

1 Improvement of Road Traffic Environment

To address the changes in the social situation such as problems of a low birthrate and an aging population, there is a need to reform the traffic community to prevent accidents of children and ensure that senior citizens can go out safely without fear. In view of this, people-first roadway improvements are being undertaken by ensuring walking spaces offering safety and security by building sidewalks on roads such as school routes, residential roads and urban arterial roads, etc. In addition to the measures mentioned above, the road traffic environment improvement project is systematically carried out to maintain a safe road traffic network by separating it into arterial high-standard highway and regional roads to control the inflow of the traffic into the residential roads. Also, on the roads where traffic safety has to be secured, traffic safety facilities such as sidewalks are being provided. Thus, by effective traffic control promotion and detailed accident prevention measures, a safe traffic environment with a speed limit on the vehicles and separation of different traffic types such as cars, bikes and pedestrians is to be created.

- (1) Improvement of people-first walking spaces offering safety and security (promoting building of sidewalks in school routes)
- (2) Improvement of road networks and promotion of the use of roads with high safety standards
- (3) Implementation of intensive traffic safety measures in sections with a high rate of accidents
- (4) Effective traffic control promotion
- (5) Improvement of the road traffic environment in union with local residents
- (6) Promotion of accident prevention measures on National Expressways, etc.
- (7) Application of the Intelligent Transport System (ITS)
- (8) Building a safe and secure environment for bicycles
- (9) Building a smooth, comfortable and safe road traffic environment
- (10) Promotion of Traffic Demand Management
- (11) Promotion of comprehensive parking measures
- (12) Improvement of the road traffic environment in preparation for disasters
- (13) Improvement of the road traffic environment for road safety

2 Dissemination and Reinforcement of Traffic Safety Messages

A gradual and systematic road safety training program is conducted according to the physical and mental development stages and life stages from childhood to adulthood using the Road Safety Teaching Guideline (National Public Safety Commission notification No. 15, 1998), etc. In this day of aging society, educational programs are being enhanced to raise traffic safety awareness among senior citizens, to give guidance to the other generations about the characteristics of elderly people and to stress the need to give more consideration to them for their protection. Also, the elementary, junior high and high school students who often use bicycles are being educated how to ride bicycles safely as a foundation for future drivers.

- (1) Step by step promotion of systematic road safety training
- (2) Effective road safety training promotion
- (3) Promotion of road safety awareness and educational activities
- (4) Promotion of proactive efforts by private organizations concerned with road safety
- (5) Promoting participation and cooperation of residents

3 Ensuring Safe Driving

The driver must be trained and educated to ensure safe driving by improving his/her functionality and quality as a driver. Therefore, training is encouraged for current driver's license holders as well as persons who want to get a driver's license. The educational programs for elder drivers in particular, will be sufficiently provided since elderly drivers are expected to substantially increase. The driver's license system will be upgraded in response to the current traffic situation.

Land transportation businesses and their local offices will play a key role in traffic safety and they are obligated to take responsibility, considering changes in transportation business trends. Voluntary safe driving control measures by such businesses and their local offices need to be promoted, and to have their own safety measures as well. In addition to improving traffic safety and the "Transport Safety Management System" sufficiently, efforts will be devoted to prevent work-related traffic accidents.

- (1) Enhancement of education for drivers, etc.
- (2) Improvement of the driver's license system
- (3) Promotion of safe driving management
- (4) Enhancement of land transport business safety measures
- (5) Work-related traffic accident prevention, etc.
- (6) Road traffic information service enhancement

4 Ensuring Vehicle Safety

Countermeasures will be taken against traffic accidents allegedly caused by vehicle structures. And preventive measures for traffic accidents from the vehicle structural point of view will be implemented as much as possible regardless of the causes of the accidents due to human errors such as improper driving, etc.

Moreover, efforts are being made to alleviate the damage resulting from unfortunate accidents due to the vehicle structure. At the same time, damage amplification prevention measures such as car fire prevention and measures for easy escape from the vehicle after an accident are also being promoted.

In addition to the improvement and maturation of damage alleviation measures which have been effective so far, more advanced technology will be applied for active safety measures as a further enhancement. Not only to upgrade and expand the safety standards to make the use of rules and safety measure guidance work together effectively, but promotional methods for encouraging drivers to select safe vehicles shall be planned appropriately. The plans, including promotional measures for encouraging automobile manufacturers and research institutions to develop safe vehicles, will be applied appropriately from the basic research level to the marketing stage.

- (1) Promoting improved vehicle safety standards
- (2) Further promotion for development and popularization of Advanced Safety Vehicle (ASV)
- (3) Provision of new vehicle assessment data
- (4) Enhancement of motor inspections and maintenance
- (5) Enhancement and strengthening of the automotive recall system
- (6) Ensuring bicycles' safety

5 Improving Rescue and Emergency Medical System

Timely response for traffic accidents on roads, including national highways, should be improved by enforcing better co-operation between fire departments and medical institutions. In addition to that, the supply of sufficient numbers of rescue workers and educational training for the rescue workers needs to be improved and organized -- as do the rescue/emergency systems and emergency medical systems.

Performance of quick and advanced emergency care, critical treatments on site or on the way to a hospital by a rescue team which includes doctors, nurses and paramedics could be possible with an establishment of the system. This will benefit the raising of the life-saving rate and the improvement of life-saving effects in particular. And the promulgation/education of first-aid to the general population needs to be promoted.

- (1) Improving emergency rescue system
- (2) Improving emergency medical system
- (3) Securing co-operation between medical emergency entities.

Chapter 2 Railway Transport Safety Measures

1 Railway Environment Enhancements

It is necessary to build a foundation of railway traffic safety as a whole system by maintaining highly reliable railway facilities such as safe railway tracks and operational safety equipment in order to ensure the safety of railway traffic. For this reason, along with intensive management of the railway facilities, operational safety equipment should be upgraded, earthquake resistant railway structures should be reinforced and safety measures should be promoted.

- (1) Inspection and maintenance of railway facilities
- (2) Maintenance of operation safety equipments
- (3) Reinforcement of anti-earthquake measures on the railway

2 Assuring Safe Operations on the Railways

Crew members and maintenance personnel need to have more knowledge and improved skills on behalf of ensuring safe railway operations along with a strict and sufficient security monitoring system. Safety awareness among the general population should be raised by broad publicity as well.

Establishment of a safety management system, which includes people from the top management to on-site crews to benefit further improvement of traffic safety will be encouraged, and the "Transport Safety Management System" will be a watch-dog which still requires improvement.

In addition, for contributing to prevent recurrence and mitigate damage of railway accidents/incidents, we shall continue to appropriately identify the causes of accidents/incidents.

- (1) Improving the training and education of crew members and maintenance personnel
- (2) Improvement of train operations and management of crew members
- (3) Promulgating knowledge regarding railway traffic safety
- (4) Implementation of safety inspections against railway services
- (5) Upgrading the weather information services
- (6) Improvement of investigation function for determining the causes of railway accidents/incidents

1 Maritime Traffic Environment Enhancements

Given the enlargement and higher velocity of ships, diversification of marine waters' usage and complications of maritime traffic, maintenance was carried out on sea-lanes, ports and harbors, fishing ports. The enrichment of information regarding safety from the nautical charts and hydrographers, and the improvement of the communication systems using IT need to be implemented.

- (1) Improvement of the maritime traffic safety facilities
- (2) Sufficient information availability regarding traffic regulations and maritime traffics
- (3) Improvement of passenger ship terminals adequate to the aging society

2 Ensuring Safe Operations of vessels

The safe operations of vessels would be ensured by establishing the educational & training systems for the crew members in safe operations. For that purpose, well planned measures for seafarer disasters need to be implemented by improving the quality of seafarers, pilots and passenger ship businesses as well as domestic marine transportation services, and also by improving operating management systems of the vessels. The measurements including enhancement of the labor condition inspections, countermeasures of recurrence of serious accidents and improvements in the "Transport Safety Management System". Among others are the promulgating/promoting "Occupational Safety & Health Management System" guideline which intends to make continuous, stepwise improvement of safe & health standard by ship owners voluntary being part of the seafarer disaster preventions as a risk assessment and PDCA cycle which require continuous improvements of the measures.

In addition, for contributing to prevent recurrence and mitigate damage of marine accidents/incidents, we shall continue to appropriately identify the causes of accidents/incidents.

- (1) Improvement of qualities of seafarers
- (2) Improving operating management systems of the vessels
- (3) Promotion of countermeasures against seafarer disasters
- (4) Appropriate promotion of the new piloting system
- (5) Improvement of investigation function for determining causes of marine accidents/incidents

3 Improvement of Safety Measures for Small Vessels

In order to attempt to prevent maritime accidents which majority is caused by small vessels, development of an environment enabling safe operations and strengthening of the rescue system is essential. This has to be done in addition to the increase in the awareness among marine leisure lovers and fishermen about their own safety.

For this purpose, improvement of boat parks, measures for the safety for small motor boats, wearing of life jackets, upgrading of the mobile unit rescue system using helicopters, etc. are to be promoted.

Furthermore, countermeasures to prevent the casualties of older seafarers and fishing boats are to be promoted based on the plan for safety and sanitation of seafarers and Safety and Sanitation of Seafarers Program.

- (1) Improvement of boat parks and fisharinas
- (2) Promotion of safety measures for the fishing boats
- (3) Promotion of safety measures for the pleasure boats
- (4) Expansion of the life jacket usage
- (5) Information accessibility in the early stage of maritime accidents

1 Ensuring Safe Operation of Aircraft

Preventive safety measures for air traffic accidents are promoted by applying the “Aviation Safety Information Management and Sharing System” to promote information sharing, such as safety problems, between concerned parties.

Furthermore, improvement of air transport safety is to be achieved by conducting systematic, specialized safety audits of airlines and enhancing the “Transport Safety Management System” as well. In order to ensure the safety of foreign aircraft, it is to enhance coordination with the concerned foreign authorities and ramp inspections.

In addition, for contributing to prevent recurrence and mitigate damage of aircraft accidents/incidents, we shall continue to appropriately identify the causes of accidents/incidents.

More improvement of opportune and appropriate announcements regarding aviation weather information which supports air transport/air traffic flow management, and quick delivery of the information to the concerned facilities will be implemented for the subsequent year to benefit reduction of the impacts by bad weather on air transport.

- (1) Promotion of preventive safety measures
- (2) Implementation of safety audits of air carriers
- (3) Ensuring the safety of foreign aircraft
- (4) Enhancement of aviation workers’ skills
- (5) Enhancement of aeronautical safety personnel education
- (6) Enhancement of guidance on the prevention of accidents by small aircraft
- (7) Promotion of safety measures related to sky leisure
- (8) Enhancement of safety standards for the transportation of dangerous goods
- (9) Improvement of investigation function for determining the causes of aircraft accidents/incidents
- (10) Sufficiency of aviation weather information

2 Ensuring Aircraft Safety

Aircraft safety will be ensured by promoting safety measures such as improvements in technical standards, information gathering systems, processing systems and inspection systems.

- (1) Improvement of technical standards to ensure the safety of aircraft and their equipment
- (2) Enhancement of information gathering and information processing systems related to aircraft safety
- (3) Enhancement of aircraft inspection systems
- (4) Enhancement of aircraft maintenance inspection systems
- (5) Enhancement of countermeasures against the aging of aircraft