

**RTSA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
24 FEBRUARY 2009.**

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL ISSUES DISCUSSED

IPENZ	Discussions were held with the Chief Executive of IPENZ, Mr. Andrew Cleland, who briefed the Executive on the role of IPENZ and its relationship with EA. An opportunity was taken to present an outline to Mr. Cleland of the plans for the CORE2010 Conference that is to be held in Wellington in September 2010.
STORE2009	Plans for the Study Tour of Asian metro systems were discussed. The tour now will take place between 12 th and 23 rd September 2009, visiting Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong. Full details and calls for registration are to be published soon.
Young Professionals	Attention was given to the topic of how best to attract young professionals to join the RTSA and, having done so, how to retain their interest and participation. Further investigations are to be undertaken on this important topic.
Professional Development Initiatives	Several Professional Development initiatives were discussed. One such initiative is to identify high profile leaders to make presentations to young rail industry young professionals on non-technical managerial techniques. Initially, as a trial, this initiative will be pursued first in Melbourne.
Railway Career Days	An initiative is being pursued to hold railway career days at selected universities with the objective of stimulating the interest of undergraduates in the rail industry.
RTSA Awards	As a result of a poor response to the call for nominations in some categories of award, it has been concluded that more work still needs to be done to market and advertise the awards generally.
Sub-Committee Terms of Reference	It has been agreed that the Terms of Reference for each of the RTSA Sub-Committees shall be published in the website.
RTSA Website	Further initiatives are to be taken to improve the both the quality and the contents of the RTSA website.
CORE2008	A closing report was received for CORE2008 and it was agreed that this conference was a hugely successful event in terms of the number of delegates, the levels of sponsorship and the participation in the trade exhibition. A detailed Terms of Reference has been prepared to assist with the arrangements for future CORE conferences.

Business Plan	Following the undertaking of a comprehensive SWOT analysis, a further draft of the revised RTSA Business Plan was tabled and it was agreed that further work needs to be done before a final version can be adopted. As part of the considerations regarding the Business Plan it has been agreed to conduct a review and rationalisation of the various RTSA sub-committees.
CORE2010	Arrangements for CORE2010, which will be held in Wellington New Zealand, between 12 th & 14 th September 2010, are moving ahead and progress reports will be made to members from time-to-time.
RTSA Marketing Plan	Once the RTSA Business Plan has been completed it has been agreed that the associated Marketing Plan will be developed.
RTSA History Book	The history book "The RTSA – The First Ten Years", authored by Dr. Philip Laird, was published just prior to CORE2008 and copies are available to all members of the RTSA at no cost
Awards	In 2009, awards will be offered in the categories of Railway Engineering Student Thesis, Contact Mechanics, Young Railway Engineer and Individual. Nominations for the first two categories will close on 28 th November 2008 and, for the other two categories, on 27 th February 2009. Consideration is to be given by the members of the Awards Sub-Committee as to the appropriateness of introducing a new category of award for post-graduate work.
Post Graduate Degree Courses	A number of universities now are offering post graduate degree courses in railway topics. The Central Queensland University offers a Signaling and Communication course, the University of Wollongong has a Master of Rolling Stock Engineering program and a Track and Infrastructure course has been introduced by the Queensland University of Technology.
Information Dissemination	The Executive is committed to explore opportunities designed to improve the dissemination of a variety of information to its members. One of the first initiatives will be to establish a template of railway related courses and seminars on the RTSA website