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Forthcoming events

13th May 2020, Webinar: Closing the financial gap of COVID-19: the necessity of PPPs

25th June 2020, 24 hour Virtual Rail Conference

25th August - 26th August 2020, AfricaRail, Johannesburg*

Railways play an essential role carrying East-West freight during the COVID 19 crisis

A recent article in Forbes magazine has pointed out how essential railways have become in relation to the carrying of East-West freight during the COVID 19 crisis where both air and sea transportation have been seriously disrupted. Typically, trans-Eurasian rail is about one week slower and eight times cheaper than air freight. But in times of crisis and elevated prices, attention is shifting even more rapidly to rail services which offers unmatched reliability and fantastic value. To read the complete article, please click [here](#).

What do you think?

The future for the rail sector is very uncertain. In the short term, there will be government support to prevent the otherwise inevitable collapse of the industry. But in the new post virus economy, the railways will need to adapt, and policy makers will be thinking long and hard as to how and where the railways fit into a world economy coming out of the biggest economy shock for nearly a hundred years. As an industry, we need to be part of this discussion. To that end we are asking our members to respond to a short on-line questionnaire looking at what we expect to happen. To complete the questionnaire click [here](#).

By train or by plane after COVID 19.

The research department of the Swiss Bank UBS has published an intriguing analysis which suggests that the COVID 19 crisis could accelerate a shift of passenger traffic in Europe and China from air travel to travel by train. A passenger survey indicates that leisure travellers are ready to tolerate journeys of 5 to 6 hours by train and business travellers are ready to travel up to 4 hours by train which will accelerate the development and utilisation of highspeed rail routes in both Europe and China. On the aviation side the analysis indicates that there will be

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Save the date - AfricaRail, Johannesburg, 25th August - 26th August 2020

Africa's largest rail exhibition & conference will be taking place at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa on 25th August – 26th August 2020. The RWG has negotiated a 15% discount for its members and RWG members should mention their membership when applying for tickets. For more information click [here](#)



Save the date - Scandinavian Rail Optimisation, Stockholm 10th November 2020

Rotaia Media is organising a high-level business event, Scandinavian Rail Optimisation, on 10th November 2020 in Stockholm at the Brewery Conference Centre. RWG members receive a 15% discount on the registration fee. To register please contact ben.holliday@rotaiamedia.com

Subscription discount for RWG members for "Railways Africa"

Rail Working Group members are entitled to purchase the South African online publication "[Railways Africa](#)" at 25% discount of R6500 - place promo code RailWorkingGroup2020 when checking out. The code expires at the end of 2020.

slowing of global air traffic growth to a rate of 4.6% per annum over the period 2018/2028 with no growth at all into European traffic whereas the study envisages a significant expansion of the highspeed rail network both in China and in Europe with the market growing to € 11 billion in Europe by 2022 (350% of 2016 levels) with the consequent increase in demand for rolling stock.

InnoTrans rescheduled

The biennial major exhibition for the rail industry, InnoTrans, will not take place this coming September and is being scheduled to next year. The organisers have announced that the exhibition will now take place in Berlin between 27th and 30th April 2021. The RWG will be there!

24 hour virtual rail conference

Rail Virtual arrives at a time of unprecedented disruption. The Covid-19 crisis has impacted passenger rail operations, placed intense pressure on freight supply chains and delayed project developments around the world. There's never been a more important time for the global rail industry to come together and learn how to survive and thrive in a post Covid-19 world.

The first of its kind, this 24-hour virtual event will showcase how operators are innovating to endure and accelerating their digital transformation journeys to keep operations on-track. With an impressive, and growing, cast of speakers and live interactive sessions from leading railway industry execs across the world, RWG chair, Howard Rosen, will moderate one of the panels. Join in from wherever you are online either live or watch the sessions on-demand.

Access is free. More at

<https://www.terrapinn.com/virtual/rail-conference/>

“The Railway market in Africa and the Middle East” - special offer for members

SCI Verkehr has published a study on the market for railway technology products and services in Africa and the Middle East. Rail Working Group members are entitled to purchase the study at a 10% discount if you state your membership during the order process. To place an order click [here](#)

Fourth Edition of the Official Commentary of the Cape Town Convention and the Aircraft Protocol

The 4th Edition of Professor Sir Roy Goode's commentary on the Cape Town Convention and the Aircraft Protocol has now been published. Of course, many of the comments there apply equally to the Luxembourg Rail Protocol. RWG members are entitled to a 15% discount and you will see the application form [here](#).

Official Commentary on the Luxembourg Rail Protocol - special deal for RWG members

Rail Working Group members are entitled to purchase Professor Goode's official commentary on the Luxembourg Rail Protocol at a 15% discount. If you wish to use this facility, please use the official form which you can find [here](#).

For copies of the newsletters click [here](#)

For information about membership of the RWG click [here](#)

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