

Subrata Nath
Executive Director (Heritage)



Ref: 3

भारत सरकार
रेल मंत्रालय, (रेलवे बोर्ड)
रेल भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
RAIL BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 2010/Heritage/DHR/FiT

Dated: 08.11.2018

Ms. Junhi Han
Head, Culture Department
& Programme Specialist for Culture
UNESCO, New Delhi Office
1, San Martin Marg
New Delhi-110 021

Sub: Extension of validity of the project period: DHR-CCMP
Ref: Your letter no 7799/2018/CLT/NU dated 31.10.2018.

Dear Ms. Han,

Kindly refer to your letter cited above regarding extension of validity of current Fund In Trust (FiT) agreement for DHR-CCMP project from current 31.12.2018 to 30.09.2019 in accordance with Article VI 2 and 3 of the FiT, to finalize the CCMP and organize the 20th anniversary of DHR World Heritage Site Celebration.

Ministry of Railways has agreed to extend to validity of the DHR-CCMP project agreement till 30th September, 2019 without any increase in the overall amount of the project.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,

(Subrata Nath)

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Copy to:

Director, Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, & Nodal Officer from NF Railway Side - For information and record please.

REF: 7

514-64



New Delhi Office
Cluster Office for Bangladesh,
Bhutan, India, Maldives,
Nepal and Sri Lanka

Mr H K Jaggi
General Manager
Northern Frontier Railway
Guwahati, Assam

Ref: 7515/CLT/2016/MC

7 June 2016

Subject: Request for a moratorium of works to DHR properties during the project period

Dear Mr Jaggi,

During the site visits in April and May, UNESCO Expert team reported a number of recent/on-going interventions to DHR properties that are of great concern to the management of DHR. These include:

- Renovation of Sonada station that does not seem to follow any guideline to respect its original heritage features. As part of our agreement, NFR has requested UNESCO to also propose the renovation plan for Sonada station. Therefore it is not understandable why the renovation work has been initiated without any consultation.
- Just to the Ghum side of Batasia, the PWD / National Highways or their contractors have demolished a heritage stone wall (built 1881) and excavated the embankment supporting DHR track to widen the road. Not only is this flagrant destruction of part of a World Heritage Site, it is potentially dangerous for the operation of DHR trains since the tracks are now suspended ca 2.5 metres above the road on a sandy bank, no wider than the width of the sleepers, which could collapse.
- Just above Kurseong where the Hill Cart Road is above the DHR and being extensively repaired, the PWD / National Highways or their contractors have widened the road by encroaching railway land. Again an original stone supporting wall has been demolished and a concrete replacement constructed so close to the DHR tracks that it is within the specified minimum safe distance.
- Just outside Darjeeling Station (km 79/0), a multi-story block is being constructed which has encroached on DHR land occupied by the track of a siding. Whether or not the whole site, which was formerly occupied by a railway godown, is still in railway ownership needs to be checked but the railway is certainly the owner of the front portion.

Photos of the concerned locations are enclosed for your perusal.

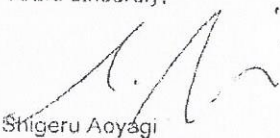
To avoid any conflict and inconsistency with our future Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP), may I urge your office, as a matter of principle, to refrain from any decisions or actions, and to halt any on-going projects, that impact the heritage attributes and elements of the site, till the CCMP is completed? These include:

- The demolition or renovation of any structure (such as Sonada station)
- Changes to the railway system including engines, rolling stock, etc.
- The functioning and status of the Workshops and Loco Sheds
Beautification of areas within the World Heritage Boundary
- Changes to management and staff structures

The moratorium however should not apply to the functioning of the railway and necessary maintenance must continue to be guaranteed

I would appreciate your cooperation on this matter, without which a CCMP will be of no use.

Yours sincerely,



Shigeru Aoyagi
Director and UNESCO Representative to
Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka and Maldives

CC: Mr Subrato Nath, ED/Heritage, Ministry of Railways