

V Building Foundations for a Comfortable Living Environment

1 Measures to Establish Comfortable Community for Persons with Disabilities

In order to develop life environments where “universal design” that is comfortable and easy to live for everybody is taken into consideration, life space related barrier-free design of residences, buildings, public transport, walking spaces, and so forth were promoted and unified and consecutive barrier-free designs of those facilities and routes between them within fixed areas advanced.

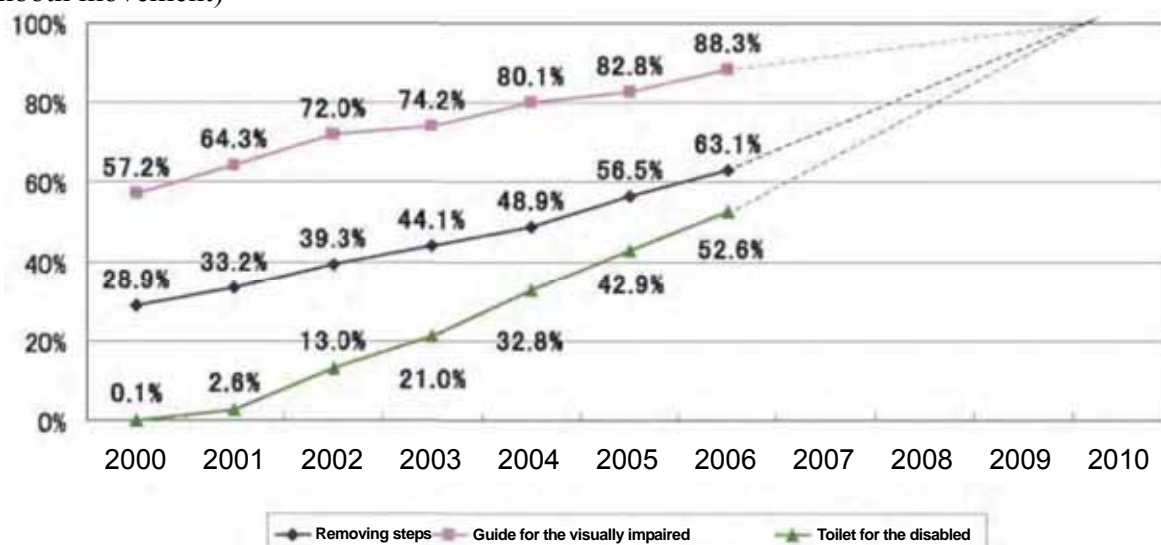
Measures have been taken to ensure the provision of support tailored to the needs of persons requiring assistance in times of disasters, in areas such as the diffusion of knowledge concerning disasters, providing of information in the event of disasters and evacuation guidance.

Crime prevention measures are being implemented with due consideration for the concerns of persons with disabilities. Efforts are also underway to remove obstacles for access to the police by persons with disabilities and to prevent them from becoming victims of crime and accident.

(Main measures taken)

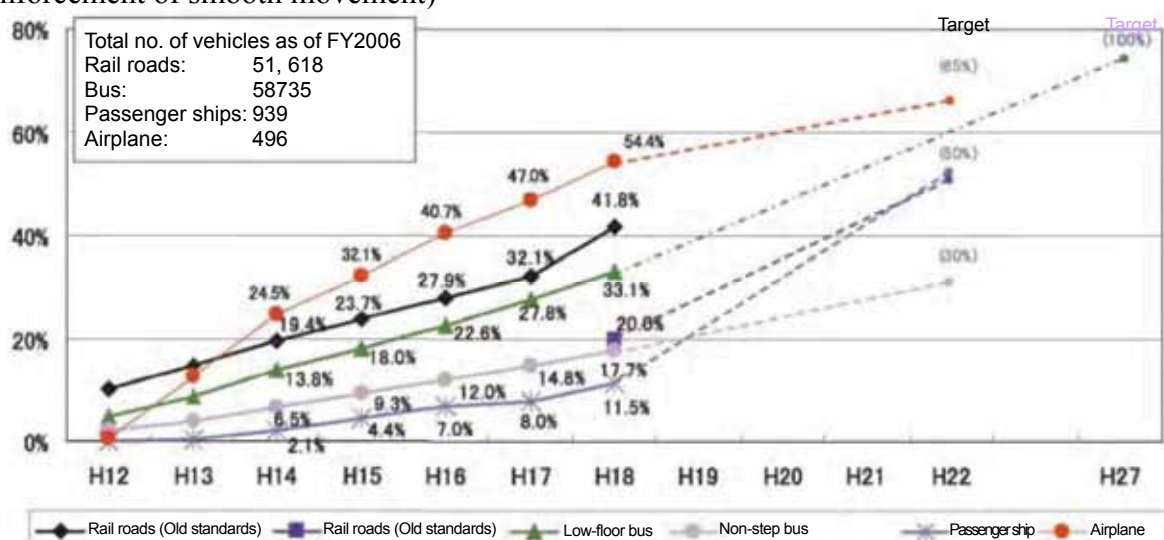
- The provision of public rental housing and private rental housing was started based on “Act on Promotion of Rental Housing Supply for People in need of securing a housing”, which was enacted in July, 2007.
- Public rental housing system (Good Quality Rental Housing, Good Rental Housing for Aged) that supports Publicly-operated Housing system was restructured and Good Quality Regional Rental Housing system was established in fiscal year 2007. To help the private entrepreneurs, the development expenses and rent was reduced and further action was taken to provide good quality rental housing for households with the disabilities and the elderly.
- In fiscal year 2007, by the amendment of the tax system, a tax-relief was provided for income-tax and fixed asset tax in those places where definite barrier-free refurbishment has taken place for the benefit of elderly people and persons with disabilities, and so on.
- Since fiscal year 2007, in addition to the existing housing loan, the expenditures incurred for restoration to original state and any litigation were also guaranteed in the senior citizen residence support center. This helped in the smooth move-in to the private rental accommodation by persons with disabilities by removing the anxiety of the landlords.
- "A guideline to maintain easy movement of travelers, in the facilities connected to public transportation" and "A guideline to maintain the easy movement in side the cars of public transportation" was formulated in July, 2007. "Passenger Ships barrier-free guideline" was formulated in August of the same year.

Chart 13 The barrier free system in traveler's facilities. (From a report on the enforcement of smooth movement)



Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Chart 14 The transition to barrier free system in the public transportation (From a report on the enforcement of smooth movement)



Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

- In order to make each and every citizen understand the problem and difficulties of the elderly and disabled people, and to establish a “barrier-free mind” in the society that positively cooperates with their social participation, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism holds a barrier-free classroom in coordination with the integrated study in elementary and junior high schools.
- The National Police Agency and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism promote the “Omni-bus Town Vision” that supports the efforts by municipalities and related parties aiming to realize a town planning that effectively promote the social significance of buses. Improvement of convenience of using buses is being made by encouraging the introduction of non-step buses with consideration for the disadvantaged like those with disabilities and of buses with lift, and maintenance of bus stops. As of the end of fiscal year 2007 14 cities are designated

as “Omni-bus town”

- “Maintenance guideline for barrier-free movement in urban parks” was formulated as a concrete guideline for the promotion of barrier-free in January 2008. And from fiscal year 2008 “Emergency support project to promote barrier-free in urban parks” was established to promote barrier-free in urban parks.
- The “Law Amending a Part of the Road Traffic Law” ,which is going to be enforced from June 1st, 2008 allows persons with hearing disabilities to drive ordinary-sized vehicles with the condition that they use wide-mirrors in their cars and also display signs that indicate that they are persons with hearing disabilities.
- Regarding the measures for those requiring assistance at the time of a disaster, “Measures to be taken immediately aiming for ‘Zero Victim’ during natural disasters” were concluded in December 2007. The central government promotes the formulation by fiscal year 2009 of “complete plan of evacuation support” that clarifies the principles of support measures in the municipality for those requiring assistance in times of disasters.
- In June 2007 a part of the Order for Enforcement of the Fire Service Act and the Regulation for Enforcement of the Fire Service Act was amended to expand the range of facilities that must select a fire prevention manager and install sprinklers with regard to the social welfare facilities where people who cannot flee on their own in case of fire emergency reside. Technical standard was set up regarding the installment of sprinklers and their maintenance at such facilities.

2 Measures to Secure Information and Communication about persons with disabilities

In order to expand the opportunities for persons with disabilities to use information and communication technology, research and development have been promoted with regard to information and telecommunications equipment and systems that take into consideration the need of persons with disabilities. Further more, there are also efforts under way toward diffusing such equipment and systems through the formulation of the guideline on information accessibility and the promotion of compliance with JIS and international standards and towards improving the accessibilities of web sites, etc.

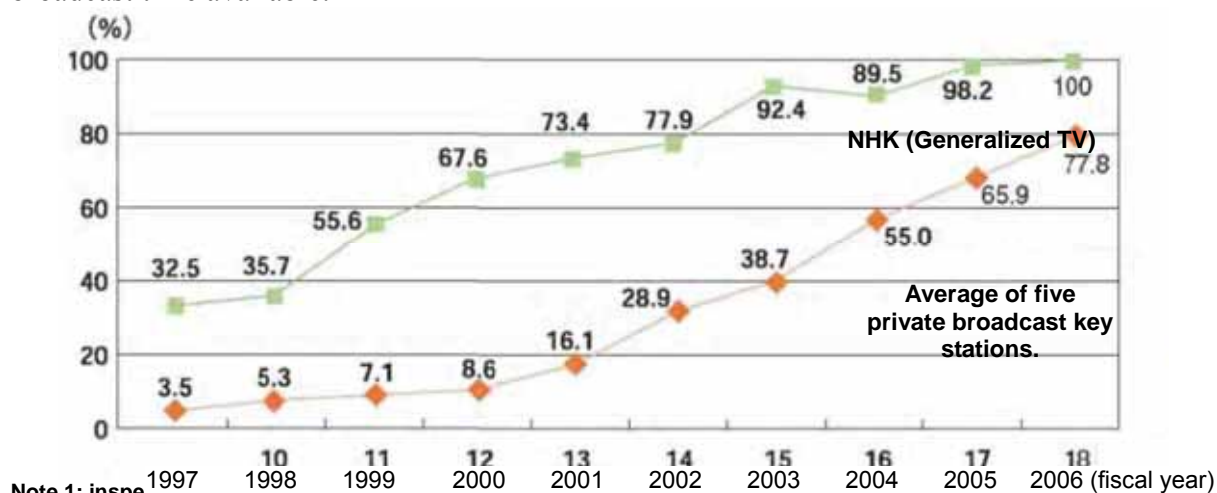
The provision of information to persons with disabilities is being enhanced through the promotion of telework, strengthening of the information network, upgrading of the system to provide information by the production of video materials with subtitles and the promotion of TV broadcasting with subtitles. In addition, the framework for communications support for persons with disabilities has been strengthened through the promotion of sign language and Braille transcription, as well as the standardizing pictures of communicative symbols.

(Main measures taken)

- Administration of an “IT Support center for persons with disabilities” that acts as a base for the comprehensive services of IT-related facilities in order to expand the use of information and communication technology by persons with disabilities.
- In parallel with the National Standardization development , to measure and standardize the guidelines regarding the international information accessibility, suggestion is made to ISO (International Standardization Organization) regarding parts of the JIS X8341 series, “Common guidelines”, ”Information processing equipment”, “Office Equipment” are suggested for and work is progressing towards international standardization.
- Regarding the accessibility of telecommunication, proposals were made to ITU-T (The Standardization Department of International Telecommunication Union) in relation to the formulation of a guideline for the accessibility of telecommunication in November 2004, and it was approved as a recommendation of ITU-T in January 2007 after discussion. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications are promoting the efforts to improve the accessibility of telecommunication devices and services by holding symposiums in March 2007 in cooperation with the Telecommunications Access Chamber as part of publicity and promotion activities within the country.
- According to “The Priority Plan – 2007” that was decided by “IT Strategy Headquarters” in July 2007, and according to the amendment to the “Electronic Delivery of Administrative Information Plan” by the liaison office of the director of each Government Ministries (CIO) in August 2007, it was notified that each office and ministry should take utmost care about the enhancement of electronic information made available on the homepage for the benefit of everyone including elderly people and disabled people.
- An “Action-Plan to double the telework population” was drawn up in May 2007, which aims at increasing the number of teleworkers by 20 percent by the year 2010. This was a comprehensive and systematic measure by the government as a whole to promote the telework.

- A DVD, “If you become crime victims...” that explains to the crime victims, their families and the public the system for protection and support for crime victims given by Public Prosecutors office was produced and distributed to all the public prosecutors’ office in the country in March, 2007.
- Since 2002, Candidate List and Registered Political Party list have been displayed in Braille and the persons with visual disabilities can identify the type of voting slip, and this was implemented in 46 prefectures during the House of Councilors regular election in 2007.
- Based on “Law to facilitate the usage of the communication and broadcasting systems by persons with physical disabilities and to enhance their convenience for persons with physical disabilities”, the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology Administration provides the subsidy to production cost for programs with subtitles. A grant of 400 million yen was secured in the budget of fiscal year 2008 and was provided.
- Based on proposal from the March 2007 report on the “Research in relation to the broadcast for persons with visual and hearing disabilities in the era of digital broadcasting”, a “guideline to popularize the broadcast for persons with visual and hearing disabilities” was established in October 2007, which set out the popularization goal for broadcasting with subtitles and commentaries during the period of 2008 to 2017. It was also decided to increase the range of programs that can be broadcasted with subtitles according to the administrative guideline as formulated in 1997 and the goal is to provide subtitles for all of them. The goal for programs with commentaries, it is 10% of the programs eligible of both NHK GENERAL and 5 other private broadcasting stations. In the case of NHK-EDUCATION, it is 15% of its programs.

Chart 15 The percentage and its transition of programs broadcasted with subtitles of the total broadcast time available.



Note 1: inspe
Note 2: In this chart, "General broadcast hours for which giving of caption is possible" are the hours of the broadcast program which is newly broadcasted by 24/7 hours except for the next broadcast program.
(1) The broadcast program for which giving the caption is not possible technically (example: At present, the live broadcast of the news and sports relay, etc.). (2) The broadcast program which explains the audio by open-caption and sign language etc. (example: Movie with a caption and sign language news). (3) TV Program of foreign language, (4) The musical program by which large portion is of songs and an instrumental music performances (5) The broadcast program to which putting captions is not possible due to the reasons on the rights.
Note 3: The TV program which affiliates execution is included.

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication

○ Installment of facilities to provide information for persons with hearing-disabilities to produce what is used by persons with hearing disabilities such as video recording for persons with hearing disabilities in all prefectures is aimed at and promoted.