

April 14, 2023 - LRNL prepared and guided a working visit to the tramway in Okayama (Japan) and its operator the Ryōbi Group. In the press the visit was announced as an inspection of the tramway by expert visitors from Europe.



The reporter announced the delegation, composed of government officials, experts and a university professor, "who want to learn from the local public transport in Japan".



Rob van der Bijl (LRNL): "State driven operation like in Europe has its limitations. However, the commercial operation in Japan of tramways reaches also its limits ...



... Beware, tramway infrastructure as such cannot be profitable. We must learn from each other and develop a new model for rail-based public transport that combines the best of two worlds, i.e. of Japan and countries like the Netherlands, Austria and France."



Our vintage tram in the streets of Okayama. The visit and tram tour were broadcasted by TBS Television, the flagship station of the Japan News Network (JNN).