



JITI

Japan International Transport Institute, USA



The JITI Journal

Volume 2, Issue 1
January 2015

Welcome

The JITI Journal is a bimonthly publication of the Japan International Transport Institute, USA (JITI), in which JITI shares information on transportation developments in Japan and elsewhere, as well as recent JITI programs. As a supplement to our regular events, we hope that the Journal likewise serves as a resource for the transportation community.

In this issue, JITI staff member Allison Redmon reports on Japan's newest high-speed rail line, the Hokuriku Shinkansen. Additionally, JITI staff member Natasha Daly has contributed a piece about her experience traveling in Fukuoka, Japan.

This issue concludes with a roundup of transportation developments in Japan. We hope you enjoy the selection of transportation news articles.

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JITI Events

UPCOMING: JITI Railway Seminar 2015: Co-development of Urban Railroads and Infrastructure

With the ongoing development of the Silver Line, the Washington metro area is at present sharply focused on the intersection of urban and railway development. Japan has a rich history and deep knowledge base in this area, given the country's pioneering approach to simultaneous development of urban rail and infrastructure. JITI is convening experts from Japan, the U.S., and Europe to discuss this tremendously relevant topic. The seminar will be held **Wednesday, March 4th, at 3:00 p.m. at the Willard InterContinental Washington, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C.** Registration information will be sent shortly.

UPCOMING: JITI Workshop with JR East

JITI will host a speaker from JR-EAST (East Japan Railway Company), who will discuss the technological developments of Japan's high-speed rail. This event will be held on **March 23rd** at the **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace** in **Washington, D.C.** Further details to be

March 4: Railway Seminar 2015



On Wednesday, March 4th, JITI will host a seminar focused on railways:

"Co-development of Urban Railroads and Infrastructure"

at the Willard InterContinental Washington.

Seminar: **3pm - 6pm**
Reception: **6pm - 7:30pm**

The event will feature speakers from WMATA, Tokyo Metro, the City of Copenhagen, Utah Transit Authority, Tokyu Corporation, and APTA.

Registration details to be announced soon.

March 23: Intersections Series with JR East



On the afternoon of Monday, March 23rd, JITI will host a speaker from JR East (East Japan Railway Company), who will discuss recent developments in Japan's high-speed rail technology.

announced soon.

Hokuriku Shinkansen to Begin Service March 14, 2015



The Hokuriku Shinkansen

The Hokuriku Shinkansen is a shinkansen line operated by East Japan Railway Company (commonly known as JR East) and West Japan Railway Company (JR West), under construction through the Hokuriku region of Japan. The extension from Nagano to Toyama and Kanazawa is on track to open on March 14, 2015. Travel time from Tokyo to Toyama will be reduced to about two hours, with Kanazawa an additional 30 minutes away, bringing a certain boost to the Hokuriku region's tourism industry.

Hokuriku is on Honshu's west coast, bordered by the Sea of Japan and the Japanese Alps. The region is saturated with culture, history and striking natural beauty, and Kanazawa is second only to Kyoto for its population of authentic working geisha. The photogenic region includes the site of the former Kanazawa Castle; Kenroku-en, one of Japan's best gardens; one of Japan's top fishing towns, Himi; and popular natural hot springs areas.

Test runs began in December 2014 for trains to be used on the new rail section. JR East and JR West will continue testing the new E7 series and W7 series trains while checking track and station facilities on the line's extended section -- between Nagano and Kanazawa -- until just before services on the section open to the public on March 14. The test runs will include training for about 220 drivers and conductors.

With the extension of the line, three new train categories will be introduced along the Hokuriku Shinkansen, all covered by the Japan Rail Pass.

The Kagayaki will be the fastest train category along the Hokuriku Shinkansen, making 10 daily round trips between Tokyo and Kanazawa in the mornings and evenings, stopping only at Ueno, Omiya, Nagano and Toyama. Travel time between Kanazawa and Tokyo will be reduced to 2 hours and 28 minutes on the fastest trains. The Kagayaki features 12 cars, one of which is Gran Class. The Kagayaki will be one of the few shinkansen trains on which seat reservations are mandatory.

The Hakutaka is the slower of the two train categories that run along the entire length of the Hokuriku Shinkansen. It will skip many stations between Tokyo and Nagano but will stop at most of the shinkansen stations beyond Nagano, requiring around 20 to 50 minutes longer than the Kagayaki. The Hakutaka features the same train sets as the Kagayaki but offers non-reserved seating.

The Tsurugi will shuttle between Kanazawa and Toyama Station, providing

This event will be held at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

More details to follow.

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travelers arriving by limited express train from Osaka and Nagoya with a connection to Toyama.

The Asama is the only train category operating between Tokyo and Nagano with various stop schedules. The Asama will continue running just between Tokyo and Nagano, using eight-car train sets without Gran Class, a first class service.

The first section of the Hokuriku Shinkansen, between Takasaki and Nagano (currently called the Nagano Shinkansen), opened in October 1997, in time for the Nagano Winter Olympics. Construction of a further section to Tsuruga began in 2012, with projected completion in 2025. The final section continuing to the Kansai region including Kyoto and Osaka, is under consideration. This final extension would provide not only convenient high-speed rail but also an accessible cultural link between east and west Japan.

Travelogue: Fukuoka, Japan



Traditional costumes amid the rain at the Hakata Dontaku festival in Fukuoka.

I lived in Busan, South Korea, for three years, and in that time had the privilege of traveling to Fukuoka, Japan, several times. Fukuoka was recently named the 12th most livable city in the world, and for good reason: It is a dynamic, bustling seaside city that combines the ancient and the modern in many exciting ways. While it may not have the renown of some of Japan's more famous cities, Fukuoka was always a delight to visit.

Fukuoka is extremely accessible from Korea, as Japan's JR Kyushu operates a reasonably priced, high-speed hydrofoil ferry service between Busan and Fukuoka. Fukuoka is about 130 miles from Busan and is situated on the northern coast of Kyushu Island, where the Sea of Japan meets the South China Sea. The "Beetle" ferry whisks passengers smoothly along between the two cities, even in choppy seas, in under three hours.

The last time I visited Fukuoka happened to fall during Golden Week, the period of holidays and festivals celebrated all throughout the country. When my now-husband and I were planning our trip, we did not even realize that Fukuoka is home to one of the most celebrated Golden Week festivals in all of Japan, Hakata Dontaku, which attracts some two million celebrants each year. We marveled at the festival as it took over the city, adults and children alike wearing traditional costumes, masks, and face paint as they danced their way through the rainy side streets of Fukuoka.

We also got a chance to sample some of Fukuoka's year-round attractions. The city is home to beautiful parks, beaches, temples, an

ancient castle, and plenty of modern amenities. These include some great spots for shopping; Fukuoka has many wonderful, locally owned shops where one can browse through vintage clothing, records, home décor, and much more. Fukuoka is also known for Canal City Hakata, an indoor-outdoor complex of shops, restaurants, theaters, etc. It is Japan's largest private development ever and is known as the "city within the city," and it is certainly far more impressive than any simple mall, given the canal that winds its way through the complex and the regular fountain shows that take place each day.

Fukuoka also boasts some wonderful food. The city is famous all over Japan for its signature ramen, which is just as delicious as its reputation suggests. I also got to try some amazing seafood and international food while in Fukuoka. In fact, one of the best hamburgers I've ever eaten was from the Jet Diner, a little American-style burger restaurant tucked away in a side street near Fukuoka's main shopping area.

Fukuoka may not have the name recognition of a city like Tokyo or Kyoto, but I would recommend a visit to anyone traveling to the area. I certainly hope to go back one day.

Japanese Transportation News Roundup

Security company Secom plans a novel approach to security for the Tokyo Olympics in 2020, with a new fleet of [unmanned surveillance airships](#).

JR Tokai is already busy [laying the groundwork for a terminal at Tokyo's Shinagawa station](#) that will eventually host trains traveling the world's first "superconducting" maglev line.

Tokyo hopes to [spark further travel between Japan and Southeast Asia](#) with new bilateral agreements with Cambodia and Laos that are in the works.

Toyota will be [offering roughly 5,700 hydrogen fuel cell patents for free](#) to competitors in the interest of sparking greater investment and innovation in green technologies.

Amid dropping oil prices, [Japan Airlines is slashing its fuel surcharges](#), with reductions as high as 50% for certain flights.

Hitachi is working in Singapore to [beef up its railway signal systems](#) in an attempt to use technological development to seize part of a swiftly growing international market.

Budget carrier Peach Aviation is also [looking abroad](#), with plans for hubs in cities including Seoul, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City.

Mitsui is looking to help develop Mozambique with plans to [simultaneously invest in a new mine, rail system and port](#) in the country.

Tokyo's Haneda Airport [continues to aggressively mount a challenge to Narita](#) as the two battle for control of Japan's international flight market.

Stay in Touch with JITI

Please follow the Japan International Transport Institute Twitter feed at [@JITIUSA](#). We look forward to you becoming one of our #transpo tweeps.

Thank you for reading the JITI Journal. Until the next issue, whatever your mode, travel safely!

The JITI Team