

Traffic Safety Measures for the Elderly

“Traffic Safety Forum”

The Cabinet Office has held the “Traffic Safety Forum” (“Traffic Safety Symposium” till 2009) since 1981 across Japan with a view to enhancing people’s awareness of traffic safety.

In the Traffic Safety Forum held in November, 2013 in Takamatsu city, Kagawa prefecture, Mr. Kazumi Renge, professor of psychology department and vice-president of Tezukayama University, who was a committee member for the formulation of the Ninth Traffic Safety Basic Plan made a keynote talk on the behavioral characteristics of the elderly in which he pointed out that traffic accidents are caused by the fact that elder people without a driving license tend to take dangerous actions such as not checking right and left when they walk and ride on a bicycle and that even if they hold a driving license, they are not good at predicting potential dangers when driving a car and they do not understand correctly their decreased driving ability. Therefore, it is necessary for all people who drive a car to receive refreshing lessons at driving schools in their 50s to 60s to improve their weak points and it is also necessary for pedestrians and cyclists to receive lectures on safety. In the following panel discussion including experts, in addition to the presentation of various activities aimed at the prevention of traffic accidents such as the traffic course for elderly people using a drive recorder and visits to elderly people’s homes as efforts to reduce the number of traffic accidents of elderly people in Kagawa prefecture, it was recommended to consider the traffic behavior of elderly people and to make use and spread the use of reflecting materials for pedestrians in an effective manner to reduce accidents while walking at night. In summary, it was confirmed again that all round efforts by the society as a whole are required to deal with traffic safety.



One aspect of the Traffic Safety Forum



Keynote talk by Mr. Kazumi Renge, professor of Tezukayama University

[Information on the topic is available on the website of the government]

The “Holdings of Traffic Safety Forums in 2013” is available on:
<http://www8.cao.go.jp/koutu/keihatsu/forum/h25/result.html>

Traffic safety measures for the elderly

To achieve safe and smooth traffic for the elderly and others, the police are working to introduce LED traffic lights and more intensely illuminated road signs. In addition, the police are working to install barrier-free traffic lights with extra function to secure safety at road crossing on the main community roads that constitute the key development districts of the law on the promotion of smooth movement of elderly and disabled people (Section 2, Chapter 2, Part 1, Title 1).

In classes and courses for elderly drivers at the time of the renewal of their driving licenses, seminars are provided to elderly drivers in accordance with their driving characteristics and the characteristics of traffic accidents (Section 2, Chapter 1, Part 2, Title 1).

In addition, individual classes focused on the elderly people who have not had the opportunities to receive traffic safety education are provided by visiting their homes in cooperation with relevant organizations, and traffic safety education based on participation, experiment and practice is actively promoted to the elderly people (Section 1, Chapter 1, Part 2, Title 1).

(Cases)

“The model project to cultivate senior leaders for imparting traffic safety education for pedestrians and cyclist” was implemented in which those elderly people who have been certified as senior leaders impart traffic safety education to other elderly people using simulators for pedestrians and for cyclists aimed to implement effective traffic safety education to urge their understanding of dangerous actions and others, based on mutual enlightenment and in which it is intended to build voluntary traffic safety education cycle to create new senior leaders among the course participants (prefectures in which the project was implemented: Fukushima, Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba, Gifu, Okayama, Ehime and Fukuoka).



[Safety education by senior leaders]