

Rail Routes from the Baghdad Railway to the New Silk Road (19th to 21st Centuries) – Utopian Dreams, Past Achievements, and Future Prospects for Rail Transport between Europe and the Middle and Far East

7th International International Conference on Railway History in the historic station of Sirkeci in Istanbul (Turkey) from 2nd to 5th November 2016. Organised by the International Railway History Association (IRHA), and supported by the Turkish Railways (TCDD), the International Union of Railways (UIC), and Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français (SNCF)



unity, solidarity, universality

Schedule of the Conference

Wednesday 2 November 2016

14:00 to 16:00 registration

17:00 to 20:00 welcome and come together

Welcome

Opening address by UIC Director General **Jean-Pierre Loubinoux**

Welcome address by President of the IRHA **Henry Jacolin**

Welcome address by Deputy Director General of Turkish State Railways TCDD

General introduction into the scientific part of the conference by General Secretary of the IRHA Prof. Dr. **Ralf Roth**

Come together

Thursday 3 November 2016

Sections of partition A. Past (19th and first half of the 20th century)

9:00 to 10:30: Section 1 “First suggestions and connections”

Chaired by Prof. Dr. **Ralf Roth**

- Henry Jacolin** (president of the International Railway History Association, France): *Establishment of the First Railway Connection Between Europe and Turkey*
- Dr. **Csaba Sándor Horváth** (Széchenyi István University, Győr, Hungary): *The Establishment of the Railway Connection Between Hungary and the Ottoman Empire – A Prelude to the Launch of the Orient Express*
- Prof. Dr. **Nevin Coşar** (Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey) and Dr. **Sevtap Demirci** (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey): *Railroads Policies and Modernisation: Consumption Patterns in Turkey*
- Dr. **Emine Zeytinli** (Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey): *Economic Concessions for Ottoman Rumelia Railway Investments and Foreign Capital, 1860–1936*

10:30 to 11:00: coffee break

11:00 to 12:30: Section 2 “The Balkans and the Ottoman Empire”

Chaired by Dr. **Irene Anastasiadou**

- a) Cand. phil. **Milos Vojinovic** (Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences, Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade, Serbia): *Railway Building Between Politics and Economy: The Case of Railway Planning in Serbia 1906–1908*
- b) Prof. Dr. **Mehmet Metin Hülügü** (Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey): *The History of the Hejaz Railway (asked)*
- c) Dr. **Axel Heimsoth** (Ruhr Museum, Essen, Germany): *Cartoons of the Baghdad Railway. A Media Hype in German, French and British Journals*
- d) **Arjan den Boer**, MA (author on history and architecture, Utrecht, The Netherlands): *The “Balkanzug” as a Propaganda Vehicle*

12:30 to 15:00: lunch

15 to 16 30: Section 3 “Transport corridors Europe – Asia in a wider perspective”

Chaired by Prof. Dr. **Nevin Coşar**

- a) Cand. phil. **Walid Y. Belbachir** (Aix-Marseille University, Marseille, France): *From Suez to Baghdad: Transcontinental Perspectives of the Balkan Railways (1869–1911)*
- b) Cand. phil. **Maciej Waş** (Hildesheim, Germany): *The Railway Connection Between London/Paris to British India through the Russian Empire – Ideas and Problems*
- c) Prof. Dr. **Per Högselius** (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden): *Scandinavia’s Iron Silk Road*
- d) Prof. Dr. **Bin Wang** (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China): *Contested Interconnections: Colonialism and the Making of Railway Junctions in Early 20th Century China*

19:00 to 22:00: evening event

Friday 4 November 2016

Section of partition B. Present (second half of the 20th century)

9:00 to 10:30 Section 4 “The Modern Debate after World War Two”

Chaired by Prof. Dr. **Andrea Giuntini**

- a) Dr. **Irene Anastasiadou** (Technical University Berlin, Germany): *The Southern TAR: a Global Project in the Context of the Cold War*
- b) Dr. **Mudassir Mohiu din Wani** Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India): *Economic Significance and Securitization of One Belt One Road*
- c) Associate Prof. Dr. **David Celetti** (University of Padua, Italy, and Visiting Professor at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazGU), Almaty, Kazakhstan): *The Railway Option within the New Silk Road – Projects, Actors, Business, and Politics in Central Asia*

10:30 to 11:00 coffee break

Sections of partition C. Future (from 21st century onwards)

11:00 to 12:30 Section 5 “What the future might bring”

Chaired by **Paul Véron**

- a) Prof. Dr. **Ihor Zhaloba** (Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine): *Ukraine and the New Silk Road: Will the Geopolitical Project be Economically Beneficial?*
- b) Prof. Dr. **Clive Lamming** (2011 G8 Expert for the south-east Transasiatic Railway, Paris, July 4-5th, France): *China-Afghanistan-Europe direct Railway in Standard Gauge*
- c) **István Neumann** (ARON Rail Cargo System. Germany-Switzerland-Austria-Hungary): *Moving Swiftly on Difficult Terrain: the ARON Rail Cargo System Vision for Short and Medium Range Rail Freight Links Between Europe, Northern Africa and Asia*

12:30 to 15:00 lunch

15:00 to 20:00 excursions

Saturday 5 November 2016

9:00 to 11:00: Section 6 “The Future of Railway Networks between Asia and Europe“

Chaired by **Henry Jacolin**

- a) **TCDD**: *Presentation of State Railways of the Turkish Republic (TCDD)*
- b) **Hossein Ashouri** (Vice President for Operation and International Transport of RAI): *Role and the perspective of Iran and the Railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran as an important rail connection in the new rail Silk Road*
- c) **Mohammad Yamma Shams** (General Director and CEO of Afghanistan Railway Authority) and Eng. **Mirwais Ghafari** (Head of Railway Development and Construction of Afghanistan Railway Authority): *Presentation of the Afghanistan Railway Authority (AfRA)*
- d) **Paul Véron** (Director of Communications and Director Middle-East of UIC): *Presentation of the International Union of Railways (UIC)*

11:00 to 11:30 coffee break

11:30 to 12:30 Debate about the results of the conference?

12:30 to 14:00 lunch

End of the conference