

# July–December 2010

## July

- 1—Shanghai-Nanjing high-speed line (301 km) opened, linking 8 cities including Suzhou, Wuxi, Changzhou, Zhenjiang in less than 1 hour at operating speeds of 350 km/h
- 2—Chinese Ministry of Tourism announced overseas visits by Chinese tourists in 2010 reached 5.3 million (+11% year-on-year increase) with 1.8 million visitors to Japan (80% increase) due to relaxed visa regulation
- 2—Petrol tanker overturned and caught fire in village in Democratic Republic of Congo, killing at least 220 people, injuring 100 others, and destroying entire village as residents watched World Cup match between Ghana and Uruguay
- 2—Collision between buses carrying commuting workers near Kaesŏng Industrial Region, North Korea, killed 10 people and injured 40 others
- 3—Express bus drove over guard rail on Incheon Bridge, South Korea linking Incheon International Airport and Incheon City and fell 10 meters into sea, killing 12 people and injuring 12 others
- 4—Bus carrying factory workers caught fire in tunnel near Jiangsu, China, killing 24 people and injuring 19 others
- 6—Third-sector Nagoya Express Railway operating 15.2-km Aonami Line between Nagoya and Kinjo-Futo applied for Alternative Dispute Resolution procedure as part of business restructuring to rebuild business through capital reduction, etc.; line opened in October 2004 with new double-tracked electrification and elevated sections after JR Central abandoned old freight line, but operated continuously in red ever since
- 6—Tokyo Metropolitan Government TMG request for consultation with national government concerning integration of Toei Subway and Tokyo Metro accepted by Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Maehara but Toei Subway's long-term debts exceeding ¥1 trillion forms considerable barrier to integration with Tokyo Metro aiming to become public company with national government and TMG holding shares
- 6—Mitsubishi Electric announced \$40 million order for railway electrical equipment including motors and controllers for Sao Paulo (Brazil) Suburban Line No. 8 for 288 (36 trainsets) under construction by Spanish rolling stock maker CAF and due for delivery in mid-2011
- 13—Government of Brazil announced opening of bids to construct 510-km high-speed line between Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo with winning bidder to be announced on 16 December; Japanese business group expected to bid for shinkansen-type system
- 19—Express train stopped at station hit by express train in Sainthia, west Bengal, India, killing at least 60 people and injuring about 150 others: the number of people injured is expected to increase
- 19—Boeing announced receipt of large order for 30 B777 planes worth \$9.1 billion from Emirates Airlines based in Dubai, UAE; Emirates already operates 86 B777s including leased ones, and placed order for 32 A380 planes with Airbus last month
- 20—Six JR passenger railway operators, including JR East, as well as JR Freight submitted request to use surplus funds of ¥1.35 trillion generated by JNR restructuring and now held by Japan Railway Construction, Transport and Technology Agency (JRTT) to strengthen business base of JR East, JR West, JR Central and JR Freight and to construct new shinkansen infrastructure, etc., after government revitalization unit decided that funds should be returned to national treasury
- 21—Kinki Rolling Stock announced development of next-generation Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) targeted at American markets and using compact but large-capacity Li-ion storage batteries (world's first, if put to practical use) plus overhead catenary for motive power; 20-m, 3-car prototypes now in testing phase
- 21—Chinese government announced heavy monsoon rains since June caused widespread flooding and landslides resulting in at least 701 deaths with 347 other people missing and causing harm and losses to about 113 million people in southern China
- 22—Track maintenance car partly derailed in tunnel on Shin Kobe to Nishi-Akashi section of JR West San'yō Shinkansen in early morning, causing cancellation of 97 services on Tokaido and San'yō shinkansen lines, delaying 9 other shinkansen services by up to 8 hours, and inconveniencing more than 60,000 passengers
- 22—Long-distance Greyhound Bus carrying 47 people collided with stopped crashed vehicles on expressway near Fresno, California, USA, killing 6 people onboard

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- 23**—Last three cars of 6-car Glacier Special operated by Matterhorn Gotthard Railway (MGB) in Switzerland, derailed with two cars overturning to kill one Japanese tourist and injure 40 others; popular line with tourists travelling between Zermatt and San Moritz (270 km); reopened on 25 July 5 days before Swiss government transport board announced accident caused by excess speed
- 24**—Stampede by crowd in tunnel at Love Parade festival with a venue capacity of 500,000 but attended by more than 1.4 million people in Duisberg, northwest Germany, left 20 dead and more than 500 injured
- 24**—Bridge collapse in Luoyang, Henan province, China, left at least 37 people dead and 19 missing
- 25**—Rescue helicopter (Eurocopter AS365N3) crashed while providing assistance to stranded climbers in Chichibu, Saitama, Japan, killing all 5 crew and rescuers onboard
- 27**—Lufthansa cargo plane crashed and split in two on landing at Riyadh King Khalid International Airport, Saudi Arabia, but 2 crew escaped unharmed
- 28**—Domestic Airbus A320 belonging to Airblue crashed into mountainside near Islamabad, Pakistan, killing all 152 passengers and crew onboard; poor visibility in bad weather blamed for crash
- 28**—Light aircraft (Cessna TU206) crashed in mountains near Fukushima City, Hokkaido, Japan, killing both people onboard
- 29**—Diesel railcar and light truck collided on railway crossing (no barriers or warning lights) of Kanto Railway in Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, killing 2 of 3 people in truck and severely injuring one other but causing no injuries to train driver and rail passengers
- 30**—JR Central announced wide-scale reforms for Hamamatsu Works (Shizuoka Prefecture) centred on maintenance of JR Central shinkansen rolling stock; in addition to renovation of 190,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land equivalent to 83% of current works ground area, plans include new infrastructure, with investment totaling ¥8.7 billion
- 30**—Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism approved ¥2000 facilities usage fee for passengers using new international terminal at Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) starting 21 October
- 31**—Diesel railcar on JR Central's Iwate Line ran into landslide at tunnel exit and partly derailed, slightly injuring 2 people onboard

## August

- 1**—Private C123 plane crashed in national park about 300-km north of Anchorage, Alaska, killing at least 3 people onboard
- 3**—Antonov 24 belonging to Katekavia crashed on landing at Igarka in north Siberia, Russia, killing 11 of 15 people onboard
- 3**—Mexican airline Mexicana announced restructuring application to national court while continuing operations following participation since 2009 in One World airline alliance including JAL, American Airlines, etc.
- 6**—Smoke from widespread forest fires in western Russia caused diversion of about 30 flights from Moscow's Domodedovo Airport to neighbouring airports following some 2 months of record high temperatures around Moscow and increasing mortality levels from heat exhaustion and smog inhalation
- 6**—Widespread flooding in Jammu and Kashmir Province of Northern India left at least 132 dead and 457 missing
- 8**—Heavy rains in Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Region of China caused massive landslide, burying villages and leaving 1144 people dead and 600 missing
- 9**—Bus carrying 14 Japanese tourists overturned on expressway outside Cedar City, Utah, USA, killing 3 people and injuring 12
- 9**—Small plane carrying 9 people crashed in Alaska outside Dillingham, killing 5 people including Former President Pro Tempore and Senator Ted Stevens
- 13**—Brazilian airline TAM and Chilean airline LAN announced business merger to become largest airline in S. America and 11th largest airline in world carrying 46 million people each year; since one carrier belongs to Star Alliance and other belongs to One World, unknown what will happen after merger
- 14**—Off-road vehicle ran into race spectators in Mojave Desert, USA, killing 8 people and injuring 9
- 16**—Boeing 737-700 belonging to Aires Airline struck by lightning on landing at San Andres Island in Caribbean northwest of Colombia and crashed before splitting into 3 pieces but miraculously only 1 person killed with 124 others sustaining injuries of varying degrees
- 17**—Passenger train collided with sewage tanker truck on crossing in Sudbury, England, injuring 21 passengers and train driver

- 18**—Mitsubishi Trading and partners including Kinki Rolling Stock and Toshiba, announced order for 88 subway carriages (11 train sets) for Cairo Metro; 56 cars for extension of Line 3 and 32 for Line 2
- 18**—Massive landslide in Yunan Province, western China, killed 29 people and left 63 missing
- 18**—Bus carrying 42 people ran off road and fell 100 meters into river on Luzon Island, Philippines, killing 39 people onboard
- 19**—Massive floods caused by swollen river washed away part of Shitingjiang Bridge on Baocheng railway in Sichuan Province, China, forcing 18-car express to make emergency stop before 2 carriages settled into water; all 1300 passengers evacuated safely
- 19**—Worst-ever monsoon flooding in northwest Pakistan killed some 1500 people and displaced 20 million others since July as well as causing economic losses of at least \$1 billion
- 22**—Fifth Japan China Korea Tourism Conference opened in Hangzhou City, China, with policy of increasing regional tourism from 17 million in 2000 to 26 million in 2015; Japanese Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism Maehara announced lifting of Chinese government controls on Japanese tourism businesses operating in China on 21 August
- 23**—State Railway of Thailand (SRT) opened new 28-km Airport Link line between central Bangkok and Bangkok International Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK); rolling stock built by Siemens of Germany runs at 160 km/h to complete journey in 15 minutes
- 23**—Bus with Hong Kong tourists hijacked in Manila, Philippines, by armed ex-police officer who shot and killed 8 people before being killed by police SWAT
- 24**—Small propeller plane (German-built Dornier 228) owned by Agni Air crashed in heavy rain outside Kathmandu, Nepal, killing all 14 people on board
- 24**—Brazilian-built Embraer 190 crashed on landing at Yichun City in Heilongjiang Province after over-running runway and catching fire to kill 42 of 96 people onboard
- 27**—Boeing announced yet another delay in delivery of new medium size B-787 until March 2011 due to delays in supplies of Rolls Royce engines; Japan's ANA had expected to take first delivery in May 2008
- 30**—JR Hokkaido announced start of operations from middle of 2011 of dual mode vehicle (DMV) running on both roads and rail using modified Toyota microbus to carry 25 to 29 passengers

- 30**—JAL and corporate restructuring group submitted restructuring plans to Tokyo District Court including layoffs of 16,000 staff, removal of 45 domestic routes, debt forgiveness of ¥521.5 billion and request for government financial assistance of ¥350 million

## MILESTONES

**Makoto Takeshi** promoted to position of Vice-Minister of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Trade, and Tourism (MLITT) effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Construction after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1972. Held various positions such as Director of City and Regional Development Bureau, and Deputy Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat before becoming MLITT Assistant Vice-Minister in July 2007

**Yuichi Masuda** promoted to position of Assistant Vice-Minister of MLITT effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Construction after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1975. Held various positions such as director of City and Regional Development Bureau, Deputy Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat and before becoming director of Policy Bureau in July 2007

**Takashi Kitamura** promoted to position of director of Policy Bureau of MLITT effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Kyoto in 1976. Held various positions such as Deputy Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Minister's Secretariat, Vice-Director-General, Policy Bureau, and Director-General of Railway Bureau before becoming Deputy Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat in July 2009

**Kei'ichi Ozawa** promoted to position of MLITT Deputy Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Construction after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1976. Held various positions such as Assistant Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat, Deputy Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Minister's Secretariat, and Director-General of Land and Water Bureau before becoming Deputy Vice-Minister for Construction, Engineering and Real Estate Industry in July 2008

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**Takatoshi Nishiwaki** promoted to position of MLITT Deputy Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Minister's Secretariat effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Construction after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1979. Held position as Assistant Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat before becoming Vice-Director-General of Road Bureau in July 2008

**Ryuhei Maeda** promoted to position of MLITT Director-General for Policy Planning effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1977. Held position as Assistant Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat before becoming Director-General of Civil Aviation Bureau in July 2008

**Masaru Honda** promoted to position of MLITT Director-General of Civil Aviation Bureau effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1976. Held positions as Senior Deputy Director-General of Civil Aviation Bureau and Director-General of Road Transport Bureau before becoming Director-General of Railway Bureau in July 2009

**Shigeto Kubo** promoted to position of MLITT Director-General of Railway Bureau effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Kyoto in 1977. Held position as Senior Deputy Director-General of Railway Bureau before becoming Vice Commandant of Japan Coastguard in July 2009

**Ryuji Masuno** promoted to position of MLITT Deputy Vice-Minister for Transport Safety Policy effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1977. Held various positions such as Assistant Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat, Senior Deputy Director-General of Road Transport Bureau, and Deputy Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination of Minister's Secretariat before becoming Director-General of Road Transport Bureau in July 2009

**Toru Makata** promoted to position of MLITT Director-General of Road Transport Bureau effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1977. Held positions as Director-General of Chubu District Transport Bureau, and Deputy-Director General of Japan Meteorological Agency before becoming Deputy Vice-Minister for Transport Safety Policy in April 2010

**Norifumi Ide** promoted to position of MLITT Director-General, Maritime Bureau effective 10 August. Joined old Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1976. Held position as Director-General for Policy Planning before becoming Councilor of Cabinet Secretariat in July 2009

## September

- 1—German government announced new 45-euro departure tax for German airport users starting January 2011 to help finance environmental measures and bolster public finances
- 3—Overnight sleeper bus in head-on collision with container truck on expressway in Jilin Province, China, set fire to both vehicles, killing 13 people in bus and 3 in truck, and injuring 38 others
- 4—Light aircraft carrying skydivers crashed on S. Island, New Zealand, killing pilot and 8 people on board
- 7—Tupolev 154 belonging to Russian domestic carrier Alrosa Mimy Enterprise made emergency landing at small airport in Siberia, northern Russia, after developing engine trouble; overran runway and stopped in trees but no injuries to 81 passengers and crew on board
- 8—US Federal government announced start of new \$14 visa processing charge for visitors from 36 countries
- 9—All Nippon Airways announced plans to establish Low Cost Carrier (LCC) business in conjunction with Hong Kong investment group at year end, trading from FY2011 under new brand based out of Kansai International Airport and carrying both international and domestic passengers with fares about 50% less than other major carriers
- 13—ART42 belonging to domestic carrier Comviasa Airlines crashed in southeastern Venezuela, killing 17 of 51 passengers and crew and injuring 34 others
- 15—JR Kyushu announced plans to complete opening of entire Kyushu Shinkansen (267.5 km) between Hakata and Kagoshima Central on 12 March 2011, following partial opening of first southern half section (137.6 km) between Shin-Yatsushiro and Kagoshima Central in March 2004; *Sakura* through operations with San'yō Shinkansen to link directly with Shin-Osaka
- 16—JR Central announced planned opening on 21 March 2011 of railway museum now under construction in Nagoya City as 'Linear and Railway Dream Memorial Museum'

- 17**—Osaka Metropolitan Government announced decision to sell all 49% shares of Osaka Prefectural Urban Development co., which is a third-sector company operating Semboku Rapid Railway (14.3 km between Nakamozu and Izumi Chuo). The third-sector company operates freight handling business as well
- 20**—Freight train ran into passenger train standing in station due to poor visibility in heavy rain in Madhya Pradesh State, India, killing at least 21 people and injuring more than 50 others
- 21**—World's largest international railway technology trade fair *InnoTrans* opened in Berlin, Germany, to promote latest rail and transport technologies from world's railway companies, etc, including Japanese companies; both JR East and Tokyo Metro became the first Japanese railway companies to participate in show, held for 3 days until 24 September
- 21**—Malaysian LCC Air Asia X announced start of flights between Tokyo's Haneda Airport and Kuala Lumpur from 9 December 2010 on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday each week using late night slots
- 21**—IATA announced revised expected final FY2010 profits of world's airlines at US\$8.9 billion or 3.5 fold increase over June forecast of US\$2.5 billion due to faster than expected economic recovery; however, expected forecast for 2011 expected to remain at US\$5.3 billion in black
- 21**—After plans for high-speed ferry link (Techno Super Liner—TSL) between Tokyo and Ogasawara Islands abandoned due to financing problems, vessel builder Mitsui Zosen Techno Seaways requested compensation from Ogasawara Shipping for broken charter contract and court ordered payment of US\$2 million; TSL promoted by old Ministry of Transport and constructed for about US\$110 million but Tokyo Metropolitan Government refused support due to high cost of oil, etc., forcing service abandonment in 2005
- 22**—Nihon Sharyo Seizo and Sumitomo Trading announced order for 160 double-deck carriages for commuter train from Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation (Metra) worth US\$560 million; two companies already previously delivered 505 double-deck carriages to Metra
- 26**—Tourist bus from Poland struck supporting pier on expressway near Berlin, Germany, killing 12 people and injuring 34 others
- 26**—French-built Eurocopter AS332L crashed in mountains on Yakushima, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan, killing two people on board
- 27**—First north–south subway line (18.5 km) opened in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China, between Shenxian Lake and Century City; second 23.0-km, east–west line now under construction
- 28**—Chinese rail speed record of 416.6 km/h recorded by Hexie Hao (CRH380A) test train on new track linking Shanghai and Hanzhou (beating previous October 2008 394.3 km/h record between Beijing and Tianshin); commercial service expected to start in October 2008
- 30**—Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Nagoya Aerospace Systems started production of first, domestically manufactured, small, fuel-efficient, passenger jet with 70 to 90 seats (Mitsubishi Regional Jet—MRJ) aiming at maiden flight in 2012 and first deliveries in 2014

## MILESTONES

**Mr Sumio Mabuchi** appointed Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism (MLITT) in new Kan Cabinet. Joined private company after graduating in engineering in 1982 from Yokohama National University and first elected as Democratic Party of Japan member to 43rd House of Representatives in 2003; appointed Vice Minister of MLITT in 2009. Previous MLITT Minister Maehara appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs.

## October

- 2**—Rear-end collision between express and local train in central Java, Indonesia, killed at least 36 passengers
- 6**—Korean Ministry of Transport announced completion of dedicated KTX Gyeongbu Line between Seoul and Pusan with start of services at 300 km/h from 1 November
- 7**—Channel Tunnel operator Eurostar announced purchase of ten e320 next-generation train sets from Siemens of Germany, marking first purchase of units other than TGV from French builder Alstom
- 7**—China announced start of ultra-long-distance bus service running 3500 km between Jinan City in Shandong Province to Ürümqi in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in 45 hours using four drivers
- 12**—Bus struck by train on level crossing after ignoring warning signals at Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, killing 42 bus passengers and injury 9 others

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- 13—Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Narita Airport Authority, Chiba Prefecture, and nine local city governments attended working group on development of Narita Airport, agreeing to expand annual arrivals and departures from 220,000 to 300,000
- 15—St Gotthard Tunnel (56.7 km) under Swiss Alps broken through to become world's longest tunnel, supporting full high-speed direct rail services between Germany and Italy from 2017
- 15—Scheduled Airlines Association (Japanese domestic airlines group) expressed opposition to International Solidarity Levy proposed by Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help poor developing countries, citing lack of clarity between benefits and costs and cause of lowered international competitiveness
- 16—World's longest ropeway (5.6 km) opened in Syunik, Armenia, to link village with 9th century monastery
- 19—Deutsch Bahn (DB) started test runs of German ICE through Channel Tunnel to London with plans to open services from Amsterdam to London in 2013
- 20—JR Kyushu and JR West announced four daily return through shinkansen services (*Mizuho*) linking Shin-Osaka and Kagoshima-Chuo in 3 hours and 45 minutes using Sanyo and Kyushu shinkansen, starting 12 March 2011
- 20—Seven companies in JR group submitted request to Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Mabuchi opposing government plan to redirect ¥1.5 trillion of surplus profits from JR TT into general budget, instead suggesting using funds to strength finances of JR Kyushu, JR Shikoku and JR Hokkaido
- 20—Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Working Group on maglev announced that central route for linear maglev between Tokyo and Osaka planned by JR Central through Southern Alps has better cost performance benefits than roundabout route favoured by local governments, ending discussions on route problem
- 21—New runway D (2500 m) and new international terminal opened at Haneda Airport, Tokyo, marking start of first international flights to 17 cities worldwide from Haneda in 32 years
- 25—Governments of USA and Japan concluded Open Skies Agreement offering deregulation of flights, routes, etc., between Haneda, Tokyo and US airports
- 25—Offshore M7.7 earthquake struck Sumatra, Indonesia, causing tsunami and leaving 449 people dead and 96 missing
- 26—2968-m volcano Mt Merapi in Java, Indonesia, erupted killing at least 34 people on nearby slopes
- 26—JR Central announced outline design plans of L0 carriage for linear maglev shinkansen between Tokyo and Nagoya due to open in 2027; in addition to super aerodynamic design of lead cars, cars will have angular cross section for better passenger convenience with plans to construct four lead cars and 10 trailing cars to run five test train sets over 42.8 km of new test tracks by late 2013
- 26—Shanghai–Hangzhou High-Speed Railway (202 km) opened, linking Shanghai and Hangzhou (350 km) across Yangtze delta in 45 minutes using worlds fastest CRK380A rolling stock with record speed of 416.6 km/h captured in late September

## November

- 4—Domestic Caribbean Airlines ATR272 crashed and burned in Cuba killing all 68 people on board
- 4—Worlds' largest all-double decker Airbus A380 operated by Qantas made emergency landing at Changi Airport, Singapore, without injuries after Rolls-Royce engine caught fire. Rolls-Royce admitted failure in the turbine parts. The plane was temporarily grounded by airlines
- 5—British government announced sale of high-speed line (HS-1) between London and Europe (300 km per minutes) through Channel Tunnel for £2.1 billion to Canadian consortium. The line was previously owned by LCR (London and Continental Railways); The consortium will operate the line for 30 years
- 5—Small plane chartered by Italian oil company crashed immediately after takeoff outside Karachi, Pakistan, killing all 21 passengers and crew on board
- 11—JR East announced start of operations of new *Hayabusa* (Series E5) on Tohoku Shinkansen from 5 March 2011 linking Tokyo and Shin Aomori in 3 hours 10 minutes and offering luxury service with one carriage containing 18 *GranClass* seats
- 12—Skymark announced intent to start half-price international services between Tokyo's Haneda Airport and London, Frankfurt and New York from 2014 using six double-decker Airbus A380s, which Skymark announced purchase on the 8th

- 12**—The Indonesian National Disaster Mitigation Agency announced that the intermittent eruption of active volcano Mt Merapi (2968 m) in central Java from 26th Oct killed at least 206 people and resulted in evacuation of 380,000 people as well as closure of nearby Yogyakarta Airport due to ash clouds
- 15**—China Railways announced completion of laying of rails for high-speed passenger line between Shanghai and Beijing (1318 km) with operations at 380 km/h expected to start in October 2011
- 15**—Fire in high-rise building under renovation in Shanghai, China, killed 58 workers with 56 missing and more than 100 others injured
- 15**—Collapse of 4-storey residential building undermined by torrential monsoon rains in New Delhi, India, killed 66 people and left 130 people injured
- 22**—Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism announced plans to establish joint management of Kansai International Airport and Osaka International Airport (Itami) from spring 2012; vertical separation business model dividing operations and infrastructure will be used in Kansai, and the operations of the two airports will be integrated to improve Kansai's finances
- 22**—QR National, Queensland's (Australia) largest coal transporter (2300 km of tracks in 5 states and hauling 260 million tonnes of freight annually) privatized with successful IPO offering worth A\$4.63 billion (¥383 billion) on Australian stock market; QR National manages 2300 km track over 5 states, and transports 260 million tonnes per annum
- 22**—Stampede at popular Water Festival in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, left 347 crushed to death and 395 others injured when about 10,000 crowd attending festival panicked at bottleneck on narrow bridge
- 28**—Russian-built Ilyushin 76 cargo plane crashed into nearby housing construction site at Karachi Airport, Pakistan, killing 8 crew and 12 people on ground
- 29**—The old rollingstock of JR Hokkaido, JR West and JR Kyushu, including 13 *Kiha* Series 183 carriages, and 14 Series 14 and 24 carriages shipped to Myanmar and Malaysia, as part of assistance agreement with foreign partners
- 29**—As part of financial restructuring, JAL announced sale of TFK subsidiary to Singapore airport-services related company SATS for ¥7.8 billion; SATS offers in-flight catering services to 31 airports in 9 Asian countries
- 29**—German Airline Lufthansa announced 6-month trial from 4 December of biofuel in one engine of two-engine Airbus A321 services between Frankfurt and Hamburg using aviation fuel mixed with plant oils; fuel costs three to five times more than normal fuel but German government subsidizing part of cost
- 30**—JAL received permission from Tokyo District Court for restructuring plan including ¥350 billion in investment, ¥520 billion in debt forgiveness, workforce downsizing, etc., with aim of completing repayment of liabilities by March 2011

## December

- 3**—Domestically developed CRH380A high-speed train marked record speed of 486.1 km/h on new Beijing-Shanghai high-speed Line (1318 km) between Shanghai and Beijing, breaking own September record of 416.6 km/h; The line is expected to open for commercial service in October 2011
- 4**—Dagestan Airlines Tupolev 154 skidded off runway at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport during emergency landing, killing 2 of 169 people onboard and injuring 80 others
- 7**—Seventh World Congress on High Speed Rail opened in Beijing, China, under auspices of UIC (Chairman: Yoshio Ishida (JR East Vice Chairman)) with theme of spearheading green transport; first UIC meeting held outside Europe
- 7**—Deutsche Bahn AG (DB AG) and Chinese Ministry of Transport concluded joint agreement to cooperate more closely in freight transport with aim of strengthening freight infrastructure and building new transport routes between Europe and Asia
- 7**—Mitsubishi Electric announced order worth total of US\$32 million from Spanish rolling-stock maker CAF for parts for subways in Mexico, bringing Mitsubishi's share of this market to 70%
- 8**—Chinese Railways announced joint business venture with French rolling-stock maker Alstom to jointly develop rolling stock and signalling system
- 14**—IATA announced 2011 profit forecast for world airlines of US\$9.1 billion, 40% year-on-year decrease due to impact of drop in passenger numbers in Europe, and rising fuel costs

# July–December 2010

- 15**—Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLITT) working group on new linear maglev shinkansen planned by JR Central announced interim report on Southern Alps (Direct) Route, supporting JR Central's choice out of three routes with submission of findings to MLITT minister in Spring 2011
- 15**—Light plane crashed in mountainous region of eastern Tibet, killing all 22 people onboard
- 15**—Small wooden fishing boat carrying some 80 asylum seekers broke up on rocks in high seas off coast of Christmas Island in Indian Ocean west of Australia, drowning at least 27 people with 41 others rescued
- 16**—Nippon Sharyo and Sumitomo Trading announced US\$58 million order for 18 diesel railcars to operate on Sonoma–Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) system in California; aim to obtain additional orders for 146 cars over 5 years from five railway operators including SMART
- 16**—Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) started operating Expressway bus return services once each day between Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) and Shinjuku Station West Exit and Tokyo City Air Terminal (TCAT), powered by world-first high-pressure hydrogen fuel cell
- 16**—Head-on collision on snow-covered expressway involving large tourist bus near Hangzhou City, China, left 6 people dead and more than 10 others injured
- 17**—Fujitsu and Boeing announced joint development of aviation parts management system using IC tags
- 19**—AVE High-speed Valencia Line (438 km) opened by RENFE between Madrid and Barcelona, increasing total Spanish high-speed network to 2056 km to become longest in Europe and surpassing French network length of 1896 km
- 20**—Double-decker bus carrying 37 Thai tourists hit center divide on expressway in Perak State, Malaysia, killing 27 people
- 21**—Honda announced successful test flight of executive Hondajet now in development with length of 12.7 m and wingspan of 12.1 m designed to carry 7 or 8 people with range of 2100 km; first deliveries expected from second half of FY2012
- 22**—Yiwan Railway Line (377 km) linking Chongqing City and Yichang City, China, opened 100 years after first proposal with 74% of length in tunnel and over bridges and described as world's most difficult railway construction project
- 24**—Bus carrying people returning home for Christmas in west Ecuador overturned and rolled down cliff, killing 41 passengers and injuring more than 20 others
- 25**—Heavy truck slipped on snow-covered road in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, causing 12-km tailback with about 300 vehicles stranded all night
- 25**—Bus carrying people returning from funeral collided with government bus in Uttar Pradesh State, northern India, killing 36 people and injuring 28 others
- 27**—Agricultural vehicle carrying 20 elementary children on foggy road overturned into river in Hunan Province, China, killing 14
- 27**—Tobu Railway announced name change for Narihira Station on Isezaki Line to Tokyo Skytree Station to celebrate opening of Tokyo Skytree digital communications tower in spring 2012 with station reform to support more customers visiting area
- 29**—Incheon Airport Railway (58 km) linking Gimpo International Airport and Incheon International Airport with Seoul Station, Korea, fully opened to complete first (37.6 km) stage opened in March 2007 and shortening through operations between Seoul and Incheon to 43 minutes with links to KTX Korean high-speed train at Seoul
- 30**—Subway Line 5 (108 km) opened in north Beijing, China, to extend total length of Beijing's subways to 336 km, exceeding Tokyo's 304 km
- 31**—Restructuring JAL announced redundancy notices for 80 pilots, 60 cabin crew and 30 support staff as part of plans to downsize group staffing levels for 16,000 employees worldwide
- 31**—Record snow falls in Tottori and Shimane prefectures, Japan, blocked roads and rail lines with New Year's Day services suspended between 18 stations on JR West's San'in and Hakubi lines