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“Wheelchair Accessibility in Barrierfree Guideline on Public Transport in Japan”

### Abstract

At the beginning, outline of the ECOMO Foundation will be presented. The ECOMO, as a semi- public organization, was established in 1994 with supervision of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. It has two divisions which are promoting accessible public transport and promoting environmental transport and logistics.

In the main part, firstly a current status of Japanese aging society and population of the disabled will be presented as basic information. And then historical outline of policies for making public transport accessible will be shown. We will take a brief look at historical changes of law, policies and standards in Japan.

In the second part, introduction of Transport Accessibility Improvement Law 2000 and Barrier free Law 2006 will be presented. Under the law accessibility standards and guidelines are defined to promote more accessible public transport. The role of guidelines is to make transport providers understood accessibility standards regulated by law with giving some concrete and advanced examples. The guidelines are decided by the committee with participation of users, transport providers and so on.

Furthermore in this section photos and figures of some examples of accessibility in public transport will be shown.

In the third part, we will look at subjects to be discussed in regard to wheel chair accessibility. Guidelines are reexamined per about every 5 years for more improvement. In a process of recent revision, we have discussed some problems and progressed regulations relating to accessibility of wheel chair user and others.

Finally, 3 challenging points for more accessible transport will be presented, such as necessity of COORDINATION among all fields of urban infrastructure like transport, building, road and so on, necessity of PERMANENT COMMITTEE to consider and establish new standards for accessibility, necessity of genuine efforts for a systematic SPECIAL TRANSPORT (door-to-door) service for the coming super aged society.