

Java Sugar Mill Blog Part 16 15 August 2017

Purwodadi - the last mill in Java to use conventional steam locos

A good first visit to Purwodadi although the morning was better than the afternoon. In the morning, the two steam locos moved the loaded trains with one exception when the small diesel also added some cane to the rear of a train and assisted with the banking.

There were two working steam locos:



No. 16 was waiting to go on the rear of the train.



No. 10 hauled the train with diesel No. 2 bringing back the empties.



Another train with 16 pulling and 10 waiting to push.



The line crosses a busy main road so crews are asked to minimize the delay to road traffic. This leads to some lively performances.



Once across the road, the train crosses a bridge. The lead loco detaches and here we see the rear loco ready to push the train into the mill yard.



Loco No. 15, working when Wilson visited, was having a boiler wash out. Inside the shed another No. 15 is disused. I think parts from No. 5 and No. 15 were combined to make a working loco which was numbered 15.



Attempt at an artistic composition of No. 15 outside the shed.



No. 16 on the big bridge along with diesel No. 2. My favourite shot from the morning and now my laptop desktop picture replacing a shot from Shibaxi, China.



No. 16 propelling a loaded train into the mill yard.

Afternoon shots



No. 10 propels the train into the mill yard across the bridge.



Through the grave yard and down towards the river for this shot of No. 16 returning to the truck yard. Purwodadi has a limited range of possibilities as the track used by steam is limited but this is one of the more unusual views.



The late afternoon light showed promise but I didn't achieve a master shot.



Two boys were investigating a steam loco.

Anytime after 16:30 and until 18:00 or 18:30, things go quiet and don't resume until after dark. With bagasse burning locos, sparks are possible, so we will return on our last afternoon for fireworks after dark. There's little obvious artificial lighting in the truck yard so it could be challenging. To be continued...

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