist plane crashed in Alaska, USA, killing all 5 people onboard

**26 July**—Kawasaki Heavy Industries announced order from New York City Metropolitan Transport Authority for 260 subway carriages, totalling \$450 million with delivery scheduled by August 2009

**27 July**—JR East announced plans to start work in autumn 2007 on building world's fastest shinkansen carriages capable of operations at 320 km/h with test runs from spring 2009 and revenue service to start between Hachinohe and Aomori on Tohoku Shinkansen in late 2010 to link Tokyo and Shin-Aomori stations (675 km) in about 3 hours; Tohoku Shinkansen currently operates at 275 km/h while French TGV now operates at 320 km/h

**29 July**—Antonov 12 cargo plane crashed on takeoff from Domodedovo Airport outside Moscow, Russia, killing all 7 people onboard

**31 July**—JR East started revenue service of world's first hybrid Kiha E200 with diesel engine and electric motor on Koumi Line between Kobuchizawa and Komoro (78.9 km)

## August

**1 August**—Brake failure in diesel loco-hauled train caused 7 cars to derail in southern Congo, Africa, killing about 100 people and injuring more than 220 others

**1 August**—Road bridge over Mississippi collapsed in Minneapolis, USA, killing 13 people and injuring about 110 others

**2 August**—Second runway (4000 m) opened at Kansai International Airport, supporting Japan's first airport with 24-hour service

**2 August**—Helicopter with Japanese pilot crashed in Washington State, USA, killing all 4 people onboard

**8 August**—Kintetsu Railway announced plans to build Japan's highest multipurpose skyscraper of more than 300 m with 59 floors above grade and 5 floors below grade and housing shops, hotels and offices on site of Osaka's old Abenohashi Station terminal building

**11 August**—Landslide near Beijing, China, carried away 3 m of track bed to depth of 5 m, cutting rail operations

**17 August**—UNICEF announced heavy flooding in N. Korea claimed lives of 221 people and displaced some 300,000 others as well as washing away more than 55,000 m<sup>2</sup> of railway roadbed

**18 August**—MD87 jet travelling from Cyprus to Istanbul, Turkey, hijacked and forced to land in southern Turkey where hijacker surrendered after 5 hours, leaving 142 people onboard unharmed

**20 August**—China Airlines 737-800 caught fire and destroyed after landing at Naha Airport in Okinawa, Japan, but all passengers and crew escaped unharmed

**23 August**—Groundbreaking ceremony held to mark start of construction of 904-km, high-speed line linking Dalian and Harbin, China in 4 hours with work expected to take 13 years

**23 August**—First six carriages of order for 174 carriages built by Hitachi landed at Southampton Docks, England, for high-speed service (225 km/h) on Southeastern Railways Channel Tunnel Rail Link between England and France

**27 August**—Japanese Prime Minister Abe reshuffled cabinet, appointing Tetsuzo Fuyushiba (Komeito Party) as Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

**29 August**—Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport announced budget request for FY2008 with funding for Tourism Agency to strengthen inbound tourism

## MILESTONES

**Shinji Watari** appointed President and COO of Nankai Railway from 28 June. Graduated from Osaka University in 1975 before entering Nankai Railway where held post of Director from June 2005. Previous President Makoto Yamanaka to become Chairman and CEO

**Masaaki Kobayashi** appointed President of JR Freight from 22 June. Graduated from Tokyo University in 1970 before entering JNR. Held posts at JR Systems and JR East before holding various senior board posts at JR Freight from 2000. Previous President Naohiko Ito to become Chairman with representative rights

**Jiro Yoshida** appointed Representative Director and Chairman of Tokyo Metro from 28 June. Graduated from Osaka University in 1957 before entering Nankai Railway where held posts of President and Chairman before becoming Advisor. Also Chairman of Japan Private Railways Association from 2003 to 2005

**Makoto Torii** appointed Chairman of Sagami Railway from 28 June. Graduated from Keio Gijuku University in 1971 before entering Sagami Railway where held senior board posts before becoming President of Sotetsu Building Management and Sotetsu Properties in 2003. Previous President Rikuso Oikawa to become Chairman with representative rights

**Kosaburo Morinaka** appointed President of Narita International Airport Corporation from 22 June. Graduated from Keio Gijuku University in 1965 before entering Sumitomo Trading where held senior board posts before becoming Vice President from 2002 to 2005 and then Special Advisor. Previous President Masahiko Kurono to become Special Advisor

**Shigetaka Sato** appointed Chairman of Japan Private Railways Association. Graduated from Kyoto University in 1965 before joining Keihan Electric Railway Co., Ltd. where held senior board posts before becoming President in June 2001. Previous President Masaru Kotani (Chairman of Keihin Electric Railway) to retire

**Naotoshi Nakajima** appointed President of JR Hokkaido from 21 June. Graduated from Tokyo University in 1969 before entering JNR. Transferred to JR Hokkaido in 1987 where held senior board posts before becoming Senior Managing Director from June 2005. Previous President Akio Koike to become Chairman with representative rights

**Yukiyoshi Minehisa** appointed Vice-Minister of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on 10 July. Graduated from Faculty of Law at University of Tokyo in 1972 before joining old Ministry of Public Works where held positions of Director-General, Road Transport Bureau, Deputy Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat, etc.

**Teiji Iwasaki** appointed Director of Japan Coast Guard on 10 July. Graduated from University of Tokyo in 1974 before joining old Ministry of Transport where held positions of Director-General, Civil Aviation Bureau, etc.

**Makoto Taketoshi** appointed Assistant Vice-Minister of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on 10 July. Graduated from Faculty of Law at University of Tokyo in 1972 before joining old Ministry of Public Works where held positions of Director-General, City and Regional Development Bureau, etc.

**Kosuke Shibata** appointed Assistant Vice-Minister of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on 10 July. Graduated from Faculty of Law at University of Kyoto in 1973 before joining old Ministry of Transport where held positions of Assistant Director of Meteorological Agency, etc.

**Masafumi Shukuri** appointed Deputy Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on 10 July. Graduated from Faculty of Law at University of Tokyo in 1974 before joining old Ministry of Transport where held positions of Deputy Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Minister's Secretariat, etc.

**Yoshiaki Honpo** appointed Deputy Vice-Minister for Tourism Policy in Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on 10 July. Graduated from Tokyo Institute of Technology Postgraduate School in 1974 before joining old Ministry of Transport where held positions of Managing Executive Officer of Japan Post, etc.

**Shuji Fukumoto** appointed Deputy Vice-Minister for Transport in Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on 10 July. Graduated from University of Tokyo in 1975 before joining old Ministry of Transport where held position of Director-General, Information and Research Department, Policy Bureau since 2006

**Seiichi Oguchi** appointed Director-General, Railway Bureau in Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on 10 July. Graduated from University of Tokyo in 1975 before joining old Ministry of Transport where held position of Senior Deputy Director-General, Railway Bureau since 2005

**Masaru Honda** appointed Director-General, Road Transport Bureau in Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on 10 July. Graduated from University of Tokyo in 1976 before joining old Ministry of Transport where held position of Senior Deputy Director-General, Civil Aviation Bureau since 2005

**Masashi Hashimoto** appointed Former Chairman (1993–99) and President (1987–93) of JR Freight died aged 77 on 13 August. After graduating from Faculty of Economics of University of Tokyo, joined JNR and held senior management positions as Vice-President of Tobu Railway, Director of Freight, Managing Director, Vice-President, etc., as well as head of business organizations, such as Chairman of Japan Federation of Freight Industries