B&O Railroad Museum Announces Formal Affiliation with The Railway Museum, Saitama City, JAPAN

Officials from the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore, Maryland and The Railway Museum in Saitama City, JAPAN announced today that a formal sisterhood agreement will be signed between the two institutions at a ceremony in the B&O Railroad Museum’s Roundhouse on Friday, September 5, 2014 at 11 A.M.

The public and press are invited as the leadership of these two railroad museums join hands in an affiliate relationship designed to enable the museums to exchange collections, expertise, technology, personnel, education programs and best practices, and to collaborate on international railway heritage projects. In addition, a coordinated international marketing campaign will draw travelers from East to West and West to East.

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore, will be on hand to welcome the Japanese delegation that includes the Minister for Economic Affairs and the Counselor of Transportation, Embassy of Japan, the Chairman of the East Japan Railway Culture Foundation, the Director of the Railway Museum and other representatives of The Railway Museum and the East Japan Railway.

Courtney B. Wilson, Executive Director of the B&O Railroad Museum, said “…we view this as a unique opportunity to secure a formal working relationship with one of the world’s premier railway museums and enhance our mission and ability to preserve and interpret railway heritage internationally.”

In 2012 Trains Unlimited in the 21st Century pronounced that the B&O Railroad Museum and The Railway Museum, Saitama City were among the top ten railroad museums in the world. Officials from both institutions were introduced at the 1st International Conference of Railway Museums which was held in Tokyo in November 2013.

X X X

The B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore, Maryland is universally recognized as “the Birthplace of American Railroading” and is a Smithsonian Affiliate. The Museum boasts the oldest, most important and comprehensive American railroad collection in the world. Its 40-acre campus includes five monumental historic buildings, the first 1.5 miles of railroad right of way in the Western Hemisphere all on a 40-acre campus in downtown Baltimore. The Museum also administers Mount Clare Museum House in Baltimore City and Ellicott City Station in Howard County, Maryland.