

Focal Points of the Eighth Fundamental Traffic Safety Program

▶ Subtitle

Achieving a society with no traffic accidents

▶ Term

Five years from FY2006 to FY2010

▶ Basic Principles

In order to build a truly prosperous and vibrant society, it is crucial, as a prerequisite, to ensure the safety and security of the people. Securing traffic safety is also an important element to meet the prerequisite.

In light of the significant social and economic losses arising from traffic accidents, **we should aim to ultimately achieve a society with no traffic accidents** under the principle of respecting human life.

We will follow the basic principle of people first in order to further secure the safety of pedestrians, who are vulnerable in relation to cars, as well as the safety of those especially vulnerable, such as the elderly, the disabled, and children.

《Road Traffic》

▶ Basic Approach

Achieving a Society with No Traffic Accidents

Under the principle of respecting human life, we will aim to ultimately achieve a society with no traffic accidents.

In addition to enhanced efforts for the further decrease of fatalities, it is also necessary to be vigorously committed to the reduction of traffic accidents.

The ratio of pedestrians to total road traffic fatalities is larger in Japan than in the United States and European countries. Therefore, it is especially important **to secure the safety of pedestrians under the principle of people first in road traffic policy by developing pedestrian walkways and other measures.**

▶ Objectives

Achieving the world's safest road traffic by reducing the annual number of road traffic fatalities to 5,000 or less by 2012.

Reducing the annual number of road traffic fatalities to 5,500 or less by 2010.

Reducing the annual number of any casualties to one million or less by 2010.

Four Viewpoints

Coping with declining birthrate and aging society

- Considering that the Japanese population is expected to continue to rapidly age in the future, it is necessary to create a traffic society where elderly people will feel safe and secure.
- In order to realize a society where people can give birth and raise children without anxiety, further measures are required to protect children from traffic accidents.

Securing safety for pedestrians

- In Japan, more than 30% of traffic accident fatalities are pedestrians. This percentage is relatively higher than that in the United States and European countries.
- In accordance with the principle of people first, the government will promote measures to secure safety for pedestrians by further developing pedestrian walkways for school routes, community roads, and thoroughfares in urban areas, and so forth.

Encouraging citizens to improve their awareness

- All citizens in this traffic society should become fully aware of the risk of traffic accidents, with the ultimate objective of achieving a society with no traffic accidents.
- It is necessary to develop a mechanism that enables citizens to actively participate in creation of a safe and secure traffic society by carrying out traffic safety activities.

Utilizing IT

- Information Technology (IT) is expected to contribute to traffic safety by supplementing shortcomings in people's cognitive ability and judgment, counteracting people's careless mistakes, and minimizing damage arising from such mistakes. Among others, the government will drive forward the initiative to develop Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS).

Eight Pillars

Improving the road traffic environment

(Vigorously implementing measures to provide people-oriented road traffic environment with safe and secure space to walk)

- Promoting the development of walkways for school routes, etc.
- "Safe Pedestrian Areas"
- "Manual for the Prevention of Traffic Accidents on Community Roads"
- "Road-for-Residents Zones"
- Traffic safety measures through the Priority Identification Process
- Accident prevention measures for black spots
- Utilizing intelligent transport systems

Comprehensively implementing traffic safety awareness initiatives

(Providing traffic safety education step by step, as well as improving elderly people's traffic safety awareness)

- Promoting traffic safety activities focused on citizens' participation, hands-on experience and practical implementation
- Promoting safety education for elderly people
- Promoting safe bicycle riding
- Promoting the use of seat belts by backseat passengers
- Promoting the use of reflective materials
- Promoting traffic safety initiatives by private organizations
- Promoting citizens' participation and collaboration

Securing safe driving

(Promoting driver's education for particularly elderly drivers)

- Enhancing measures focused on elderly drivers
- Promoting safe driving management
- Improving the supervision of motor carrier businesses
- Promoting the Trucking Business Safety Assessment Program
- Promoting the use of video-recording drive recorders

Ensuring vehicle safety

(Improving the safety measures for preventing accidents, as well as those for reducing damage)

- Developing and promoting advanced safe vehicles (ASV)
- Improving Japanese Industrial Standards
- Motor vehicle check and maintenance
- Improving and reinforcing the recall system

Maintaining road traffic order

(Tightening traffic rule enforcement focusing on particularly vicious, dangerous, and annoying traffic offenses)

- Identifying the true locus of responsibility for the accident
- Promoting guidance and enforcement concerning bicycle riders
- Strengthening the investigation systems for traffic offenses and traffic accidents
- Strengthening measures to crack down on motorcycle gangs

Enhancing rescue and emergency services systems

(Improving rescue and emergency services systems. In particular, the government will promote the implementation of first aid procedures)

- Promoting and educating first-aid measures with the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- Developing and deploying emergency life-saving technicians
- Improving Help systems for Emergency Life saving and Public safety (HELP) and developing Fast Emergency Vehicle Preemption Systems (FAST)
- Promoting the use of a doctor's car
- Promoting the doctor's helicopter project

Promoting victim support, including the appropriate compensation system

(Comprehensively promoting measures for traffic accident victims in a well planned manner under such acts as the Basic Act on Crime Victims, etc.)

- Strengthening measures to help victims claim damages
- Implementing measures with due consideration to victims' feelings

Enhancing R&D and study activities

(Implementing R&D in relevant areas of three basic factors (people, roads, and vehicles))

- Supporting safe driving
- Research on the traffic-related behavior of elderly people
- Application of IC to license plates and seals
- Enhancing comprehensive study to investigate the causes of traffic accidents

《 Railway Traffic 》

➤ Basic Approach

Achieving a Society with No Railway Accidents

We will promote various safety measures to establish public confidence in railway traffic safety.

➤ Objectives

Bringing the number of passenger deaths to zero.
Reducing the number of operational accidents.

➤ Measures

Two Viewpoints

Solving problems underlying individual accidents

Utilizing the lessons learned from past accidents

Six Pillars

Improving the railway traffic environment

- Improving operational safety systems (Installation of ATS and other devices to prevent speeding)
- Reinforcing anti-earthquake measures for railways

Securing safe railway operation

- Improving education for and quality of railway crews and safety personnel
- Implementing safety audits for railway operators

Ensuring railway vehicle safety

Enhancing rescue and emergency services systems

Promoting victim support

Enhancing R&D and study activities

《Traffic at Railway Crossings 》

➤ Basic Approach

Achieving a Society with No Accidents at Railway Crossings

We will aim for a society with no level crossing accidents by continuing to comprehensively and actively implement measures to prevent level crossing accidents.

➤ Objectives

Reducing the number of accidents at level crossings by about 10% of the number in 2005, by 2010

➤ Measures

Viewpoint

Implementing more effective measures in view of the conditions of each level crossing.

Four Pillars

Promoting replacement of level crossings with grade-separated crossings, structural improvements, and improvement of grade separation facilities for pedestrians

- Quick measures via structural improvements and drastic measures for grade separation at non-opening level crossings

Improving level crossing Maintenance facilities and implementing traffic restrictions

Promoting integration and elimination of level crossings

Implementing other measures to ensure safe and smooth traffic at level crossings

《Maritime Traffic》

Basic Approach

Achieving a Society with No Maritime Accidents

Preventing the occurrence of maritime accidents.
Carrying out search and rescue operations promptly and properly to save the lives of people on board.

Objectives

Preventing the occurrence of large-scale maritime accidents that would close waterways in congested waters, reducing the number of such accidents to zero.
Bringing the annual number of deaths and missing persons caused by maritime accidents and from falling overboard to 220 or less by 2010.

Measures

Two Viewpoints

Promoting various measures continuously to prevent maritime accidents

Improving and enhancing the systems for prompt and proper lifesaving

Nine Pillars

Improving the maritime traffic environment

- Developing the next-generation navigation support system that takes advantage of the automatic identification system (AIS)

Enforcing laws in maritime traffic

Disseminating knowledge on maritime safety

Enhancing rescue and emergency services activities

- Enhancing rescue and emergency services systems

Securing safe vessel navigation

- Strengthening the supervision of passenger ship operators
- Drastically reforming the pilotage system

Promoting victim support

Ensuring vessel safety

Enhancing R&D and study activities

Enhancing safety measures for small vessels

- Developing boat parks and fisharina (facilities for pleasure boats established at fishing ports)
- Implementing safety measures for fishing boats
- Implementing safety measures for pleasure boats
- Promoting the wearing of life jackets
- Obtaining maritime accident information as early as possible

《Air Traffic》

Basic Approach

Achieving a Society with No Air Traffic Accidents

Reducing air traffic accidents.
Preventing safety problems that might cause accidents.

Objectives

Continuing to hold the record of no fatal accidents caused by specified Japanese air carriers, which has been held since 1986.

Measures

Three Viewpoints

Restoring public confidence in air traffic safety

Increasing the airspace capacity

Establishing a safer and more efficient air traffic system

Six Pillars

Improving the air traffic environment

- Improving the New Air Navigation System
- Enhancing air traffic services
- Expanding airspace capacity and promoting the effective use of airspace
- Strengthening disaster control measures for airports and aviation safety facilities

Securing aircraft operational safety

- Strengthening the supervision over air carriers
- Shifting the emphasis to prevention in traffic safety administration

Ensuring aircraft safety

Promoting victim support

Enhancing rescue and emergency services systems

Enhancing R&D and study activities



Special Notes: Comprehensive Safety Measures Implemented by Public Transportation Operators

Serious accidents and problems have frequently occurred in public transportation, such as the derailment of the JR West Fukuchiyama Line, and a series of problems in air transport caused by human errors or mechanical problems. There is a pressing need to restore public confidence in public transportation.

In light of such circumstances, we will implement the following cross-sectoral measures in addition to safety measures for the individual fields of transportation, i.e. automobile, rail-way, vessel, and aircraft.

Establishing safety management systems and implementing continuous measures
Developing technology to prevent accidents induced by human errors