

January–July 2016

January

- 4—Japanese National Police Agency announced 2015 road deaths of 4117 people, slight increase of 4 over previous year and first increase in 15 years
- 4—Saga Prefecture, Japan, announced planned name change from Ariake Saga Airport to Kyushu Saga International Airport to stimulate appeal for visits by international tourists
- 5—Public bus caught fire in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China, killing 17 people and injuring 32 others, with 33-year-old man held as suspected arsonist
- 10—Myanmar Railways started operation of 6.5-km tram line in Yangon using three trams donated by Hiroshima Electric Railway as first electric operations in Myanmar
- 10—Bus carrying amateur soccer team and fans ran off bridge into river in Veracruz d, Mexico, drowning at least 21 people and injuring 30 others
- 12—ANA Holding parent group of ANA airline announced joint investment agreement with state-run Vietnam Airlines to take 8.8% of outstanding shares as third-party investor for about ¥13 billion with code-sharing services expected to start in October 2016 and cessation of code-sharing with previous JAL partner
- 12—Airbus and Boeing announced 2015 orders for 1036 and 768 units, respectively, year-on-year decreases of 420 and 664; Airbus delivered 635 units (increase of 6 over 2014) while Boeing delivered record 762 (increase of 39)
- 15—Night bus to Karuizawa in Nagano Prefecture, Japan, carrying 41 passengers to ski slopes ran off road and overturned, killing 15 people including two drivers and injuring 26 others
- 18—United Nations World Tourism Organization announced 2015 world tourism record figure of 1.18 billion people, 4.4% year-on-year increase and sixth consecutive yearly increase, driven by middle-income tourists from China and cheap Euro
- 18—Sumitomo Trading and group of four Japanese companies including NEC announced receipt of order from Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority for ¥2.3 billion financed by JICA Overseas Development Aid for safety equipment for four major airports in Bangladesh, including Dhaka International Airport
- 19—Japan National Tourism Organization announced 2015 record 19.74 million inbound foreign tourists (47% increase over 2014) due to cheap yen and relaxed visa rules; 4.99 million (up 107% on 2014) visitors came from China. Japanese outbound tourism reached 16.21 million (down 4% on 2014), marking first time for inbound figures to exceed outbound in 45 years
- 19—Spanish airline Iberia announced start of three daily flights between Tokyo New International Airport (Narita) and Madrid starting 18 October using Airbus A330-200; first direct service between Tokyo and Madrid since previous services stopped in November 1998
- 21—Groundbreaking ceremony held for approximately 150-km high-speed line between Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia, with most of US\$5.5 billion construction cost borne by China
- 23—Small aircraft carrying 32 tourists crashed into Caribbean near Islas del Maíz (Little Corn Island), killing 13 people
- 27—JR Central held groundbreaking ceremony for new linear Maglev shinkansen departure point at Tokyo's Shinagawa Station with four lines from two 40-m underground platforms
- 28—Following lifting of international sanctions, Iran placed order with Airbus for 118 units including 12 double-deck A380 and 16 medium-range A350 worth total of US\$25 billion to replace aging fleet

February

- 1—Mitsubishi Trading announced win of preferential rights in bid by consortium of 8 companies for rights to build, operate and maintain 12-km LRT for Australian Capital Territory Government
- 2—JR East announced 1 April establishment of limited liability partnership to promote regional development through distribution systems using spaces such as trunks of high-speed buses to cut transportation costs when moving local produce to cities as part of regional rediscovery project *Nomono*
- 2—Wakayama Prefecture announced induction of Tama, the late tortoiseshell cat stationmaster at Kishi Station on Wakayama Electric Railway, to Wakayama Hall of Fame enshrining human and animals instrumental in revitalizing and providing hope to citizens

- 2**—Airbus A321 made emergency landing immediately after takeoff from Mogadishu Airport, Somalia, following onboard explosion that killed 1 person suspected to be a suicide bomber, injured 2 others and ripped open hole in fuselage
- 3**—Linear motor car (6.1 km between Incheon international Airport and Yongyu) opened following delays from expected September 2013 scheduled opening; emergency stop due to speeding occurred during preliminary riding event prior to opening ceremony
- 4**—Tokyo Metro announced change of Tokyo Metro One-day Pass to Tokyo Metro 24-hour Pass from 26 March. 600-yen fare unchanged; validity of One-day Pass including Toei Subway services used by many foreigners was also extended
- 4**—Construction of UK Royal Mail-themed Postal Museum started in London with rides to be offered on currently closed Mail Rail underground lines following 2017 opening
- 5**—JR Freight and Toyota Tsusho announced running tests of freight train in Thailand with JR Freight investigating use of small containers donated by the company on State Railway of Thailand and running costs as part of railway maintenance agreement with Thailand
- 6**—M6.4 earthquake struck southern Taiwan to cause collapse of high-rise apartments, etc., killing 117 people and injuring 550 others
- 6**—High-speed boat collided with whale 13-km northwest of Izu-Oshima Island, Tokyo, disabling boat but without any injury to 74 passengers onboard. The boat was towed to Ito Port by a patrol vessel
- 9**—Head-on collision on single-track section of Upper Bavarian Railway near Bad Aibling in south Germany derailed part of train, killing both drivers and 9 passengers as well as injuring 81 others
- 13**—50-vehicle pile-up in heavy snow on highway near Philadelphia, USA, killed 3 people
- 16**—New York City announced plan to link Queens and Brooklyn with 25-km tramway running parallel to East River to be called 'The Brooklyn-Queens Connector (BQX)'
- 17**—Heavily overloaded bus collided head-on with truck near Kintampo, Ghana, killing at least 61 people out of 81 onboard
- 17**—JR East announced large-scale 10-year repair plan from April 2019 for Tohoku Shinkansen (Tokyo to Morioka) and Jo'etsu Shinkansen (Omiya to Niigata) at cost of ¥1.4 trillion and reaching total annual cost of ¥360 billion over 15-year period from 2016; JR East applied for accumulation of reserved funds plan on same day
- 18**—Meeting between Japanese and US aviation authorities agreed to launch 10 daily daytime return services between Haneda Tokyo International Airport and US in late-night time band; 5 daily return service and 1 late-night service will be launched with route and airline to be announced later
- 19**—JR East announced revision to expansion plans for The Railway Museum in Saitama Prefecture due to rising constructions costs with change to 4-story building from 5-story in the original plan and 30% reduction in floor area to 6000 square meters and opening delayed from autumn 2017 to summer 2018
- 23**—165 passengers evacuated down chutes from JAL Boeing B737-800 on runway before departure at Shin-Chitose Airport, Hokkaido after smoke entered the cabin from right engine; 4 passengers suffered slight injuries; Mishap allegedly caused by snow ingestion in the engine
- 23**—UK government announced new mostly underground 118-km line now under construction running east to west through London with branch to Heathrow Airport to be officially named Elizabeth Line after HM Queen Elizabeth II on opening in December 2018
- 24**—Small DHC Twin Otter operated by Tara Air crashed in a mountainous region in eastern Kathmandu soon after departing Pokhara, Nepal, killing all 23 people onboard
- 25**—World-famous steam record speed holder *Flying Scotsman* built in 1923 made inaugural run between London Kings Cross and York after 10-year rebuild, marking first return to steam since retirement at UK National Railway Museum in York
- 26**—Sojitz Corporation in joint venture with Indian businesses announced receipt of new order from Indian freight operator for building (¥90 billion) and electrifying (¥20 billion) part of new tracks (DFC West Line) between Delhi and Mumbai (1500 km); total orders for DFC West Line now ¥270 billion financed using Japanese-government yen loans

January–July 2016

MILESTONES

Mr Satoshi Tagahara appointed President of Kinki Nippon Tourist on 12 February. Joined Kinki Nippon Tourist in 1983 after graduating from Waseda University and promoted to Director in 2011, and Representative Executive Director in 2013. Previous President Mr Wataru Ogawa appointed Director and Senior Advisor. Mr Tagahara to assume office in 30 March

March

- 1—JR East Group member Nippon Restaurant Enterprise (NRE) announced first marketing trials from late March for 2 months of *ekibentobako* (Japanese station lunchboxes) at Paris and Lyon stations in France with five types of lunch boxes, including Makunouchi and rice balls, priced at €8 to €15 (¥980 to ¥1850)
- 3—Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Mitsubishi Trading announced receipt for joint order for reinforcement of new transport system for Singapore's Changi International Airport; in addition to new unmanned, rubber-tyred rolling stock (APM), order includes improvements to signalling, communications, station facilities, etc. The companies first received order for the APM system. The order was delivered in 2007
- 10—JR East announced planned full restoration of all sections of Joban Line closed by damage from Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami by March 2020; 20.8-km section between Tomioka and Namie near damaged Fukushima Dai Ichi nuclear power plant already decontaminated to safe levels with closures remaining between Tatsuta and Haranomachi, and Soma and Hamayoshida
- 11—JR West announced designation of company's oldest, conserved, domestically built (1903) steam locomotive number 233 on display at opening of Kyoto Railway Museum on 29 April as important cultural property; 51 of these 1B1 tank engines built until 1909
- 15—Electrical fire in overhead wires and signalling equipment in JR East's Takasaki Line Kagohara Station yard, Saitama Prefecture, stopped services between Kumagaya and Okabe with severe disruption to timetables causing cancellation of 635 up and downline services, affecting 510,000 customers
- 15—NEC announced construction of subway monitoring system for Buenos Aires Metro, consisting of surveillance cameras and staff entrance system on 26 train depots and surveillance cameras on about 90 stations for purpose of preventing crime and unauthorized access
- 16—JR Freight announced April start of ancillary freight charges for freights transported through Seikan Tunnel between Aomori and Hakodate in line with start of new Hokkaido Shinkansen service through tunnel; charges to fund new ¥16 billion investment in rolling stock, such as new electric locomotives
- 16—Hitachi Rail USA subsidiary of Hitachi Italy opened new carriage works in Miami, Florida for railcar assembling and testing; 136 cars (68 train sets) destined for service in Miami Dade County by early 2019
- 16—Deutsche Bahn (DB) reported first fall into red for business figures since 2003 with net losses of €1.311 billion for business year ending December 2105; although sales exceeded €40 billion for first time at €40.46 billion, profits adversely affected by revised evaluation of freight section, DB Schenker, and restructuring costs. DB expects return to black this half with sales increase to €41.5 billion
- 18—Kesennuma City in Miyagi Prefecture announced continuation of bus rapid transit services replacing interrupted train services on 55.3-km section of Kesennuma Line between Yanaizu and Kesennuma damaged by Great East Japan Earthquake as part of JR East proposed full service restoration and in line with agreement of all three affected cities on coast
- 19—B737-800 belonging to United Arab Emirates low-cost carrier Fly Dubai crashed on landing at Rostov-na-Donu, south Russia, killing all 62 people onboard
- 19—Small passenger plane crashed immediately after takeoff in suburbs of São Paulo, Brazil, killing all 7 people onboard
- 20—Bus carrying visiting students struck guard rail in south Barcelona, Spain, before overturning into oncoming traffic, killing 13 students and injuring more than 30
- 22—Daesh terrorists attacked Brussels subway and international airport with bombs, killing 32 people and injuring more than 200 others
- 22—Serious fault in ANA domestic flight passenger management system delayed boarding at 49 domestic airports, causing cancellation of 146 flights, delays to 391 flights, and inconvenience to some 71,900 passengers

- 22**—Okayama Electric Tramway (Okayama City) commenced use of cat meow sound for passenger stop request on 10 buses and one tram; used recorded cat meow of the late Tama, the Wakayama Rail services Stationmaster cat (died 2015)
- 26**—Hokkaido Shinkansen started commercial services between Shin-Aomori and Shin-Hakodate-Hokuto (148.8 km), linking Tokyo with latter station in 4 hours 2 minutes for fastest rail service
- 26**—Following opening of Hokkaido Shinkansen, 37.8-km section of JR Hokkaido conventional Esashi Line between Goryokaku and Kikkonai transferred to newly created third-sector Donan Isaribi Railway
- 26**—Small plane (Mooney M20C) crashed on landing at Yao Airport, Osaka, Japan, killing all 4 people onboard
- 27**—Fukui Railway (Fukui Prefecture, 20.9-km Echizen-Takefu to Tawaramachi and 0.7-km Kuyakushomae to Fukui section) and Echizen Railway Mikuni-awara Line (between 25.2-km Fukuiguchi to Mikuniminato section) started through services with Tawaramachi as a base. Japan's first through services between tramlines and railways belonging to different operators; simultaneously, Fukui Railway moved Fukui-ekimae stop 143 meters to link with JR West Fukui Station. Echizen Railway lowered platform for easy transfer access, etc.
- 28**—Bankrupt Skymark low-cost carrier announced receipt of conclusion of rehabilitation approval from Tokyo District Court with promise to repay all creditors; restructuring costs to reach ¥154.3 billion compared to ¥16.1 billion in repayment claims and target of ¥7 billion in operating profits in FY2018
- 29**—Six entities composed of government, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Saga and Nagasaki municipal governments, JR Kyushu, and Japan Railway Construction, Transport and Technology Agency agreed proposal to tentatively open section between Hakata and Nagasaki of Kyushu Shinkansen in 2022 by starting relay through operations from conventional narrow-gauge line at Takefu Hot Spring onto Hakata-Nagasaki section. Initial plan was to develop free-gauge train (FGT) and convert sections between Hakata and Takefu Hot Spring to narrow-gauge line, and lay new shinkansen tracks between Takefu Hot Spring and Nagasaki, but FGT was delayed
- 29**—Small private jet crashed in Québec Province, Canada, killing all seven people on board, including former Canadian Minister of Transport and family
- 29**—Airbus A320 belonging to Egyptian domestic airlines hijacked by one man and flown to Cyprus before all 81 people onboard released unharmed
- 31**—Bridge under construction in Kolkata, India, collapsed onto traffic and pedestrians 100 meters below, killing at least 22 people and injuring at least 75 others

April

- 1**—Hitachi Ltd., announced UK Hitachi Rail Europe railway systems business subsidiary concluded contract for delivery and maintenance of 95 carriages (19 trainsets) of AT-300 standard intercity commuter design with UK's FirstGroup serving northern England to be built at Kasado Works in Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan, and in UK
- 2**—Small single-engine plane crash-landed on highway near San Diego, California, USA, before hitting parked passenger car killing woman in back seat and injuring 5 people in plane
- 3**—Lead car of Amtrak train derailed near south Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, after colliding with on-track excavator, killing 2 people and injuring 35 others
- 4**—New bus terminal serving express bus departures opened at south exit of JR East Shinjuku Station, consolidating 19 bus stops previously spread around Shinjuku Station. The new terminal serves 1625 daily services and 40,000 people as Japan's biggest bus terminal
- 4**—Bell 206 tourist helicopter crashed and caught fire near Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, USA, killing all 5 people onboard
- 4**—Two passenger planes collided and wing caught fire at Halim Perdanakusuma Airport, Jakarta, Indonesia, with no loss of life
- 5**—JR East Group started delivery service of local delicacies using free space on JR buses and trucks between Aomori and Tokyo. The service managed by 3 Group companies as Limited Liability Partnership
- 6**—JR East announced introduction of station numbering system combining alphabetic characters and numbers indicating railway line for all 276 stations in Metropolitan Tokyo with gradual rollout starting October 2016

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- 6—Sumitomo Trading announced strengthened maintenance business for wheels and axles in north American market with establishment of GB Summit axle processing works in partnership with Green Briar Rail Services of Oregon; Sumitomo positioning rail-related business as core business with proactive investment in sales of carriage and rail related materials and systems
- 8—Head-on collision between two passenger trains near San José, Costa Rica, injured 245 people
- 10—Large explosion and fire at a temple in Kollam, Kerala, India, caused by unlicensed fireworks display celebrating Hindu New Year killed 109 people and injured more than 500 others
- 14—Richter M6.5 earthquake foreshock on evening of 14 April followed by M7.3 main shock on 16 April hit Kumamoto region of Kyushu, Japan, killing at least 50 people with others missing and causing extensive damage to transport infrastructure including Kyushu Shinkansen (Hakata to Kagoshima Chuo); Shinkansen service was partially suspended until 27 April afternoon
- 16—Richter M7.8 earthquake struck coastal region of south Ecuador, killing at least 654 people and injuring more than 16,000 others
- 22—Bridge girder (120 m, 1350 tonnes) collapsed onto road at work site extending New Meishin Expressway in Kobe City, Japan, killing two workers and badly injuring 8 others
- 22—Speeding express train over-ran curve and derailed in Yeosu, S. Korea, killing driver and injuring 8 passengers
- 25—Landing slots for business jets at Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) doubled to 16 by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) to meet increasing demand
- 26—MLIT announced decision to allocate one late evening/early morning and one daytime slot to ANA for flights from Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) to USA as result of joint US–Japan joint aviation agreement, and movement of already allocated 4 other late evening/early morning slots (2 each for ANA and JAL) to daytime. Totaling 6 slots in all with 4 to ANA (3 daytime and 1 late evening) and 2 for JAL (daytime only)
- 27—JR East, JR Central and JR West announced consolidated accounts with sales volume, gross income, and net income all at record highs supported by good shinkansen demand
- 29—JR West opened The Kyoto Railway Museum as Japan's largest railway museum bringing together 53 pieces of rolling stock, including steam locomotives and shinkansen. The new museum is a renovation of Umekoji Steam Locomotive Museum and consolidation of The Transport and Science Museum (Osaka); now all 3 JRs in mainland Japan operates railway museums
- 29—JR East tourism promotion train *Genbi Shinkansen* made debut run between Niigata and Echigoyuzawa on Joetsu Shinkansen with interiors and exteriors of 6 cars decorated by seven modern artists
- 29—EC225-Super Puma built by Airbus Helicopters carrying workers from North Sea offshore oil industry crashed in mountains near Bergen, Norway, killing all 13 people onboard

MILESTONES

Mr Yasushi Komura appointed next President of Keio Electric railway on 28 April; joined forerunner Keio Teito Electric Railway after graduating in politics and economics from Waseda University in 1980 and held various senior positions before appointment as President of Keio Travel Agency in 2013 and Keio Vice-President in 2015. Previous President Mr Tadashi Nagata to take role of Chairman with representative rights

May

- 1—Freight train with tank wagons carrying sodium hydroxide derailed outside Washington DC, USA, with one of 14 wagons spilling load, causing temporary closure of nearby roads but no injuries
- 2—Hitachi railways systems subsidiary Ansaldo STS and Hitachi Rail Italia's Hawaiian subsidiary AHJV announced delivery of one trainset (4 cars) to Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) for 32-km unmanned services between Honolulu East Kapolei and Ala Moana Center to start partial services in 2018 with full service in 2021 using 20 trainsets with 80 cars

- 2**—Marubeni and Marubeni Australia, a joint investment partner of GoldlinQ, announced Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreement with Queensland government through GoldlinQ, for Gold Coast tram services extending existing 13 km tracks by 7.3 km to northwest with 12-year operation and maintenance contract after integration of new and existing tracks completed
- 8**—Delta Airlines B717 hit by mid-air turbulence over mid-USA, ripping off cover from starboard engine resulting in emergency landing at Tennessee airport but without injury to 109 people onboard
- 8**—Two highway buses collided with tanker truck in Ghazni, in south Afghanistan before catching fire, killing at least 73 passengers and injuring more than 50 others
- 10**—Swiss Federal Office of Transport announced 1 June Opening ceremony for world's longest and deepest St. Gotthard tunnel (57.1 km) under Swiss Alps (replacing 53.9- km Seikan Tunnel in Japan as previous record holder) as one link in Trans-Alpine railways plans. The construction began in 1999, and drilling was completed in October 2010
- 10**—JR East 10 announced November 2016 opening of Japan Rail Cafe offering Japan tourist information in Singapore with tourism counter and Japanese foods and regional produce
- 15**—World's largest passenger liner *Harmony of the Seas* (120,00-tonne dwt, 66-m wide, 362-m long, 16 decks) departed on maiden voyage from Saint-Nazaire with passenger capacity of 6360 and 2100 crew
- 16**—JR Central announced establishment of local subsidiary HTeC (High-speed train Technology Consulting) in Dallas, Texas, USA, with 20 staff providing technical support for planned Texas Shinkansen regarding tracks, power supplies, signalling carriages, etc.
- 19**—Egypt Air A320 en route from Paris to Cairo crashed near Karpathos island in Mediterranean Sea with loss of all 66 passengers and crew onboard. Possibility of terrorism is suspected
- 19**—Soujitz and Larsen & Toubro Ltd. announced receipt of 12 billion yen order for signalling and communications works on 1500-km Delhi to Mumbai Western Dedicated Freight Corridor with Soujitz already in receipt order for track and electrification works; the total amount of orders is 282 billion yen
- 21**—Two traffic accidents in Sub-Himalayan Himachal Pradesh in northern India 1-day apart killed 30 people after mini-bus ran off mountain road on the evening of 20 May, killing 17 and injuring 23; overloaded passenger vehicle overturned into ravine on 21 May, killing 13 and 1 injured
- 23**—Single-engine Cessna crashed immediately after takeoff on Kaua'i, Hawaii, killing all 5 skydiving tour people onboard
- 23**—Mayor of London, UK, announced start of some 'Night Tube' services (all-day service on weekends) on Central and Victoria lines from 19 August expected to invigorate night-time economy with service expansion in Autumn
- 27**—Korean Air B777-300 departing Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) for Seoul, Korea, suffered fire in port engine (Pratt & Whitney) resulting in emergency evacuation of 319 passengers down chutes with 19 injuries and closing runways for 6 hours causing cancellation of 406 domestic flights affecting more than 70,000 passengers
- 27**—WWII-era P47 Thunderbolt from Long Island Aircraft Museum and bound for air show crashed into Hudson River, New York, USA, killing pilot
- 31**—Utsunomiya and Hagamachi cities in Tochigi Prefecture, Japan, announced route for planned LRT, 'Utsunomiya-Haga Light Rail Line. The cities also announced plans for expansion of new planned road for construction of 14.58-km LRT track running east from east exit of Utsunomiya Station

MILESTONES

Mr Shuji Okane appointed Kinki Sharyo president on 29 June. Joined Kintetsu Corporation after graduating from Faculty of Law, Kyoto University in 1973 before appointment in 2005 as Corporate Executive Officer and Managing Director in June 2011. Former President Itsuo Morishita to become part-time Consultant

Mr Tatsuo Kijima appointed JR West president on 22 June. Joined old JNR after graduating from Faculty of Law of Kyushu University in 1978 before transfer to JR West in 1987 where he held position as Corporate Executive Officer in 2006 and Managing Director. Former President Seiji Manabe to become Chairman without representative rights

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Mr Akihiro Horisaka appointed president of Nippon Travel Agency on 30 June. Joined old JNR in 1979 after graduating in economics from Keio University before transfer to JR West in 1987 where held position as Managing Director of Operations in 2012. Former President Kazuaki Maruo to become Chairman with representative rights

Mr Kazuhiro Igarashi appointed president of Nippon Sharyo Seizo on 29 June. Joined old JNR in 1979 after graduating in engineering from Tohoku University; appointed JR Central Corporate Executive Officer in 2012 and Managing Director before becoming Nippon Sharyo Seizo Vice President in January 2016. Former President Tsutomu Morimura to retire

Mr Shinji Hanii appointed JR Shikoku president on 24 June. Joined old JNR in 1978 after graduating in engineering from Kobe University before transfer to JR Shikoku in 1987 where appointed Board member in 2004 and Managing Director from 2010. Former President Masafumi Izumi to become Chairman without representative rights

Mr Ken Haruta appointed president of New Kansai International Airport Corporation on 28 June. Joined old JNR in 1972 after graduating from Faculty of Law of Tokyo University; held positions in Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Minister's Secretariat before appointment as Vice-Minister in 2008 and Vice-President of New Kansai International Airport Corporation since 2012

Mr Hideyuki Takizawa appointed Sagami Railway president on 29 June. Joined Sagami Railway in 1984 after graduating in economics from Yokohama National University before appointment as Sagami Holdings Corporate Executive Office in 2011 and Sagami Railway Managing Director in 2015. Former President Shigeo Ozawa to become President of Sotetsu Hotels

June

- 5—Passenger train collided at high speed with stopped freight train in east Belgium, derailing 2 of 6 carriages and killing 3 people with about 40 others injured
- 5—School bus overturned into a canal in Osmaniye in southern Turkey, killing 14 people including 6 children and injuring 26 others

7—JR East and Tokyo Metro announced decision to become Official Partners sponsoring 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics enabling them the usage of Olympics and Paralympics official emblems in PR

8—JR Central announced negotiation with government to move scheduled opening of extension of Maglev linear shinkansen to Osaka forward by 8 years from original planned data of 2045 using financial support from public funds

8—JR East announced ¥2.5 billion refurbishment to three stations at Harajuku, Sendagaya and Shinanomachi close to 2020 Tokyo Olympics main stadium with rebuilding of Harajuku Station on Yamanote Line by 2-storey structure and division of inner and outer tracks by temporary platform

8—Russia announced prototype MC21 new mid-range passenger plane with seats for up to 211 passengers to replace aging Tupolev Tu204 and compete with Airbus A320 and Boeing 737

13—Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry announced 31 first-round winners of Japan Service Awards for excellent service with JR Kyushu's *Nanatsuboshi* in *Kyushu* train winning Prime Minister's Prize

19—Three camping tour boats overturned in storm on lake in northwest Russia, drowning 14 people including 13 children out of 47 children and 4 adults onboard

21—Hitachi announced order for turnkey railway system including 58 carriages and 14.3 km of new tracks for New Taipei City, Taiwan, from group subsidiary Ansaldo STS and three large Taiwanese construction companies

22—Japan's Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) Consultative Transportation Council announced opening of consultation meeting for plan to speed-up rail transport submitted by Utsunomiya City, Hagamachi, and Utsunomiya Light Rail in Tochigi Prefecture with building of 14.6 km of Light Rail Transit tracks between Utsunomiya Station East Exit and Hagamachi to start operations from December 2019

24—JR Central announced introduction of new N700S rolling stock on Tokaido Shinkansen following completion of prototypes by March 2018 and start of commercial operations from 2020; new design to include smaller and lighter drive system with underfloor equipment and available in 16-, 12-, and 8-car trainsets targeting export markets

- 26**—Large tourist bus collided with guard rail on expressway in Hunan Province, China, before catching fire, killing 35 of 55 people onboard and injuring 11 others
- 27**—Singapore Airlines Boeing 777-300ER made emergency landing at Singapore's Changi International Airport following engine-oil warning with starboard engine catching fire on runway but all 241 people onboard evacuated safely
- 27**—Nihon Sharyo announced order for 224 carriages (14 trainsets) of N700A shinkansen rolling stock from parent company JR Central for delivery from March 2017 to March 2020
- 28**—JR Hokkaido announced submission of plan for 4 December 2016 closure of 16.7-km section of Rumoi Line (Fukugawa to Mashike) to Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT). JR Hokkaido had already submitted application for cancellation on 28 April 2016 with 29 April 2017 as planned cancellation date. MLIT approved early cancellation
- 29**—Hitachi announced group subsidiary Hitachi Rail Italia accepted order for 195 carriages (39 trainsets) of new double-deck commuter rolling stock from Italian railway operator Trenitalia; agreement includes provision to increase order to 300 carriages with design nicknamed Caravaggio after famous Italian painter
- 30**—Great Western Railway operator of UK published Intercity Express Plans (IEP) for new Hitachi Class 800 rolling stock at Paddington Station with services expected to start between London and Bristol from Summer 2017 at 201 km/hour

MILESTONES

Mr Hirofumi Hanaoka appointed MLIT Deputy Vice-Minister on 15 July. Joined old Ministry of Construction in 1980 after graduating from Faculty of Law, Tokyo University. Held various MLIT positions including Director-General, National Spatial Planning and Regional Policy Bureau before appointment as Vice Chairman of Urban Renaissance Agency in 2014

Mr Hiroshi Muto appointed MLIT Vice-Minister on 21 June. Joined old Ministry of Transport in 1979 after graduating from Faculty of Law, Tokyo University. Held various MLIT positions before appointment as Vice-Minister in 2014

Mr Masafumi Mori appointed MLIT Vice-Minister For Engineering Affairs on 21 June. Joined old Ministry of Construction in 1981 after graduating from Faculty of Engineering, Tokyo University. Held various MLIT positions before appointment as Director-General of Road Bureau in 2015

Mr Hiroshi Tabata appointed MLIT Vice-Minister on 21 June. Joined old Ministry of Transport in 1981 after graduating from Faculty of Law, Tokyo University. Held various MLIT positions before appointment as Vice-Minister of Minister's Secretariat in 2015

Mr Shinji Mori appointed MLIT Vice-Minister on 21 June. Joined old Ministry of Construction in 1981 after graduating from Faculty of Law, Tokyo University. Held various MLIT positions before appointment as Director-General of Policy Bureau in 2015

Mr Koichi Yoshida appointed MLIT Deputy Vice-Minister of Minister's Secretariat on 21 June. Joined old Ministry of Construction in 1982 after graduating from Faculty of Economics, Tokyo University. Held various MLIT positions before appointment as Director-General at Reconstruction Agency in 2015

Mr Kozo Fujita appointed Director-General of MLIT Policy Bureau on 21 June. Joined old Ministry of Transport in 1982 after graduating from Faculty of Law, Tokyo University. Held various MLIT positions before appointment as Director-General of Railway Bureau in 2014

Mr Takeshi Fujii appointed MLIT Director-General of National Spatial Planning and Regional Policy Bureau on 21 June. Joined old Ministry of Construction in 1983 after graduating from Faculty of Economics, Hitotsubashi University. Held various MLIT positions before appointment as Deputy director of Kanto Regional Development Bureau in 2014

Mr Yuichi Ishikawa appointed MLIT Director-General of Road Bureau on 21 June. Joined old Ministry of Construction in 1984 after graduating from Postgraduate School of Engineering, Tokyo University. Held various MLIT positions before appointment as Director of Kanto Regional Development Bureau in 2015

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Mr Tetsuya Okuda appointed MLIT Director-General of Railway Bureau on 21 June. Joined old Ministry of Transport in 1984 after graduating from Faculty of Law, Tokyo University. Held various government positions before appointment as Deputy Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, Minister's Secretariat in 2014

Mr Tetsuo Tominaga appointed MLIT Director-General for Policy Planning on 21 June. Joined old Ministry of Finance in 1982 after graduating from Faculty of Law, Tokyo University. Held various government positions before appointment as Director of Finance Policy Research Center in 2015

Mr Itsushi Tachi appointed MLIT Director-General for Policy Planning on 21 June. Joined Economic Planning Agency in 1981 after graduating from Faculty of Economics, Saitama University. Held various government positions before appointment as MLIT Assistant Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat in 2014

Mr Satoshi Nakajima appointed Commandant of Japan Coast Guard on 21 June. Joined Maritime Safety Agency in 1975 and held various positions before appointment as Vice Commandant for Operation in 2015

Mr Susumu Ishihara appointed NHK Chairman of Board of Governors on 28 June. Joined old JNR in 1969 after graduating from Faculty of Law, Tokyo University. Held various positions at JR Kyushu before appointment as NHK Governor in 2010

July

- 1—Nangang Station opened on 10-km extension of Taiwan High Speed Rail east of Taipei as first export of Japanese shinkansen technology
- 1—Sendai International Airport established as first full privatization of national airport operated by seven companies including Tokyu Railway
- 8—Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) published plans to consign management of Takamatsu Airport (Kagawa Prefecture) from 2018 to private company as second example of airport privatization following Sendai International Airport
- 12—Head-on collision between two 4-car passenger trains in Puglia, southern Italy, killed 23 people and injured about 50 others
- 12—9.4-km section of JR East Joban Line between Haranomachi and Odaka reopened after partial closure following 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake after relaxation of evacuation restrictions around damaged Fukushima Daiichi power station
- 18—Airbus A330+200 belonging to Hawaiian Air departing Tokyo International Airport Haneda returned to Haneda and made emergency landing with blowout of 8 tires on undercarriage following abnormal engine oil pressure; all 293 people onboard escaped safely but JAL forced to cancel 14 services due to disrupted time slots
- 19—Governments of Singapore and Malaysia confirmed joint-venture plans to open high-speed railway (350 km/h) between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur in 2026 with international bidding for construction and management; large Japanese operators such as JR East aiming to win bid
- 19—Chinese tourist bus hit guard rail on expressway near Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, killing all 26 people onboard; accident investigation detected alcohol levels exceeding legal limit in blood of dead driver
- 20—Tokyo Metro announced return to Japan of four Series 500 carriages exported from Marunouchi Line more than 20 years ago for service on Buenos Aires lines for repair and conservation and use at events in Japan
- 20—Single-engine Cessna 208 Caravan turbo-prop amphibious airplane struck bridge on takeoff and crashed into water near Jinshang District, Shanghai, China, killing 5 of 10 people onboard and injuring 5 others
- 22—Nishitetsu announced 8 August start of test operation of articulated bus 1.5 times larger than normal bus (18-m long and 130 passengers) on two routes between Hakata/Tenjin and Wangan Chiku in Fukuoka City; fifth operator in Japan to use articulated buses after Kanagawa Chuokotsu, Keisei Bus, Gifu Bus and Shinki Bus
- 30—Subway Line 4 opened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to serve 16km section between Olympics venues in western side and residential areas on southeast side of city
- 30—Hot-air balloon caught fire and crashed after allegedly touching power transmission line in central Texas, USA, killing all 16 people onboard